



Call for Proposals

SSRP Fund # 6

Re-engaging in sustainability research with the Global South

Overview

The Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) is making available small grants for projects to help Sussex researchers re-engage with research partners in the Global South on key sustainability topics, including climate-related activities. Projects up to £20k will be funded. Because of university budgetary restrictions, funds must be used by July 31, 2022.

Projects should advance one or more SDGs, be interdisciplinary in nature, and involve two or more schools. Funds can be used, for example, to prepare bids for external financing, to achieve greater social or policy impact, and/or to achieve academic impact by producing joint papers with research partners. Other uses are acceptable. Support of early career researchers is encouraged.

Background and Purpose

With less than 10 years to go for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with increasing evidence of climate impacts, and in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, research is needed more than ever on how to achieve global goals under difficult conditions, and in a just and equitable way. Yet the coronavirus epidemic has slowed down research contacts between the Global North and South at a time when research is vitally needed to advance sustainability.

The aim of this SSRP Fund # 6 is to help Sussex researchers re-engage with research partners in the Global South on key sustainability topics, including climate-related activities (see below).

The call for project proposals is being run by the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), a University-wide programme for stimulating and coordinating sustainability research. Following its vision of providing “Science for the SDGs”, it supports sustainability research with impact at the regional, national and international levels. It has a particular emphasis on interdisciplinary studies and cross-school cooperation <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/sussex-sustainability-research-programme/>

Projects funded by this call will benefit from the support structure of SSRP. This includes support for boosting impact (impact fund; policy briefs; parliamentary contacts; support for working with local stakeholders; support for REF case studies; other); finding external financing (regular compilation of calls; sandpits; direct support of bids); and networking and exchanging knowledge with colleagues working on sustainability issues across campus (research cluster meetings; workshops; symposia, other).

Scope

The total funds available in this call are £100k. Bids for projects up to £20k are welcome. Because of University budgetary restrictions, funds must be spent by July 31, 2022. No carry-over will be permitted by the University.

Considering the scale of funding and very short time scale, this scheme is aimed at supporting *ongoing sustainability research projects and activities*. However, support for new projects will also be considered if they present a convincing plan for a very quick start up.

Funded projects must focus on problems faced by low and middle income countries and promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between Sussex and academic communities in these countries. For the purpose of this funding call we define “low and middle income countries” as those countries listed by the Development Assistance Committee of OECD [here](#).

As in the past, a range of projects will be supported that advance one or more SDGs and related issues. These include but are not limited to: environmental and human rights issues at forest margins; sustainability issues in peri-urban areas; linkages between poverty, environment, and health; the sustainability of the food system; climate mitigation and adaptation, and others. Examples of SSRP research themes are given in **Annex A**. Applicants are also encouraged to visit the SSRP website for an indication of the type of projects supported to date.

Projects should be interdisciplinary in nature and involve cooperation between two or more schools. Funds can be used, for example, to acquire new data and knowledge, prepare bids for external financing, to achieve greater social or policy impact, and/or to achieve academic impact by producing joint papers with research partners.

Projects that support the development of early career researchers are particularly encouraged.

Applicant eligibility

- Applications are welcome from academics and research staff from all disciplines. We encourage increased engagement from colleagues in Media, Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, Maths and Physical Sciences.

Applicants may only be named as PI on one submission but may be named Co-Investigator (Co-I) on multiple applications.

- Cross-School collaboration is required.
- Members of faculty on fixed-term contracts may apply if their existing employment contracts extends beyond the proposed project.
- IDS researchers can apply in collaboration with Sussex faculty, one of whom must be from an SSRP Core School (e.g. Global, Life Sciences, LPS or USBS) and will be the nominal PI.
- Staff on teaching and scholarships contracts and research students are not eligible to apply.
- In accordance with the University’s Athena Swan objective of addressing gender equality, applications are welcome from those returning from parental leave.

