



Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
Ministry of Forests and Environment,
Climate Change Management Division

Detail Information for Applying EbA Research Grants

Background

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) has entered into an agreement with Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) for the management of research grants for Bachelors, Masters and PhD students under Catalyzing Ecosystem Restoration for Climate Resilient Natural Capital and Rural Livelihoods in Degraded Forests and Rangelands of Nepal (EbA II) project being implemented by MoFE. The main objective of the EbA II research grants is to provide research grants to students that are pursuing their research in a bid to generate knowledge in the area of EbA and develop skilled professionals. The research grant will support students to undertake research work for completing their dissertations.

Universities of Nepal have now started integration of climate change into Environmental Management course. However, the focus has remained on climate change in general and it is not EbA focused. Effective implementation of EbA need appropriate policy, institutional setup and knowledge generation from field demonstration activities. Limited studies have been done in these fields. Similarly, very few studies have been done in the field of valuation of ecosystem goods and services. Knowledge in these fields is important for designing cost effective climate adaptation measures and integrating EbA into DRR and providing policy feedback to three tiers of government for mainstreaming EbA into their planning system.

It is expected that this research supports will help to generate scientific information and knowledge base and provide better understanding of EbA that will ultimately help in better planning and implementation of EbA interventions to adapt to the effect of climate change.

Eligibility

The applicants must be Nepalese citizens studying **Bachelor's program** at institutions in Nepal. Qualified girls, women and women from Inclusion groups (*dalit, janjati*, backward geographical areas, Person with Disabilities-PWDs, and marginalized community) will be

given priority. The applicants should demonstrate the need for financial support. Bachelor's level students applying for this grant shall not accept other grants for conducting the same thesis/research. At least 33% scholarship quotas will be reserved for women candidates.

Thematic Research Area

1. Thematic Research Area (Broad themes of Interest):

Researchers can either choose research topics on the themes presented below or additional topics like but not limited to exploring and documenting case studies of EbA practices, ecosystem health and biodiversity assessment, conservation agriculture practices, water conservation on the dry land, local approach on DRR among others.

A. Economics of EbA: Research and studies on Economic or Financial analysis of EbA interventions and their benefits. Comparison of the cost and benefits of nature based solutions or EbA and other practices of climate change adaptation measures.

B. Nature based solutions for adapting the adverse impact of climate change:

Climate change and community vulnerability, application of nature based solutions for addressing the vulnerability, Mainstreaming nature based solutions in climate change adaptation planning, integration of EbA with disaster risk reduction, soil erosion control and increase water harvesting, Integrated sub-watershed management planning and EbA effectiveness.

C. Ecosystem Management for Climate Adaptation: Management of Forest, Rangeland, Agriculture and wetland ecosystems to help adapt to the adverse impact of climate change to the local communities; Identifying, exploring the linkage and rationale for success or failure of existing and or new agriculture and forestry practices which provides multiple benefits to the ecosystem and maximize output to the communities, reduces disaster risk and address the adverse impact of climate change to people and their environment.

D. EbA and Livelihoods. Multiple benefits of EbA interventions to the indigenous and local communities through green enterprise development; eco-tourism and livelihood improvements; economic and ecological impacts of livelihood activities.

E. Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Good Governance in EbA

Gender equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in ecosystem based climate change adaptation, gender equality policies and practices in natural resource based community livelihoods, women's leadership in ecosystem restoration and forest management, integrating GESI in ecosystem based climate change adaptation planning process, or governance in ecosystem goods and services management.

Geographic Area

Although there is no restriction on the geographic area for the research, priority will be given for field studies from EbA II project districts (Achham, Salyan and Dolakha). Additional priority will be given to the students coming from the project districts.

Number of Research Grants and Amount

The research grant per student shall not exceed NRs 70,000.00 and the grants will be provided to three (3) Bachelors level students.

Research Timeline

The research period will be the maximum of one year. Within this period, the entire research activities should be completed and final reports including abstracts of the research findings should be submitted to NAST. The final thesis has to be submitted to the NAST after final defense/viva in the respective universities/colleges of the students/researchers.

Research Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated competitively, based on:

- Relevancy, clarity on the research method, goals and objectives
- Identification of research gap, setting up objectives and methodological clarity to achieve the set objectives
- Contribution to the knowledge base for nature-based solution
- Selection of research sites
- Financial details

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT

I. Cover Page- (1 page)/Application Form

| | |
|--|---|
| Proposal Title: | |
| <p>Select and write only the thematic area of your proposal</p> <p>Thematic Areas</p> <p><i>a) Economics of EbA b) Nature based Solutions for Adapting the adverse impact of Climate Change c) Ecosystem Management for Climate Adatpation d) EbA and Livelihoods e) Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Good Governance in EbA</i></p> | |
| <p>Applicant's Details</p> <p>Title : Mr/ Ms</p> <p>Name :</p> <p>Citizenship no.:</p> <p>Temporary Address:</p> <p>Permanent Address:</p> <p>Academic Level :</p> <p>Gender:</p> <p>Mobile number:</p> <p>E-mail:</p> | <p>Institution of Applicant</p> <p>Name :</p> <p>Address :</p> <p>Tel :</p> |
| <p>Name of Supervisor:</p> <p>Mobile number:</p> <p>E-mail:</p> <p>Mobile number:</p> | <p>Name of Co-supervisor :</p> <p>Mobile number:</p> <p>E-mail:</p> <p>Mobile number:</p> |
| <p>Applicant's Bank Details</p> <p>Account Holder's Name:</p> <p>Account number:</p> <p>Name of Bank:</p> <p>Branch of Bank and Address:</p> | <p>Budget Requested: Rs.....</p> |
| Project Start Date: | Project Completion (End) Date: |

II. NARRATIVE SECTION- (Not exceeding 5 pages excluding references, annexes and supporting documents)

Proposal Title:.....

1. Introduction: - (1 page)
2. Rationale of the project: - (½ page)
3. Study area: - (½ page-concise description of the project site)
4. Objectives- 2-3 points (½ pages)
5. Methodology: - (1 ½page; Research design, methods and analysis)
6. Expected Result
7. Implication and way of scaling up of research result
8. Budget Description- (Detail format in **Annex II** to be strictly followed- Particulars, unit, number, rate, total and justification)
9. Proposed work plan-(Detailed on a monthly basis- **Annex I**)
10. References

III. Institutional Endorsement and CV

- a. **Letter of institutional endorsement and recommendation from the research guide under whose supervision** the research has been proposed, on institutional letter head with institutional seal; Or provide official statement from the academic institution stating that your research proposal is/ will be approved by the faculty as a partial fulfillment for the completion of an academic degree. The letter of endorsement should also mention if the same grant proposal has been sent for funding to another agency. If partial funds are being sought from EbA II, then the proposal budget should clearly state this.
- b. **Curriculum vitae of the researcher** (not exceeding 2 pages along with **signature of applicant** signifying the truth and correctness of the above information) and CV of **direct supervisor** (not exceeding 3 pages).

Failure to submit any of the above mentioned required documents at the time of submission of the proposal will disqualify the application.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Document: MS Word format, Font: Times New Roman, Font size: 12, Line spacing: 1.5 point, Page margins: 1” on all four sides

Ensure spell and grammar check.

IV. Annex I- Work Plan (monthly basis)

V. Annex II: Budget template

| S. No. | Particulars | Unit | # of Unit | Rate | Total |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Example: Food and Accommodation | Day*Person | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Total Direct cost | | | | |