

FAQ - RFP - NZ33ARTS120205 - Purchase of Research Services on Sustainable and Climate Adaptive Architecture in Bangladesh

Version: 13 February 2025

Question 1: Is there a difference in requirements between individual and institutional proposals?

Answer 1: No, there is no difference in requirements for proposals.

Question 2: Is it required to have a UK partner to this proposal and project?

Answer 2: Yes, it is requested to have a UK-based partner, or research-team member in this proposal.

Question 3: Is there a budgetary limit, or the budget prepared by the submitter according to work goals?

Answer 3: The indicative budget for this research initiative is in the range of GBP 30,000 to GBP 34,000 equivalent local currency for the complete activity, including all applicable costs and taxes.

Question 4: The RFP indicates that outputs will target the British Council, policy bodies, and sector practitioners. Could you please confirm if there is a primary audience or if certain audiences should be prioritized? How should the intended application of the scoping report influence our research methodology?

Answer 4: We expect that the research report and outputs will be of particular, and clear relevance to the British Council, architectural associations and policy bodies. The intended application of the scoping report requires that the research methodology is socially inclusive and participatory.

Question 5: The document calls for data collection 'per first-level administrative Division'. In Bangladesh, however, architectural typologies often correlate more with geographic or cultural regions than with strict political boundaries. Should our research incorporate alternative regional groupings, and is there guidance on the required granularity (e.g., limiting the number of case studies) to prevent an unwieldy volume of data?

Answer 5: We welcome creative, contextually relevant and informed propositions and provocations in response to the RFP.

Question 6: Should we provide technical details as architectural plans, sections, elevations, 3d and detailing along with photographic documentation that we do for archival work or do you anticipate the inclusion of deeper analyses, such as narrative documentation, climate resilience assessments, material mapping, longevity and cost analyses, which might require the development of specific frameworks, tools, or even software? A clarification on the depth of technical and climatical analysis expected would be greatly appreciated for us.

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Answer 6: We refer in particular to section 7.5.1 of the RFP, on Project Deliverables (copied here) and while doing so, encourage applicants to bear in mind the response to Question 5, above.

The British Council seeks to appoint experts to conduct research, and deliver the following research outputs, and activities:

- I. A nationwide overview of the national context for sustainable and climate adaptive architecture in Bangladesh with reference to the SDGs. This will include an overview of public sector, private sector and grassroots practices, initiatives, projects, and/or unbuilt concepts for sustainable and climate adaptive architecture that have been published or produced in Bangladesh from 2015 to-date in each first-level administrative Division of Bangladesh (Division).*
- II. A set of case studies that illustrate in detail a selection of significant and innovative public sector, private sector and grassroots practices, initiatives, projects, and/or unbuilt concepts for sustainable and climate adaptive architecture with reference to the SDGs. This will include at least one case study from each Division of Bangladesh;*
- III. A report of opportunities, challenges and programme recommendations expressed by architects and planners practicing in Bangladesh, on what is needed for the sector to grow and reach its artistic potential in Bangladesh while effecting relevant, climate-sustainable, and socially inclusive change in society with reference to the SDGs.*

As the project deliverables required are overview, case study and opinions expressed by architects and planners, we do not envision detailed technical details such as architectural plans, sections, elevations, 3D and detailing along with photographic documentation as would be the case with detailed archival work. Nor do we envision project assessment documents, such as climate resilience assessments, material mapping, longevity and cost analyses that might require the development of specific tools, or software.

Question 7: Does the research need to incorporate quantifiable performance metrics (for example, energy efficiency ratings, water usage, or lifecycle cost analysis) in addition to qualitative assessments of sustainability and climate adaptation?

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Answer 7: While this could be an informative approach, this is not a specific requirement.

Question 8: Given the project's timeline, should the nationwide overview include a standardized comparative framework with detailed sector-specific metrics for each Division, or is a broader narrative description acceptable?

Answer 8: A standardised framework may be helpful. We expect that narrative description would be clearly referenced and substantiated with key examples of relevant projects and with key elements of current local discourse and practice.