Question	**Answer**
We would like to propose a project to study the hazards to strategic seafloor cables and pipelines from the Middle East to India, which cross a very active submarine channel on the Indus Fan. Is such a project in the scope of this programme, and if so – how can we develop links with the Indian Oceanography community?	Projects can choose to focus on either earthquakes or landslides as the primary geohazard event, alongside any appropriate subsequent cascading hazards.
Does the research scope cover Intraplate deformation in the deep sea - Central Indian Ocean?	Intraplate as well as any plate boundary are in scope.
Will you also consider tsunami/storms and sea level change in mapping and modelling geohazards along shorelines of India?	Projects can choose to focus on either earthquakes or landslides as the primary geohazard event, alongside any appropriate subsequent cascading hazards (including tsunamis)
Will topic of "seashore slope failure and respective tsunami risk" be in scope for this call?	Projects can choose to focus on either earthquakes or landslides as the primary geohazard event, alongside any appropriate subsequent cascading hazards (including tsunamis)
Is the funding focused on land based (onshore landslides)? Or submarine landslides and Tsunami are also included?	Projects can choose to focus on either earthquakes or landslides as the primary geohazard event, alongside any appropriate subsequent cascading hazards (including tsunamis)
Should the interests of NERC, EPSRC, ESRC and AHRC be addressed in every proposal?	It is expected that project teams will need to incorporate researchers from a range of disciplines in order to fully address the aims of the programme. On the UK side all applications should include NERC remit researchers and must cover at least two UKRI-council remits (NERC + one other) as a minimum, although you are encouraged to utilise the breadth of expertise supported through the call. You must ensure that all three essential project components of the scope are addressed.
Many geohazard chains transgress national borders - to what extent are there opportunities to conduct research that covers multi-hazard processes in trans-border catchments?	Yes, there is opportunity to conduct research that covers geohazard processes in trans-border catchments. As long as the essential project components are covered, and there are eligible

	researchers from both the UK and India, with any additional project partners being self-funded
Is there an expectation that the proposals will include a capacity building element?	There is no mandatory requirement to include capacity building, however it is perceived that capacity building will naturally occur through projects where appropriate
Does this project also focus on humanities research, like exploring the social and cultural impacts of cascading geohazards within India and its neighbouring countries?	Yes it can, especially within the context of building resilience to geohazards. Research could explore the social and cultural impacts of cascading geohazards within India and neighbouring countries. Arts and humanities research can help reduce the impacts of shocks on individuals and communities, using approaches such as looking at adaptation, embracing change and deployment of resources for personal resilience that is fair and just.
Does the proposal need to have a strong physical sciences new knowledge development, or would it be OK to use existing techniques but focus on how to better understand and respond to these geohazards?	You can use novel or existing methods as long as your project is furthering understanding of geohazard processes and applying this new understanding to refine forecasting and early warning systems and proposing novel mitigation strategies to enhance resilience to geohazards.
Are there any particular geohazard processes or impacts that are of higher priority for this funding program?	No particular geohazard processes or impacts have been deemed higher priority within the scope of the call. However, as detailed, the call focusses on furthering understanding of and addressing knowledge gaps in the fundamental properties and physics of earthquakes and/or landslide processes and where applicable any potential subsequent cascading hazards
How do the funding bodies view the integration of advanced technologies like radar remote sensing in research proposals?	Projects should further understanding of and address knowledge gaps in the fundamental properties and physics of earthquake and/or landslide processes through appropriate methods. These methods could include the use of Earth observation techniques and technologies such as radar.
How will you define cultural impact? Or an impact in the cultural dimension? please give an example	We're looking within the context of building resilience, exploring, for example, how culture and cultural practices can act as enablers or barriers to building resilience. This type of impact could be seen when the cultural dimension is

