



IHE
DELFT

Partnership
Programme for Water
and Development



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

DGIS - IHE Delft Programmatic Cooperation 2016-2021 - DUPC2

DUPC2 internal call for early-career research collaborations

February 2020

Background and objective of the call

IHE Delft works with partners in low and middle income countries¹ to help tackle their water and development challenges. Bringing together knowledge and experience from different perspectives helps to find local solutions and strengthen local capacities. DUPC2 is a key programme at IHE Delft to support these partnership activities².

The purpose of this call is to give researchers from DUPC2 partner institutes and IHE Delft at the start of their academic career the chance to strengthen their career and their network by providing access to the funds advertised through this call. The funds available for this call contribute to the DUPC2's Research and Innovation component, which is designed to support IHE and partners in conducting research on key societal challenges for water and development in DUPC2 focus countries.

To make the request for funds for applicants less time consuming, DUPC2 requests only a project idea in the first stage (3 A4 pages, template attached). These project ideas will be reviewed and selected to be developed into a full proposal.

For who is this call

For research teams consisting of two (2) **early-career researchers** from different institutes of which at least one is a partner of a DUPC2 supported project (current or past) from a DUPC2 focus country or region (see page 2). Institutions from high-income countries other than IHE Delft are not eligible to participate in this Call. IHE Delft participation is encouraged, but not required. To encourage interdisciplinary research the two researchers will come from **different academic disciplines** (e.g. engineering and technology, political sciences, statistics, history). The collaboration should be a new partnership (not an existing project yet) or is a diversification to an existing partnership (within an existing project), e.g. through the involvement of another (academic) discipline.

¹ We use the OECD DAC list to define low and middle income countries <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>.

² DUPC2 is the programmatic cooperation between the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. See for more www.un-ihe.org/dupc.

Early-career researchers in this call are defined as researchers who obtained their PhD degree after January 1st, 2015 or are in the final stages of completing their PhD research. Moreover, the researchers should have a position in their organization as (junior) lecturer/researcher or are recently (after 1st January 2018) promoted to senior lecturer/researcher. The applicants should demonstrate that this project will help them to advance their (academic) career³.

Thematic areas

Projects under this call will address one or more of the following DUPC2 themes:

- Efficient water management, particularly in the agricultural sector
- Improved catchment area management and safe deltas
- Access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation
- Gender and inclusiveness in relation to water and development
- Climate change adaptation in relation to water and development
- Water diplomacy

A description of the themes and development challenges the projects need to address is presented in Appendix 1.

Focus countries and regions

Projects funded under this call will focus on at least one region or country listed here:

- Middle East (*eligible*: Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine)
- North-African region and Nile river basin, including the Eastern Nile
- Sahel (*eligible*: Mali, Niger and Nigeria)
- Mozambique, and the Zambezi river basin
- Asian deltas, including the Mekong delta, Ganges-Bramaputra delta, Irrawaddy delta and Ciliwung delta
- Colombia, specifically the Magdalena river basin

Other countries than mentioned can be selected and are eligible for funding, but only if they are a low or middle income country⁴ and only in combination with one of the regions or countries mentioned above. We encourage projects to focus on one region.

Additional guidelines/advice⁵

We encourage that activities:

- make the knowledge or experiences gained accessible for a broader audience via social media or **online products** (e.g. blogs, video, open course ware) presenting the main findings and societal relevance, and
- include ideas for ways of collaboration and communication which reduce air travel.

³ For example the project is being used to access new funds, develop new partnerships, develop new curricula, develop knowledge sharing and outreach events

⁴ See OECD list of recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA): <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

⁵ Please see page 3 and 4 for eligibility and selection criteria

DUPC2 budget and target

An estimated total budget of €300K is available for this call with a **maximum DUPC2 funding of €60k per project**.

Project duration

The proposed projects have a maximum duration of one year and are expected to start mid-2020.

Eligible costs

For more information please find the budget guidelines [here](#) (under 'Documents for project leaders'). In case of discrepancies between the Call and the guidelines the Call is leading.

Eligible costs include staff time, travel and subsistence, field work related costs, equipment and consumables, and communication and dissemination costs.

Non-eligible costs include MSc and PhD fellowships, however out of pocket costs for MSc or PhD field research are eligible. Funds are not meant to support PhD related research (of applicants if still doing PhD research). In case applicants are in the process of obtaining their PhD degree, they will be requested to explain how this research contributes to research other than their PhD.

Both researchers need to be allocated a more or less equal number of research days in the budget.