Eligible activities

1. Acquiring new data and knowledge: Lab-based work, archival research, modelling, fieldwork, networking and partnership building, desk-based research.
2. Capacity and capability building: Increase people-based capacity and capability to undertake sustainability research in DAC countries. This means travel to and from DAC countries, including hosting researchers from DAC countries at Sussex. Funds can cover travel, subsistence, visas, a stipend and any applicable School bench fees (taking into account, pandemic-related restrictions).
3. Generating impact from research: This includes activities that interpret and use findings for increasing social, economic, and academic impacts. e.g. stakeholder engagement, broader dissemination etc. Funds can cover research assistance, research-based training, dissemination costs, meeting costs, and travel and subsistence, as examples.
4. Preparation of bids for external financing: This includes bids to acquire new data and knowledge, to exchange knowledge, to carry out capacity building, and/or to achieve greater social, policy, and/or academic impact from existing research.
5. Pump-priming activities: This may include exploratory meetings to identify new partnerships and projects. The outcomes of pump-priming activity should inform more substantive research.

Eligible costs

Research & technical assistance, consumables, travel and subsistence, fieldwork, survey costs, workshops, project-specific equipment.

Ineligible costs

- Teaching relief and permanent staff time are not eligible
- Overheads
- Costs incurred by collaborators at UK institutions
- Conference hosting or attendance

A PI should discuss this application with their Head of School or Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange to ensure their school is aware of what funding would be received for this project which is not being funded on a 100% FEC basis.

Project duration

Projects start dates may depend on what due diligence and contractual arrangements are needed for project partners, however they must have started by 21 February 2022. All projects must end by 31 July 2022. Unspent funds will not be available after this date.

Key Dates

Call issued	Deadline	Panel meeting	Decision to applicants	Latest project start date (due to University budgetary restrictions)
7 th January 2022	31 st January 2022 by 12 noon	4 th February 2022	7 th February 2022	21 st February 2022 (project start dates may depend on what due diligence and contracts partners require)

Review criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a cross-School panel and will address the following criteria:

Research Excellence: activity should be underpinned by excellent research.

Problem and/or solution focus: applications will be assessed on how the proposed project directly relates to addressing the challenges of sustainability faced by low and middle income countries.

Impact: research should have high potential to achieve social, cultural, economic, and/or academic impact in one or more low or middle income countries.

Equitable partnerships: Activity should promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the Global South.

Value for money: Proposals will be assessed on perceived impact vs cost and those with the best value for money will be given priority.

Please note the panel will favour applications that build on previous SSRP funded research.

How to Apply

- Please complete the **Application Form** and return to **Fiona Hurd** F.Hurd@sussex.ac.uk by 12:00 noon Monday 31st January 2022. Because of the short turnaround late applications will not be accepted
- For further information please contact **Fiona Hurd** F.Hurd@sussex.ac.uk

ANNEX A Example Sustainability Research Themes

The sustainability research community at Sussex has identified broad research priorities for sustainability research at Sussex. These priorities have further evolved into the themes below which are used on the SSRP website for cataloguing SSRP research projects. Project proposals are welcome for any of these themes. However, consistent with the bottom-up nature of SSRP, consideration will also be given to proposals that propose new themes for SSRP research.

Special consideration will be given to research that supports SDG implementation and promotes an “integrated approach” to the SDGs by helping to advance two or more SDGs at the same time. All proposed research should have an environmental element.

Climate change strategies (modified theme)

The aim of research under this theme is to support net zero emission strategies and mitigation of climate change, as well as climate impact and adaptation. Also encouraged is research on the interaction between climate mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13) and other SDGs such as for Ending Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Life on Land and Below Water.

Biodiversity and food

The research in this theme investigates how biodiversity conservation and food provision clash or converge. The research under this theme can include the interactions among SDGs on Zero Hunger, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Protecting Life on Land and Under Water.

Global health and environment

This research investigates the interconnections between environmental health and human health. Research can include the interactions among SDGs for Good Health and Wellbeing, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Climate Action, and Life on Land, Life Under Water, and others.

Peri-urban environment

This research theme focuses on rapidly changing peri-urban environments – zones of transition between rural and urban land uses – and their potential to be sustainable. Research under this theme can include the interactions among SDGs for Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life on Land, and Life Under Water.

Trade, debt and SDGs

The research in this theme investigates the relationships between international trade, financial crises, global commodity chains, and sustainable development. Research under this theme can include interactions among the SDGs for Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, and Life on Land.

Sustainability perspectives

The aim of this research is to investigate the methods, practices, institutions and partnerships necessary for achieving sustainable development. This research can involve many different SDGs.