



Framework and Application Guidelines: Botswana and Zimbabwe Call for Collaborative Research Proposals in Mineral Technologies

1.0 BACKGROUND

Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) and the Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) under Phase Two (2) of the **Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI)** are pleased to announce the launch of the joint Call inviting Research Proposals with potential to provide evidence-based solutions to **challenges common to both Botswana and Zimbabwe** in the Mining Sector. Specifically, invited research proposals should focus on **Value Addition and Beneficiation of Resource Extraction and Transformation**. Value addition and beneficiation is expected to bring socio-economic benefits such as employment creation in the mining value chain and growth in minerals export value which will translate to increased tax returns for Botswana and Zimbabwe.

This joint Call for Research Proposals is a realisation of the bilateral scientific collaboration between BIH and RCZ that will allow selected joint research teams from Botswana and Zimbabwe to benefit from the SGCI funding programme. The SGCI aims to design and implement joint research projects involving researchers affiliated to recognized public or private universities, research institutions or science councils in Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Initiative is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE JOINT CALL

The major objective of this call is to facilitate implementation of at least two (2) collaborative research projects in Mining/Mineral Technology by Botswana and Zimbabwean researchers affiliated to recognised public or private universities, research institutions or science councils in both countries. Specific objectives of the call are:

1. To identify and find technological and scientific solutions in emerging technologies for value addition and beneficiation of mineral resources in Botswana and Zimbabwe;
2. To contribute to research capacity building development in both Botswana and Zimbabwe;
3. To enhance collaboration between Botswana and Zimbabwean researchers and research institutions;
4. To exchange scientific and technological information and documentation, teaching and learning materials arising from cooperation and provide an opportunity for researchers in the two countries to engage in common subject matters of interest.

3.0 PRIORITY AREAS OF RESEARCH

The BIH-RCZ joint Call for Research Proposals presents an opportunity for researchers in Botswana and Zimbabwe to implement demand-driven research projects with potential to proffer solutions for challenges negatively impacting the mining sector. The SGCI, BIH and RCZ will therefore, co-fund



demand-driven, collaborative research projects implemented to spur socio-economic transformation anchored on the mining sectors of the two countries. Research proposals submitted under this call may include, but not limited to the following research areas:

- Value addition and beneficiation within Botswana and Zimbabwe mining sectors;
- Promoting linkages between mining and other productive sectors of Botswana and Zimbabwe economies;
- Creating downstream capabilities to foster Botswana and Zimbabwe competitiveness

4.0 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is envisaged that interventions of the collaborative research projects will provide commercially viable solutions that have socio-economic benefits leading to creation of downstream employment opportunities. The research projects should also enhance creation of a competitive environment to stimulate private sector investment in minerals development. Capacity building of researchers from Botswana and Zimbabwe, particularly strengthening women participation in the mining sector will be prioritised. Ultimately, collaborative research projects should provide policy recommendations for holistic beneficiation and value addition strategies for Botswana and Zimbabwe.

5.0 FUNDING LEVEL

The budget limit for project activities in the collaborative research proposal will be not more than **BWP 500 000** for the research team in Botswana and budget limit for project activities for the research team in Zimbabwe will be **USD30 000**. This means that a budget for one joint proposal will have two components: Budget for project activities for the research team in Botswana and a budget for project activities for the research team in Zimbabwe. Collaborative research projects will be implemented for a period not exceeding **twenty-four (24) months**. Permissible budget items include the following:

- Materials costs, if they are directly linked to the research project, in particular material of enduring value, the cost of expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses or third-party charges.
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research.
- Costs of organising conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.
- Costs of national and international cooperation and networking activities directly associated with the funded research.

Note: Salaries of applicants are not eligible costs.

6.0 WHO CAN APPLY?

The research partnership must involve researchers or research groups from Botswana and Zimbabwe with two Principal Investigators (PIs), one representing each country. Both PIs must present a joint research project and be researchers in the field of Mining/Mineral Technology or related fields. The PIs will bear the overall responsibility for the funded research projects, including technical and administrative co-ordination as well as the timely submission of scientific and financial reports to BIH and RCZ. The PIs must be affiliated to recognised public or private universities, research institutions or science councils.



