



EVALUATION RUBRICS FOR DESK EVALUATION GRAND CHALLENGE FUND (GCF)

Research Proposals under the **Grand Challenge Fund (GCF)** will be assessed by review panels/ expert evaluators based on the following **Evaluation Criteria**. The reviewers will comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal against each criteria and assign score on the basis of **Grading Scale**. An overall score will also be assigned to the application on the grading scale:

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria For Evaluation	Weightage	Score on Grading Scale (1-7)
<p>Relevance to the Priority Thematic Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal clearly identify the GCF Priority Thematic Area, and describe what aspects of the thematic area that the proposed research program will address? • Are the identified aspects of the Priority Thematic Area significant and important enough to merit a GCF award? • Does the proposal articulate a clear and reasonable vision with regards to the research program addressing the Priority Thematic Area? 	20	
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal provide sufficient background context for the project research, including an understanding of the available literature? • Does the proposal present a compelling case for the research plan to address the Priority Thematic Area? • Does the proposal describe an integrated research plan to address particular aspects of the Priority Thematic Area? Is the scope of the proposed research feasible and reasonable in the GCF timeframe and with the anticipated GCF budget? • Does the proposed research plan contribute scientifically to addressing the Priority Thematic Area? • Is the proposed research plan consistent with a large scale GCF Project? • What is the scientific merit of the proposed research? • Does the dissemination plan effectively communicate the anticipated research results to all relevant stakeholders? 	25	
<p>Project Team and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the proposed GCF project established the necessary partnerships to succeed in its vision and goals? Are the partners committed to the success of the proposed GCF project? • Does the proposal clearly describe why the academic partners were selected to contribute to the proposed GCF project? • Do the academic partners have sufficient resources available to fulfill their commitments to the project? How does the GCF project leverage other funding that the academic partners may have? • Has the proposed GCF project effectively consulted with the relevant sectoral (non-academic) stakeholders? How well has this input been incorporated into the proposal? 	20	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed GCF project have an effective plan for incorporating sectoral partnerships into the research program? • Does the proposal describe how the proposed partners – academic and/or sectoral - add value to the proposed GCF project? • Comment on the financial commitment and other contributions of the sectoral partners to the proposed GCF. • Is there a record of achievement for sectoral-academic partnerships involving those who will contribute to the GCF project? 		
Team Capacity to Implement GCF Research Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the research team have the appropriate track record to deliver on the research program? • Is the PI qualified to lead the large scale research project with multiple partners? Is the project management plan clearly delineated? • Is the project timeline reasonable? Does the proposal describe appropriate milestones to be delivered during the project lifetime? • Does the research team have the physical resources and facilities available to implement the proposed research plan (these can be on-site at the host institution, available through partners, or planned purchases through the proposed GCF award)? • Is the project budget reasonable? Is the budget appropriately allocated to ensure that the project goals can be achieved? • Does the proposal describe an adequate risk management strategy? 	15	
Institutional Capacity to Implement GCF Research Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the institution have a record of achievement in supporting large project awards? Does the institution have effective policies and practices in place to manage large awards? • Comment on the commitment of the Vice-Chancellor to the proposed GCF project. 	10	
Integration of Proposal Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal put forward an integrated, visionary plan for a GCF award? • Does the proposal address all considerations in an achievable manner? • Does the proposal present a compelling case for support? • Does the proposal inspire confidence in the capacity of the faculty and institution to deliver on the goals? • Are the anticipated project milestones (at year one, year two, and project conclusion) deliverable on the timeline proposed? • How will the proposed GCF award address the Priority Thematic Area in a manner that is only achievable through large-scale, multidisciplinary financing? 	10	

Grading Scale

Grading Scale	Description
7- Outstanding	Exceptionally strong proposal with negligible weaknesses
6-Excellent	Very strong proposal with negligible weaknesses
5-Very Good	Very strong Proposal with minor weaknesses
4-Good	Strong proposal with minor weaknesses
3-Average	Proposal having some strengths but moderate weaknesses
2-Weak	Proposal having few strengths with major weaknesses
1-Poor	Proposal having very few strengths with numerous major weaknesses