

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

AFRICA COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMME (AFCAP)

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) is financing the Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP) in association with African governments and other development partners. AFCAP is a research initiative designed to address the challenges of providing reliable access for poor communities in Africa. AFCAP is based around a portfolio of research, demonstration and training projects, which identify and support the update of low cost, proven solutions for rural access that maximise the use of local resources. Crown Agents have been appointed by DFID as Programme Managers and IT Transport Limited have been sub-contracted as advisors on transport services.

AFCAP Purpose : Strengthened research evidence base developed, promoted and influencing policy and practice in Africa; on sustainable rural road provision & maintenance, and affordable rural transport services.

All AFCAP projects are implemented in conjunction with national or regional authorities. Several countries are currently participating in AFCAP, and these include Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. AFCAP projects may, however, be implemented in any Sub-Saharan country in Africa. Funding has been committed to the AFCAP programme until 2013. Further information on the programme can be found at <https://www.afcap.org>.

One of AFCAP's objectives is to promote transport services in rural areas. To this end AFCAP now invites Project Concept Notes (PCNs) for research projects on *Rural Transport Services* in sub-Saharan Africa.

Call for Project Concept Notes

Individuals, non-governmental organisations, firms, universities and similar organisations with relevant research and consultancy capability are invited to submit PCNs for research projects into Rural Transport Service. Projects must be located in Sub-Saharan Africa and it is essential that the projects meet the following criteria as a minimum:

- a. Relevance to AFCAP's overall goal of providing reliable access for poor communities in Africa;
- b. Contribution to adding to existing knowledge and research in the area of *Rural Transport Services* in sub-Saharan Africa; and
- c. Compliance with AFCAP's four way test for project proposals.

Projects may be for a duration of 2 to 24 months. Please note that AFCAP will not fund construction work, nor will it support widespread programme implementation other than for research purposes.

Selection Process

All PCNs must be submitted in English using the Application Form attached. One form should be used for each research project proposed, however, an organisation may submit more than one PCN for consideration.

After the submission deadline an initial evaluation of the PCNs will be carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria and weighting specified in the Application Form. Proposals successfully passing this stage will be shortlisted for further consideration.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by email and requested to submit a short Research Project Proposal. Please note only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

A final selection of research projects will be produced based on evaluation criteria which will form part of the invitation to shortlisted applicants. Contracts will be awarded to successful proposal applicants.

Timescale

Closing date for receipt of PCNs	1700 hours (GMT) 10 th December 2010
Shortlisted applicants notified	7 th January 2011
Submission deadline for Research Project Proposals	28 th January 2011
Contracts awarded	14 th February 2011
Commencement of Research projects	Feb/Mar 2011

Contact details

All Application Forms must be submitted by email to: Mr. Salomonsen (Andreas.Salomonsen@ittransport.co.uk) or I.T.Transport (itt@ittransport.co.uk). Please include 'Submission of Project Concept Note for AFCAP' in the subject line of the email.

Any further information may be obtained from the same addresses.

Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP)		
Project Concept Note		
Application Form		
Name(s) of legal entity or entities making this application		
Name of Primary Contact		
Organisation		
Address		
Telephone		
E-mail		
Proposed Research Project		
Project Title	<i>[Insert name/title of the research project concept note]</i>	
Country & location	<i>[Insert country name and the location within the country]</i>	
Relevant Research History	<i>[Is this part of previous research or an ongoing programme or project? If so, give brief description]</i>	
Evaluation Criteria		Weighting
Compliance with the AFCAP 4-way test	Does the project have strong local ownership? Does the project include mainly research, knowledge dissemination or training? Will the project contribute to sustainable improvements in rural transport? Will the project contribute to building national or regional capacity?	Mandatory
Main Stakeholders/ Partner Organisations	<i>[List the stakeholders (e.g. government/donors/organisations/institutions/companies) that the project will be involved with]</i>	10%
Institutional Ownership	<i>[Who will manage the project and own the outputs within the Partner Government]</i>	20%
Rationale (max 100 words)	<i>[Briefly describe how this project relates and would contribute to the AFCAP purpose]</i>	50%
Objective (less than 50 words)	<i>[Describe the overall objective of the project]</i>	5%
Main activities and outputs	<i>[List the main anticipated activities and outputs]</i>	10%
Linkage to other projects/ programmes	<i>[Would this project complement other programmes or projects? If so, give a brief description]</i>	5%
Project duration	<i>[Insert estimated number of months]</i>	
Estimated cost (GBP)	<i>[If co-financed, provide AFCAP and partner contributions separately. Co-financing will be an advantage]</i>	
Name		
Signature		
	Signed for and on behalf of the Legal Entity	
Date		