Timeline (extended deadline)

- **10 Feb 2020**: Launch of the call for research proposals (by e-mail and shared on the IHE internal platform & [DUPC2 website](#)).
- ~~20 March 2020~~ **17 April**: Deadline for receipt of project idea based on template provided with this call (5PM CEST).
- ~~10 April 2020~~ **8 May**: Announcement of the result of the selection of project ideas.
- ~~15 May 2020~~ **12 June**: Deadline to submit full proposal.
- ~~8 June 2020~~ **19 June**: Issuing of DUPC2 grant (after approval of the full proposal).

All project ideas should be submitted via email to DUPC2 (dupc_project@un-ihe.org) **before 17 April 2020 at 5PM (CEST)**.

Eligibility and selection criteria

Project applicants need to comply with the following [eligibility criteria](#):

- An applicant can only submit or be involved in one submission. The first submission will be reviewed.
- The project idea is a cooperation between two (2) early-career researchers from different institutes of which at least one is a partner of a DUPC2 supported project (current or past) from a DUPC2 focus country or region. Institutions from high-

income countries other than IHE Delft are not eligible to participate in this Call (see pages 1-2).

- The two researchers will come from different academic disciplines (see page 1).
- The collaboration should be a new partnership (not an existing project yet) or is a diversification to an existing partnership (within an existing project), e.g. through the involvement of another (academic) discipline (see page 1).
- The proposed activities are addressing societal challenges related to water and development under one or more DUPC2 themes in a DUPC2 focus country or region (see page 1-2).
- The proposed activities of the project have a duration of maximum 1 year (see page 3).
- The DUPC2 contribution requested is 60k Euro maximum per project (see page 3).
- Both researchers involved should have around the same number of research days in the budget (see page 3).
- Costs presented in the budget sheet are eligible costs as indicated above (see page 3). A more elaborative check will be done for the full proposal including full budget.
- In case led by a southern partner, the partner institute should have the administrative capacity to implement the project.
- The project idea is submitted in the correct template (find attached as separate Word document).
- The project idea is submitted in time to dupc_project@un-ihe.org (**before 17 April 5PM CEST**) (see page 3).

Project ideas not meeting the above-listed eligibility check will be rejected, and not considered for the review process.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the project idea (each bullet is a criteria). Once the project idea has been accepted, applicants will be requested to submit a full proposal. The criteria in italic are criteria for the full proposals only.

A scale 1-5 will be used, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest. The criteria are weighted equally.

1. *Scientific quality*

- Is the scientific methodology of the proposed research sound?
- How innovative is the suggested methodology?

2. *Societal relevance*

- Does the project address a relevant societal challenge related to water and development? Does the research links to a societal demand and does it have potential (e.g. in a follow up project) to make a change?
- Does the project include activities to make knowledge or experiences gained accessible for a broader audience via social media or online products?

3. *Degree of integration*

- Does the project idea support collaboration and learning between the project partners?

- Does the project idea present convincingly why an interdisciplinary approach is needed and how it will be organized?

4. Composition of the project team, incl. implementation capacity

- Do the applicants sufficiently show that the project tangibly contributes to advance their (academic) careers?
- Is it clear within the team who has responsibility for project management, contracting, etc? Does the project lead have the financial and administrative capacity to lead the project?
- *Is the work plan clear, effective and realistic? (only full proposal)*
- *Is the presented budget reasonable and the breakdown credible and realistic? (only full proposal)*

Selection of project ideas

The selection of the proposals will be done by the DUPC2 management and regional DUPC2 committee members ([link](#)). DUPC2 management will implement the Call procedures and process, and will ensure there is no conflict of interests with regards to selection procedures.

Information

Comments and questions can be send to dupc_project@un-ihe.org.

Appendix 1. DUPC2 themes addressing key water and development challenges

Society is undergoing a global transition to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and to better management of our natural resources base, but progress is not occurring uniformly across the planet. The pace of change is also limited by a number of grand challenges in the form of poverty, hunger, poor hygiene, inequity, biodiversity loss, and exploitative resources use. These occur everywhere but are concentrated the less developed parts of the world, which are consequently more vulnerable to global challenges like climate change. DUPC 2016-2021 will provide support in addressing these water and development challenges in the following themes, which are closely related to the priority areas for development cooperation in the field of water of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Efficient water management, particularly in the agricultural sector
- Improved catchment area management and safe deltas
- Access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation
- Gender and inclusiveness in relation to water and development
- Climate change adaptation in relation to water and development
- Water diplomacy