Research proposals must be submitted in conjunction with the formal support letters from parent or host institutions. Proposals without institutional approval through support letters will not be considered. Candidates from each country must find their own partners in the other country.

The Grant will fund only applied research projects in the listed thematic areas. Research proposals shall need to demonstrate the application of scientific principles or basic scientific discoveries to solve real life challenges. Basic or purely theoretical research will not be considered.

Principal Investigators from Higher Education and Learning (HELs) and Mining Research Institutions in Botswana and Zimbabwe are eligible to participate in the call. Private sector and other entities can participate as collaborators. Botswana and Zimbabwean Principal Investigators at the point of application must fulfil the following requirements:

- i) Hold a primary appointment in a local publicly funded institution (Minimum of 12 months employment with a local institution in Botswana or Zimbabwe);
- ii) Have done previous research in Mineral Technologies and have some results published;
- iii) Be an independent Principal Investigator with a track record of leadership ability in co-ordinating research programmes; and
- iv) Providing mentorship to research teams, as well as having productive research outcomes.

7.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

These guidelines are provided to researchers to develop proposals for possible funding in Mineral Technologies within the above-mentioned priority areas. These guidelines must be adhered to as failure to do so will result into the proposals not being reviewed for funding. Submission of a Concept Note and / or a Full Research Proposal does not guarantee funding.

A multi-disciplinary inter-institutional group of scientists from the two countries and from the region with skills and experience in Mineral Technologies will be appointed as a Peer Reviewer Committee (PRC). These reviewers may also be called upon to contribute to the assessment of the progress and performance of funded projects.

Collaborative research projects may include the following permissible budget items;

- Material costs, if they are directly linked to the research project, in particular material of enduring value, the cost of expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses or third party charges.
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research.
- Costs of organising conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.
- Costs of national and international cooperation and networking activities directly associated with the funded research.

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The maximum duration for the implementation of the funded projects shall not exceed **24 months**. Research and outreach projects that show potential for high impact at grass root within the project time line at a reasonable cost will be given high priority. Projects that emphasise technology identification and generation, packaging and dissemination for immediate impact on investment and productivity are encouraged. The applicants are requested to use Times New Roman font, size 12, 1.5 line spacing using the Research Proposal Template (*Annexure 1*).

8.0 BIH-RCZ EXPECTATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

i) Cross-cutting considerations

The proposal should demonstrate how gender equality and inclusivity, public-private partnerships, risk management and intellectual property issues will be addressed in the project. Research projects led by women Principal Investigators are strongly encouraged. More weight will be given to a team that has female co-investigators during the review and selection process of the projects.

ii) Results and Dissemination

Applicants should clearly define the major outputs expected from the research project and describe how the research findings will be disseminated or used. Who are the target audience/ beneficiaries? How will the findings be used to influence policy and practice? What media engagements plans are envisaged? Indicate how open access will be fostered. Relate the specific dissemination method/approach to the target audience and briefly explain the rationale for the choice of the approach.

iii) Team composition from applicant organisations

All individuals who make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research, and who may have some responsibility for financial aspects of the project should be listed. Team members from applicant organisations should be included. It is important to include the field of expertise of each individual, as well as the percentage of their professional time committed to the project. Do not include CVs of the entire research team but include a one or two paged CV for the Principal Investigators. Letters of support from the institutions of the PI should be included.

iv) Budget

This should include an explanation and justification for each line item in the detailed budget spreadsheet. The maximum budget is as stated in section 5.0 above. Presentation of detailed budgets is a must. Any personnel costs should include a clarification of the roles and responsibilities of key researchers and percentage of time devoted to the project. The research grant will not cover salaries for the project team members. All rates to be used for the budgeting purpose are the ones acceptable by the respective institutions of the Principal Investigators hosting the projects. Some of the project downstream budgetary items could include the following:

- Research specific costs including cost of equipment;
- Costs associated with human resources;
- Capacity building e.g. postgraduate;
- International and local travel;



- Monitoring and evaluation; and
- Dissemination of research results.