	considered as part of the larger research outcomes.
The word 'geophysical' events was used in the slides and the information available on the grant call. Also, there were examples given of aftershocks, liquefaction, landslides, tsunamis, flooding, ... Does this preclude also considering other hazards that might influence some of the given geophysical examples (e.g., wildfires) to consider the breadth of multi-hazard cascades that might occur?	Projects can choose to focus on either earthquakes or landslides as the primary geohazard event, alongside any appropriate subsequent cascading hazards (including wildfires). Other hazards could be included as long as they are a cascading hazard related to either earthquakes or landslides.
What do you mean by fundamental properties and physics of earthquakes?	This would include the processes that impact the nucleation and causes of earthquakes and landslides and could involve data acquisition of both field and laboratory studies. It could for example include the physical properties of rocks. In terms of landslides this would include a physical understanding of flow and behaviour and what influences this.
Do we need to address both earthquakes and landslides in our proposal? Or can we address just one of them? Landslides can be caused by many things, like rain, earthquakes and human activities. Does this call focus on earthquake-induced landslides only? Or can we focus on rainfall-induced landslides and associated flash flooding.	You do not need to address both earthquakes and landslides in your proposal. You can just focus on earthquakes and their cascading hazards (which could include earthquake induced landslides). Alternatively you could just focus on landslides and their cascading hazards.
Does this call cover mapping resilient infrastructure like roads due to landslides and flooding?	You must ensure that all three essential project components of the scope are addressed, although the focus on each component does not need to be equally weighted. One of these essential components is proposing novel mitigation strategies in order to enhance resilience to geohazards. As part of this component projects could focus on structural mitigation measures to improve resilience, for example how buildings should be designed to improve shock resistance
Does the funding cover projects based on computational geodynamic models which will look at earthquakes in convergent margins?	Yes, as long as your request for funding is in relation to the three essential project components
I am part of an interdisciplinary team working on water related geohazards, including landslides, using community driven approaches	The focus of the call was guided by the scoping workshop held in January 2023, which identified:

- and I am wondering why there is such a focus on earthquakes, which is crucial, but only one of the main geohazards faced in India? We would like to apply, however, with earthquakes being one of several elements of our study, we were wondering if that would mean we are unable to apply due to our broader focus?	• earthquakes and their cascading hazards • landslides and their cascading hazards as key priorities, which were agreed upon by the funders As long as the three essential components of projects are covered, then projects can propose additional elements if they choose.
The three components that 'must' be addressed seem rather ambitious. It makes sense to add different disciplines into thinking about specific projects to do with these geohazards, but to ALSO address the 'fundamental properties and physics' of earthquake and landslide processes (which implies very solid and careful thinking of physical scientists) seems like it will be difficult to do with £1M and 4 years. Would it not be better to invite projects related to the theme, but without having the fundamental properties in there?	MoES and NERC have agreed that addressing knowledge gaps in the fundamental properties and physics of earthquake and/or landslide processes is an important part of this programme. Although each project must address all three essential components, the focus on each component does not need to be equally weighted. Projects are able to claim for up to £1million from UKRI and equivalent matched funding from MoES, making the total funding available substantially larger than £1million per project.
Will there be support for the procurement of satellite and remote sensing imagery and earthquake catalogues if required?	All requests for resources must be justified in the Resources and cost justification section of your application.
India is experiencing several rainfall-induced landslides; is a proposal focusing on fundamental physics, monitoring, and modelling accepted in the current call?	Projects can focus on rainfall induced landslides as long as they address the three essential project components as listed in the funding opportunity.
Is there any scope of taking up development of accelerometers for strong earthquake and vibration measurement?	Yes, as long as projects address the three essential project components, then technology development is welcomed
Regarding the number of councils remits a bid must cover, is it 2 councils including NERC or NERC + 2? Does this mean from the UK partners, or if we have partners in India who cover this expertise is it ok?	You should include at least two council remits (i.e. at least NERC and one other), however we encourage applicants to think about including a broad range of disciplines and expertise to address the essential components of the call. The remits can be covered across UK and Indian project teams
What is the scope of 'neighbouring countries'? E.g. is Pakistan included?	The call doesn't specify exact countries. The projects should be research led and therefore any

