

Call for Expressions of Interest to participate in the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative Knowledge to Action Lab

The Global Development Network (GDN), together with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Oxfam, GIZ India, UN Environment and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invites Expressions of Interest from research institutions, individual researchers, knowledge producers, and [Nairobi work programme](#) Partners from the Hindukush Himalaya Region, who are interested in participating in the Knowledge to Action Lab that will take place on 20 and 21 November 2018 in New Delhi, India.

The Knowledge to Action Lab will focus specifically on the challenges and opportunities to link, on the one hand, ongoing adaptation research and, on the other, implementation knowledge and data in the context of projects funded by multilateral and bilateral entities. The proposition of the Lab – in a nutshell – is that close interaction between researchers and implementers working on adaptation can significantly strengthen both adaptation action and research agendas on adaptation by identifying concrete collaborations between all actors.

The selected participants will be attending the Knowledge to Action Lab where they will have the opportunity to meet with potential knowledge users, experts, international, regional, national and local policy actors and funding agencies and discuss the possibility of joint work. Selected researchers will be matched with policy, practice and financial actors, identified by the organizers according to their specific expertise, in order for them to present and receive concrete feedback on how to maximize the impact of their research. The final outcome of the Lab will be presented at COP24 (December 2018) and/or at the Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2019).

Background:

Integrating adaptation knowledge into development knowledge, with a view to better inform development action, is a priority. It also remains a challenge. The Nairobi work programme launched the [Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative](#) (LAKI) at COP 20 with the mandate to prioritize and catalyze responses to strategic knowledge needs for adaptation action. The [first phase](#) (2014–17) of the LAKI identified 85 priority knowledge gaps in six subregions (Andean, Western Asia, North Africa, Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), Indian Ocean islands, and Southern Africa). For the HKH subregion, [16 adaptation knowledge gaps were prioritized](#).

During the 48th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (30 April to 10 May 2018, Bonn, Germany), the SBSTA welcomed a second phase of the LAKI as a followup to the successful identification of knowledge gaps during the first phase of the LAKI. In this light, GDN, ICIMOD, Oxfam, GIZ India, UN Environment and the UNFCCC joined forces to organize a Knowledge to Action Lab as a strategy to develop tools to bridge and close knowledge gaps in the HKH subregion and downstream countries (South and Southeast Asia).

What is a Knowledge to Action Lab?

The Lab is a highly interactive workshop format that brings together knowledge users and knowledge producers working on the same (or closely related) issues. The goal of the Lab is to enable researchers and knowledge users (on the project/program or policy side) to jointly develop projects that identify, apply or produce knowledge of direct relevance to an adaptation effort or policy linked to the gaps identified in the LAKI phase 1. The Lab uses advanced facilitation techniques to build a 'safe space' for high quality engagement, informal face-to-face feedback and the building of collaboration between knowledge users and producers. It focuses on knowledge efforts at their seminal stage of development, supporting an early feedback loop on knowledge efforts that strive to build on, and respond to, the imperatives of action.

The concept and format of the Lab has been developed within GDN's program to strengthen the salience of policy-relevant research produced in developing countries, with an emphasis on the early stage of definition of research questions. Typically, Labs offer researchers an opportunity to interact with potential research users from practice and policy.

The November 2018 Lab will innovate on this model, introducing an opportunity for participants from the policy, funding, and practice community to also pitch their knowledge needs, as a basis to engage with the research community on how to address them, and therefore bridge and close some the knowledge gaps already identified in the first phase of the LAKI. The Lab will also integrate a training session of Oxfam's experience using the Research for Impact approach.

The November 2018 Lab will therefore focus on:

- **Identifying the type of knowledge and data available from implementation that can be leveraged by researchers** interested in bridging research and action;
- **Identifying the kind of actionable knowledge needed to develop efficient and adequate adaptation projects** that can emerge from a closer collaboration between local researchers and policy makers, practitioners, investment banks and/or climate funds;
- **Identifying concrete knowledge collaboration linked to implementation challenges, between policy and financial actors and researchers participating in the Lab**, that can be further supported as part of current adaptation projects and efforts;
- Identifying ways for key stakeholders and researchers in the region to collaborate in the curation of **"existing" knowledge, in a way that can address specific audiences for specific purposes, and which still requires in-depth knowledge of adaptation and of the realities of the region in question in order for it to be effective.**

The Lab engineers intensive face-to-face exchanges through attentively-designed tools and formats of interactions, geared to offer a comfortable and engaging space where the feedback loop between producers and users of knowledge can influence further work.

The November 2018 Lab will serve to showcase the scope and potential of more systematic collaborations to actors likely to use the knowledge needed for implementation in their own operations. The Lab will therefore also feature a number of institutions who might be interested in using the Lab as part of their own adaptation work – linking closely research and ‘operations’ by mobilizing local researchers.

Priority Knowledge Gaps to be closed in the HKH subregion:

From the 16 priority knowledge gaps identified in the HKH subregion, this first Knowledge to Action Lab will focus on:

1. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that create adequate information and knowledge on adaptation options and the **technologies suitable to addressing context-specific climate extremes, impacts and risks for agriculture**, and the net effect of climate change at the local level. Knowledge that pays attention to analysing the upstream and downstream impacts of climate change, adaptation measures and projects will be prioritized in the selection.
2. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that raise awareness and **increase sensitization among public and media about climate change health impacts** and adaptation/response measures. Projects which are making existing knowledge available will be prioritized.
3. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that supports the better understanding of **potential health co-benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation** measures in various sectors.
4. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that supports the repackaging of **baseline data on the effects of climate change on biodiversity and forests** for different target groups.
5. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that gathers information on **local indigenous knowledge on forest management**.
6. Ongoing research or projects developed in the HKH region that better communicates the **impacts of climate change on water systems/ availability aiming to determine climate change impacts and inform decision making in designing water resource plans and implementation**. Knowledge that pays attention to analysing the upstream and downstream impacts of climate change, adaptation measures and projects will be prioritized in the selection.

Application Process:

Research institutions, individual researchers and [Nairobi Work Programme](#) Partners from the HKH subregion and downstream countries (South and Southeast Asia) must fill in the [online application](#) form before October 12th, 2018 at 23:59 (IST).

Selection Criteria:

A closed number of participants will be selected on a competitive basis to take part in the Lab, by GDN, ICIMOD, Oxfam, GIZ India, UNFCCC and UN Environment. The key criteria for selection will be the relevance to action of the proposed knowledge needs, the capacity of the applicants to lead the effort, and the capacity of the applicant to build strong collaborations with key stakeholders on the implementation/research side.

The selection of submissions will be done by the organizers based on the following criteria:

- Quality and level of progress of the research/project;
- Relevance of the research project to the identified knowledge gaps;
- Previous experience on policy relevant research and qualifications of the proposing participant(s);
- Communication skills.

Please note that only selected participants will be contacted.

Financial assistance may be available for some of the selected candidates from developing countries to attend to the Knowledge to Action Lab. For any questions or queries please contact us through the following email knowledge2action@gdn.int.