v) **Project Governance**

Briefly explain how the project will be governed. What is the composition of the research team, their qualifications and specific roles in the proposed project? Describe how any partnership is planned with other universities/ research institutes? How will the private sector or beneficiaries be involved in the design/management/execution of the project? What is the role of the university's/institute's management (if any) and how might this governance structure influence the success of the programme?

vi) **Proposed Project Timeline**

Provide a chart of key activities, timelines and key milestones.

vii) **Monitoring and Evaluation**

BIH and RCZ, in collaboration with host institutions from Botswana and Zimbabwe, will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation. Successful applicants will be provided with monitoring and evaluation templates.

viii) **Ethical clearance**

Where the project involves human participants and animal subjects, the Principal Investigator in the respective country shall obtain ethical clearance from an appropriate BIH and RCZ designated research ethics committee before any grant disbursement and implementation of the project. BIH and RCZ will also ensure that the ethically cleared research projects have been inspected for ethical compliance in the field besides the ordinary monitoring and evaluation.

9.0 **SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING OF PROPOSALS**

Submission of an application package should be in a form of electronic copy. Application package shall include full proposal as specified above; Principal Investigator's covering letter; letter of support from an institution of the Principal Investigator. Applications received after the deadline will not be included in the evaluation.

The application procedure is two-phased, hence researchers are expected to submit full research proposals only after approval of Concept Notes. Researchers should leave more detailed project information for inclusion in the full research proposal. In the Concept Note which should be between 2-3 pages, researchers will basically present the problem or challenges the project will focus on, describe the project objectives and intended beneficiaries, briefly highlight expected outcomes, describe the type of activities that are planned within the project and state the estimated funding requested from both BIH and RCZ.

Phase 1: involves the submission of a **Concept Note** to BIH and RCZ by Botswana and Zimbabwe Principal Investigators indicating envisaged research activities to be undertaken. The Concept Note will be reviewed by BIH and RCZ to evaluate the feasibility of the project and alignment with priorities. Research Projects that are selected to proceed to Phase 2 will be jointly approved by BIH and RCZ.

Phase 2: will be a closed call for **Full Research Proposals** (*Not exceeding 15 pages, and be submitted in both PDF and MS Word files, using 1.5 spacing and font size 12 Times New Roman*) on projects for which the Concept Notes have been approved by the BIH and RCZ. Botswana and Zimbabwean research teams will be invited to submit full research proposals on the BIH and RCZ Online Submission Systems.

Concept Notes and Full Research Proposals should be submitted electronically to both <https://portal.bih.co.bw/recruit-ticket-new> and rccc@rcz.ac.zw with a copy to researchfund@bih.co.bw at BIH and a copy to technical@rcz.ac.zw at RCZ with the subject heading: **“Proposal in Mineral Technologies Research”** clearly specified.

All proposals must be submitted in the prescribed template and will be reviewed based on their quality and merit. A full proposal template is downloadable on www.bih.co.bw/adverts/rczcall4applications and on www.rcz.ac.zw/sgciphasetwo.

All proposals will be received and processed in confidence and with complete acknowledgment of Intellectual Property Rights of the proponents.

10.0 Important Timelines and Deadlines

- Application period commences on the **3rd of September 2020**.
- The deadline for submission of Concept Notes is **Thursday, 15 October 2020 at 1700 hours GMT +2**
- Evaluation of Concept Notes: **16th October 2020 to 23rd October 2020**
- Deliberation / proclamation of results: **27th October 2020**
- Deadline for submission of Full Research Proposals: **10th November 2020 at 17.00 GMT+2**.
- Evaluation of Research Proposals: **11th November 2020 to 30th November 2020**
- Deliberation / proclamation of results: **11th December 2020**
- Award notification to the winners: **31st December 2020**
- Signing of contracts: **15th January 2021**
- Funded research projects will be implemented over a period of two years until November 2022.

11.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

Any enquiries from Botswana researchers should be directed to researchfund@bih.co.bw while enquiries from Zimbabwe researchers should be sent to rccc@rcz.ac.zw and technical@rcz.ac.zw.

Note

- No applicant can be Principal Investigator (PI) on two different applications.
- The final decision to fund projects will be made jointly by BIH and RCZ.