	neighbouring country where the effects of the geohazard process could have an effect on or across India would be in scope.
Could academics from Indian universities or other institutes such as IIT Bombay be partners?	The call is open to relevant Indian researchers as long as you include at least one researcher from an MoES institute.
Is there a provision to have a PhD student in the research proposal?	UK component: NERC has separate funding routes for students, they cannot be funded under the UK component of this programme. Indian component: Yes, as per GoI norms, PhD student must be NET/GATE/any other equivalent national level examination passed
Could an NGO based Research Institute in India submit an application with a UK-University?	There needs to be one eligible UK applicant and one eligible Indian applicant at a minimum. The NGO would need to be either eligible for MoES funding under the call rules or apply as a project partner alongside an eligible Indian applicant.
What are the list of MoES institutes. Is it mandatory to have a partner from an MoES institute for the proposal submission?	Yes, all proposals have to include collaboration with an MoES institute. The relevant MoES institutes are: National Centre for Seismology (NCS) National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR)India Meteorological Department (IMD)
Do researchers based under MoES institutes need their departmental official permission to get involved with UK team or can the researchers join any UK search team without their departmental approval?	Yes, any researchers on regular basis need to submit their proposal through proper channel
Is it possible to use funding for collaborators who are not based in UK or Indian institutions as part of the project team?	Funding can only be requested for researchers who are eligible for funding by NERC or MoES. In the case of NERC this is only researchers based in the UK except for specific costs for project co-leads from Norway and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Researchers that do not meet these criteria can be involved in projects but as project partners who are self-funded.
Can I have two co-leads in the UK?	You must have one project lead for administrative purposes but can have one or more co-leads.

Please provide details of eligibility for PIs and CoPIs	As this call is being administered by NERC, then NERC eligibility rules apply for UK applicants, and MoES eligibility rules will apply for Indian applicants. Full details on eligibility requirements can be found on the UKRI Funding Finder.
Does the constraint of two application bids also extend to project partners?	Project partners may be involved in more than two bids, but an organisation should only be named as a project partner if it is providing specific contributions (either in cash or kind) to the project.
Does leading this project affect application to the EPSRC's New Investigator award?	Applicants are advised to check the eligibility requirements of the EPSRC New investigator award scheme
Can Post docs be hired in this project?	Yes, Postdoctoral Research Assistants can be included in projects but must be employed by and working at the same Research Organisation as at least one of the Investigators (e.g. Project Lead or Project Co-Lead) on the grant.
How will Indian researchers who are not earth scientists be financially supported on the Indian side?	Researchers would have to be active in the geohazards research area, they do not necessarily have to be earth scientists, they could be for example an engineer, but they should have research experience within the area covered by the call scope. Support is mainly on merit of the proposal and competency of PI
How much match funding will be provided in this call for Indian researchers?	Project Cost for awarded proposals of Indian researchers will be provided as per MoES norms and merit of the proposals, this is not matched on a £:Rs/Lakh level.
Could you please clarify how costs of Indian researchers should be specified? Do they need to be specified in the UKRI project, and does the £1m limit include those?	There is detailed guidance provided in the funding opportunity on which costs are eligible to apply for. Details of all costs both those requested for the UK component from UKRI and those requested for the Indian component from MoES should be included within the TFS application submitted to UKRI. The £1million limit is for the UK component of the project, Indian costs do not need to be contained with this £1million limit.
Can you please provide details of the procedure to select the MoES partner? How do we identify MoES partner? Please elaborate about how institutes in India will be expected to undertake	Projects should identify and approach their prospective partners based on their requirements and proposed activities.

involvement from MoES institutes. We already have other partners in UK and India Identified.	The 5 MoES institutes are: National Centre for Seismology (NCS) National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR) India Meteorological Department (IMD) Some relevant individuals details are included in the biography booklet as well as in the scoping workshop report. These can also be found via the internet.
If we would like to run testing by Indian team in Indian institution, would the cost covered by the matching funding from India?	Yes, if this aspect is part of the proposal. All requested resources must be fully justified in the proposal.
Can you explain a bit more about the "Matched funding will be available from MoES" for the Indian component of applications?	MoES will support Indian researchers and UKRI will support UK researchers within projects. This is not matched on a £:Rs/Lakh. Projects should show how they represent a true collaborative partnership between the UK and India.
Please provide further details on what research activities MoES are covering. Examples - Staff , equipment, prototype development and testing & knowledge exchange costs.	Support may be provided towards Project staff, essential equipment, travel (domestic & international), consumable, contingency etc.
Does MoES cover Indian academic institution based academics' time or not?	The call is open to relevant Indian researchers as long as you include at least one researcher from an MoES institute
For Indian costs, are overheads and estates included?	Yes
Can Indian Pis seek part salary support and what percentage of budget can be sought for overheads	No salary can be provided for the project lead (Indian PI), MoES support will be provided as per MoES norms and merit of the proposals
Will there be avenues to facilitate the establishment of collaborations with Ministry of Earth Sciences?	A booklet of biographies of those who attended the launch webinar will be shared amongst attendees, there are also links to many individuals from Indian institutes in the scoping workshop report which is published on the UKRI website. MoES and UKRI will be communicating the call as widely as possible to help establish connections.
The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the nodal agency for landslides in India. What is their role	The Call is open to all including GSI as a partner