The main goal of the theme '**Efficient water management, particularly in the agricultural sector**' is reducing the knowledge gap to management of land and water resources for food and energy security in a sustainable and equitable way. This requires synergies with natural ecosystems, compatible with the respective socio-economic context. Challenges relate to amongst others improving water productivity taking into account values beyond crop production, best ways to revitalize large-scale irrigation systems as well as support small-scale farmer-led irrigation development, and water storage that are at the same time affordable and accessible and environmentally friendly. The challenges strongly link to understanding and analyzing the complexities of the inter-relations among agricultural water management technologies, the management and governance mechanisms and the ecosystem to develop a sustainable and profitable agricultural sector,. Also information and the generation of knowledge related to the dynamics of water in the real world, through the integration of information and communication technologies for data acquisition, modeling, forecasting, optimization and decision support are challenges to be addressed.

Central to the '**Improved catchment area management and safe deltas**' theme is the evolution of both the social and natural dimensions of socio-ecological systems in deltas with a long history of civilization and socio-economic development, and that are currently densely populated. Water availability and equitable allocation between users is one of the challenges, and the promoting of cooperation to prevent conflict over shared waters. Environmental concerns are part of this, and the interaction with the social and economic systems. Water-related hazards like floods, droughts, pollution and related issues, are expected to increase in frequency and intensity almost everywhere around the globe due to economic development, population growth and effects of climate variability and change and sea level rise. Drought forms the other extreme of managing water resources, and although less clear to identify than flood hazard has widespread social, economic and environmental impacts to communities across the world. New approaches in the analysis and assessment of flood management, water resources availability and exploitation, river structure planning, hydropower potential are asked for. For instance, more holistic flood risk management that

considers not only the hazard posed, but also the consequence of floods. Like the first theme, this theme requires a good understanding of the management and governance dimensions, as well as the support from information and communication technologies for data acquisition, modeling, forecasting, optimization and decision support.

The theme '**Access to drinking water and basic sanitation**' aims at increasing access to safe, sufficient and affordable water for people to meet needs for drinking, sanitation and hygiene. Research in this theme addresses the entire water supply and sanitation chain, mainly within an urban and peri-urban context, including centralized and decentralized approaches, advanced and low-cost technologies, and engineered and natural systems. It focuses on knowledge and innovation to both help *meet basic needs* and support the development of water supply, wastewater treatment, and resource recovery systems that *enable economic development*. Besides technical, technological and engineering aspects of water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), the theme also addresses societal, economic and institutional aspects in cooperation with water management and governance researchers, recognizing that technical solutions alone do not guarantee sustainable provision of WASH services. Proposals should contribute as much as possible to local practices and are expected to include local knowledge transfer and gender approach.

Gender/inclusiveness hierarchies deeply shape processes of water governance, and co-determine the allocation of water and water services, the distribution of the risks of climate hazards and floods, as well as the distribution of the benefits of water interventions. This cross-cutting theme sets out to make these linkages visible. Gender and diversity (inclusiveness) are an integral part of the broader water governance agendas. The theme forms an explicit part of broader attempts to better understand the social impacts of water interventions or water-related disasters, as part of the development of strategic knowledge about what works for whom. It includes efforts to improve the inclusiveness of water decision making processes and water education, as well as the development of strategies to empower those with least voice in water and strengthen the water security of those with least rights and powers.

Climate change. Reducing the vulnerability of stakeholder groups, particularly the poor, to climate change is a main challenge. To reduce vulnerability from droughts and floods appropriate local adaptation measures will need to be understood and their application assessed in different contexts. Solutions often are of a nontechnical nature or have an international dimension. The theme therefore also strongly relates to governance. The development and application of innovative tools and models is needed to better understand climate change and to support the identification of adequate measures.

Water diplomacy aims to facilitate cooperation on shared water resources between states and prevent and/or resolve conflicts they may have. Various tools are available that can be applied at different levels, ranging from official negotiations or third party mediation to more technical measures like fact finding missions and joint monitoring used as trust building activities. Water diplomacy has the potential to promote wider cooperation and conflict prevention and contribute to regional security and stability. It can be successful when the involved parties perceive that despite competing and conflicting interests in water, non-collaboration results in a worse outcome. Water diplomacy is associated with water governance that analyses and seeks to improve legal and institutional arrangements and decision making processes that govern access, use and disposal of water and the interaction

between competing and collaborating users and sectors at local, watershed and basin levels. For water diplomacy and water governance, spatially explicit information about current and future availability and use of water resources can be important, as well as a thorough understanding of the linkages with related sectors, such as food, energy, transport and trade.