



Framework for ECRUL Research (FER)

Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Urban Landscapes and Communities in
Thimphu-Paro Region of Bhutan (ECRUL)

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Project Management Unit

Department of Human Settlement - Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Royal Government of Bhutan

1. Background

The Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Urban Landscapes and Communities in Thimphu-Paro Region of Bhutan (ECRUL) Project is a six year initiative aimed at strengthening climate resilience in Bhutan's rapidly urbanizing cities of Thimphu and Paro. These cities face growing risks from riverine and surface flooding, cyclones, water stress, landslides, and forest fires, driven by changing climate patterns and urban pressures. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and implemented by the Royal Government of Bhutan in partnership with UNDP, the project seeks to address these challenges through nature-based solutions, improved water management, climate-resilient infrastructure, and inclusive urban planning.

ECRUL will benefit over 146,000 residents by managing critical watershed areas, upgrading early warning systems, and constructing climate-resilient structures. It emphasizes gender responsiveness, community empowerment, and youth and women's entrepreneurship, while promoting inclusive urban planning, green financing, and private sector engagement. The initiative also focuses on raising climate awareness and changing behaviors to build long-term adaptive capacity.

A strong emphasis is placed on building long-term adaptive capacity through awareness-raising, behavioral change, and education. Under its Knowledge Management component, the project will support publications of research papers, articles, and books on climate/urban resilience. Key findings and insights will be shared through national and international platforms to inform policy, encourage replication, and contribute to regional and global learning on climate adaptation and urban resilience.

2. Scope

Under this framework all research works that will culminate into publication of books, research papers, short communications, case studies and others, but not limited to, with focus on climate/urban resilience and related themes in the context of Bhutan will be supported.

In particular, research work with strong emphasis on climate-resilient urban infrastructure, Nature-based Solutions (NbS), urban climate adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and water and waste resilience systems are encouraged.

3. Eligibility

Technical professionals such as architects, urban planners, engineers, and technicians currently active in Bhutan; development practitioners, including researchers, think tanks, and Civil Society Organizations working on climate-resilient urban development; and members of academia, both within Bhutan and abroad are eligible to participate.

Each applicant may receive support a maximum of two times under this project and must not have obtained similar support for the same paper/research from other sources.

4. Governance (Evaluation and Selection Committee)

The TACC members will serve as the evaluation committee consisting of five members:

1. Project Director (Chairperson)
2. Two representatives from the Technical Advisory Coordination Committee (TACC)
3. One representative from the PMU (Member Secretary)
4. One relevant subject expert

5. Support Category

1. Publication in national journals
2. Publication in international journals
3. Support to present the findings at national platforms
4. Support to present the findings at international platforms

6. Application Process

6.1 Call for Proposals

Calls for proposals will be announced through the Ministry's website, print media, media houses, email, and relevant social media channels.

6.2 Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Abstract/summary (maximum 1 page)
2. Statement of relevance (maximum 1 page)
3. Budget proposal with detailed breakdown
4. CV of lead researcher(s) (maximum 2 pages)

6.3 Submission Method

Applications may be submitted either in soft copy via email or in hard copy.

7. Shortlisting and Selection

Project Management Unit (PMU)

1. Initial Screening: Conduct a preliminary review of all proposals to ensure completeness and eligibility.
2. Document Verification: Confirm submission of all required documents.
3. Notification of Deficiencies: Notify applicants of missing documents within three (3) working days; allow up to three (3) additional working days for resubmission.
4. Exclusion of Proposals: Disqualify proposals that do not align with climate or urban resilience themes.
5. Forwarding for Evaluation: Submit only complete and eligible proposals to the Evaluation Committee.

6. Arrange presentations for shortlisted applicants to present their proposals to the Evaluation Committee, either in person or virtually.

8. Evaluation Committee

1. Review and score eligible applications based on agreed evaluation criteria.
2. Provide recommendations to the PMU on the nature and extent of support to be provided.

All members must declare any conflict of interest prior to evaluation.

At least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of members must be present to constitute a quorum.

Convene when at least two proposals are submitted; additional meetings may be held upon PMU's request.

9. Agreement and Implementation

Following the final selection, the PMU will notify successful applicants of the results. Each recipient will be required to sign an undertaking, which shall serve as the legal and operational framework for disbursing support and ensuring compliance with the objectives of the initiative.

In case there is no applicants, the PMU will write to agency calling for nominations.