in being involved with helping inform and work with the results of this call?	
Is it supposed that we should already have a potential project partner at MoES?	All proposals are required to include a partner at one of the named MoES institutes
Do Indian collaborators submit a proposal separately to a different platform, or only one joint application through TFS will be made?	Only one joint submission needs to be made via the UKRI TFS platform.
Please provide an explanation of the review process	There will be no peer review or PI response stage. All eligible applications will be assessed by a panel comprised of independent external panel members from India and the UK. They will assess the following sections of your application: • Vision • Approach • Applicant and team capability to deliver • Ethics and Responsible Research and innovation • Resources and cost justification Panel members will consist of experts spanning the breadth of the opportunity remit to ensure that due consideration is given to interdisciplinary applications. The panel will make a funding recommendation. UKRI and MoES will jointly make a final funding decision. Feedback will be provided to all applicants following the assessment process.
Who is assessing these proposals, and will the assessment include any representatives from affected communities?	The individuals who will make up the panel are not yet known and will be chosen after the closing date to ensure their combined expertise is able to assess all the applications received. Individuals who have applied to the call will not be on the panel.
Will all proposals go to the panel, or will proposals be assessed for fit to call before being assessed - will any be rejected if they don't fit the remit?	All proposals will go to the assessment panel unless they contain ineligible applicants, in which case they would be rejected.
Would NERC provide detailed feedback of unsuccessful proposals based on peer review	Yes, all proposals will receive feedback after the assessment panel has taken place.

process or the panel discussions on the quality and suitability of proposals at the end?	
Is there a limit on the number of partners per bid?	There is no limit on either eligible UK and Indian partners per proposal nor the number of project partners per proposal.
Can researchers be included on more than one proposal?	Researchers may be involved in no more than two applications submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these can be as project lead.
Can money be utilised for key equipment procurement and archives access fees?	Yes, equipment may be purchased. <u>For UK components</u>: Equipment greater than £10k purchased through the UK component of the proposals will be funded at 50%, with the other 50% financed by the Research Organisation. Equipment and all other costs must be detailed in the justification of resources. <u>For Indian components:</u> All items of permanent equipment costing Rs. 50000 or above or requiring import should be detailed separately in the application. For each item of equipment, the following should be provided: • detailed specifications of the equipment proposed • details of existing equipment in the country and the need for the additional facility • statement on the capabilities of the PI in using the equipment • cost estimate (notional quotations) • for major equipment of cost >Rs. 50 lacs, details should be given on how the equipment will be maintained after project completion
Will we be expected to carry out Due Diligence on all international partners for this call?	You must undertake appropriate due diligence on your collaborative partners before any collaboration between parties begins, including where changes occur after the Grant Start Date to individuals or organisations involved in the project or, where any material change occurs in the nature of the collaboration or external factors which might alter the level of risk to the research and its potential usages. Where due diligence checks identify a potential risk, you must ensure

	that appropriate mitigations are in place to manage that risk before any activity and/or collaboration affected by the risk begins/is continued. Due Diligence must be undertaken in line with UKRI's Principles on Trusted Research and Innovation
How many projects are going to be funded and is there any upper limit on the cost of the project	There is no minimum amount of funding you can request. The maximum funding that can be requested is £1million (100% FEC) for the UK component with equivalent matched funding for the Indian component. There is a total call budget of £4million on the UK side with equivalent funding from MoES. It's expected that 4 or 5 projects would be funded.
During the four year period, is there any provision for the Indo-British team partners to meet in person which will be supported by UKRI?	Yes, applicants can request travel costs for in person meetings within their applications. All resources must be fully justified in the Resources and cost justification section
Where can we find the scoping workshop report?	The scoping report is available on the UKRI Funding Finder
Should we seek to match the costs on the UK and Indian side of our project and if so how should we match (e.g. researcher time or total costs)?	Costs requested for the UK component and Indian component do not need to be the same, however it should be clear in your proposal that it is co-led and both the UK and Indian research teams contribute equally on balance to the overall project. Projects should show how they represent a true collaborative partnership between the UK and India. Indian funding will be as per the norms of MoES