

Grants Available
Regional Water Management Forum Project
Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)
Call for proposals

The USAID Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Program is seeking to support research projects in Central and South-Central Asia that focus on climate change and transboundary water-related research in six eligible countries: Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The overall goal of this call for proposals is to increase regional and cross-border cooperation in transboundary water management broadly.

Eligible research projects can address a variety of hydrological topics, such as pairing climate data and historical and current climate data and statistically create a hydrograph, assessing and identifying best practices for landscape stabilization; identifying best methods for groundwater recharge in specific geologic environments. Projecting climate change impacts on flow/hydrograph; projecting climate change impacts on snow melt flow, projecting climate change impacts on vegetation cover, determining lateral river migration rate and/or migration propensity of transboundary rivers, and forecasting water availability and use.

Additionally, topics may also include socio-economic policy, or legal research topics, such as water rights, conflict resolution, the projected impacts of climate change on transboundary water treaties/water sharing, or the identification of common approaches addressing climate change impacts that incorporates into existing or new water treaties.

Projects are strongly encouraged to focus on the Amu-Darya and Kabul (Indus) Basins. As part of their research plan applicants will be required to collaborate with a US scientist funded by an eligible US science-funding agency [eligible USG agencies include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Smithsonian Institution].

Through catalyzing collaborative research and strategic partnerships and leveraging existing U.S. research capacity, PEER is designed to elevate the use of science and technology in addressing local and global development challenges. PEER establishes long-lasting research relationships that build capacity, strengthen the research ecosystem, and enable collaborators to become better partners in development.

Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. Funded research programs grantees are expected to participate in annual PEER research seminars/workshops, regionally to share progress, engage other stakeholders including other grantees, and advance the research agenda and capacity across Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia on these topics. If funded, PEER principal investigators are expected to participate in two forums held annually with invited guest experts, regional counterparts, and other PEER grantees from each of the forum member

countries to share progress, engage stakeholders, and advance the research agenda and capacity on their topics.

Interested applicants are requested to send in a one-page Expression of Interest (EOI) along with an electronic copy of their short biography or resume to Dr. Katherine Himes at khimes@usaid.gov and KabulUSAIDPEER@state.gov no later than August 18th. The EOI shall include the applicant's research interests previously conducted, and any publications.

Applicants will be invited to attend a proposal-writing workshop that will take place in Kabul on August 30th in preparation for submission of pre-proposals in January 2016. An official solicitation for pre-proposals will be announced on or around October 1st 2015.

For interested applicants, further information about the upcoming call for pre-proposals can be found on the National Academies/PEER website:

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/PEER/index.htm>.