

ARA FUNDER BRIEF

The ARA, launched at COP26, is currently supported by UKAID (core funding provided via FCDO to March 2025) with additional activity funding by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Climate Collaboration Emergency Group, Australian Centre for Agriculture Research, and Canada's International Development Research Centre. The ARA needs to broaden and diversify its funding base to expand the activities offered and strengthen the Secretariat.

The ARA provides a platform of over 260 institutional members for **funders to design and mobilise funds for innovative new high impact adaptation programmes**. Through these activities the ARA has shaped investments made by the £110 million Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) programme to operationalise the Adaptation Research for Impact principles and the £9.5 million UKRI call on Equitable nature-based climate resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa, influenced the UNFCCC Global Stocktake on Adaptation, and supported the multi-country Building Approaches to Fund Local Solutions with Climate Evidence (BASE) initiative.

The Alliance has given **over 60 micro-grants to local organisations**, launched five global 'consultative processes', undertaken a substantial peer-to-peer learning initiative, and initiated 4 co-creation processes on the topics of Nature-based Solutions, Smallholder Agriculture, Urban Resilience and strengthening Least Developed Country Universities for national adaptation action.

In a very short amount of time, the ARA has become a highly influential initiative with a demonstrated ability to propel evidence-based adaptation action globally. Already several bilateral and philanthropic funders are ARA members. For those that have not yet joined, they should consider the benefits of working to a common cause across the full spectrum of adaptation and resilience research and action.



Funding Opportunities

The ARA is looking to expand its activities in collaboration with more funding partners. Below are a range of funding opportunities which could be **delivered by the ARA Secretariat or through the ARA Members** where costs are 'passed through' and delivered by implementing organisations. Importantly funders can **co-design new programmes** based on their collaborations with the ARA, especially the co-creation spaces. In addition, there are existing ARA activities that could easily be **scaled up** with further support such as the Grassroot Action Research Micro-grants.

For specific funding opportunities please refer to the specific programmatic funding brief.

- 1 Tracking, Learning and Sharing
- 2 LDC Universities & National Adaptation Action
- 3 SECURE framework for Urban Resilience
- 4 Climate & Health
- 5 Smallholder Agriculture (coming soon!)



What is the ARA doing differently

The ARA is a global collaborative effort that seeks to mobilise increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research for effective adaptation to climate change. The Alliance is working to shape the funder and programme landscape, creating novel partnerships and blended funding models to change the way programmes are designed, funded and delivered.

The **Adaptation Research for Impact Principles** co-developed by ARA Members guide the delivery of all activities and each Member organisation has signed up to implementing them:

- 1 Research is needs-driven, solutions-oriented and leads to a positive impact on the lives of those at risk from climate change.
- 2 Research is transdisciplinary and co-produced with users.
- 3 Research emphasises societal impact.
- 4 Research builds capacity and empowers actors for the long-term.
- 5 Research processes address structural inequalities that lead to increased vulnerability and reduced adaptive capacity of those at risk.
- 6 Learning-while-doing enables adaptation action to be evidence-based and increasingly effective.



Funding Targets

Specific funding targets are required to support the Adaptation Research Alliance's (ARA) co-creation space. The ARA requires a total of £5 million over three years to maintain current levels of activities. Specific activities (e.g. micro-grants, co-creation spaces, in-person Member engagement) can be scaled up depending on levels of funding.



Adaptation Research Alliance