

**The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Africa Network
(WAAVP-AN)**

<https://www.waavpafrika.org>

1st Call for WAAVP-AN Innovations & Capacity Building Grants

(Ref: WAAVP-AN/G01/2024)

Concept Note stage: Opening date: 27th Jun 2024, Closing date: 15th August 2024

Full Proposal stage: Dates will be communicated to the successful Concept Notes

Call summary:

1.	Grant type	WAAVP-AN Innovations & Capacity Building Grant I
2.	Thematic focus areas in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Integrated & sustainable parasite management. b. Veterinary parasite characterization, diseases mapping and prediction. c. Socio-economic impacts of veterinary parasites d. Capacity building in veterinary parasitology
3.	Team members	At least two (2), with preference to cross-country collaboration and gender balance
4.	Total grant	\$750,000
5.	Grant size per project	Small grants up to \$25,000 and Large grants up to \$200,000
6.	Project duration	Maximum of 3 years (36 months)
7.	No. of grants to be awarded	Up to 15
8.	Eligible applicants	Scientists in the field of veterinary parasitology in African-based institutions, who are citizens of any of the eligible countries. African citizens affiliated to institutions outside Africa and CGIAR centres shall be eligible as co-applicants.
9.	Eligible countries	All African countries
10.	Opening date	27 th June 2024
11.	Closing date	15 th August 2024

Overview of the call

1 Background

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) is an umbrella network working towards the control of parasitic diseases of animals, and the advancement of the practice of veterinary parasitology on the continent of Africa. This network aims to consolidate efforts towards reducing the economic and health impact of animal

parasites, including those that co-infect humans (zoonoses). WAAVP-AN also aims to establish a framework to train and retain the human resources that underpin long-term sustainable parasite control efforts on the African continent.

2 Purpose

The support under this funding scheme aims for an improved control of veterinary parasites. Thus, the objective of the sub-grants is to support research and/or training; bringing the financial ability to drive veterinary parasite control to the members of the network, and support to initiatives that include any activity that demonstrates impact to drive improved control of ecto/endo parasites of animals on the African continent. The grant will support a range of activities such as research, capacity building (postgraduate training - MSc, PhD, Postdoctoral, short-term trainings related to parasite diagnosis & management, parasite management tools development, among others.

2.1 Thematic areas (About the WAAVP-AN Innovations and Capacity Building Grants)

Proposals should focus on the control of parasites and parasitic diseases of animals, where new solutions would significantly reduce the burden of animal parasites in Africa. These solutions should target sustainable management and surveillance of parasites & parasitic diseases of importance in Africa, and the reduction of the use of antiparasitic drugs, while demonstrating commitment to climate change mitigation.

Four thematic areas have been identified as being research priority areas for the 1st Call for WAAVP-AN Innovations and Capacity Building Grants:

- a. Integrated & sustainable parasite management including antiparasitic resistance management,
- b. Capacity building and education in veterinary parasitology (short-course training on parasite diagnosis, symposia, creation of pedagogical material etc.),
- c. Veterinary parasite characterization, diseases mapping and prediction.
- d. Socio-economic impacts of veterinary parasites including One-Health

2.2 Grant size, funding duration and management

The total grant for this call is US\$750,000 which shall comprise of small grants of up to \$25,000 and large grants of up to \$200,000. Supported projects will be in research and capacity building towards the advancement of veterinary parasitology and control of animal parasitic diseases in Africa. Travel fellowships will be considered as a small research grant and should be associated with a specific research question within the thematic areas. The duration for all projects under this call shall not exceed three (3) years (36 months), including the time required for project set-

up, research activities and final reporting. The inclusion of project set-up (buffer time) is important because projects will not be extended beyond 36 months. The organization/institution managing the awarded funds shall be considered as the implementing partner (within the project team) and shall not sub-grant any portion of the funds to third parties. That is, it shall not be allowed to make calls for proposals for subprojects.

The proposals need to:

- a. provide details of potential benefits/outputs from the project.
- b. demonstrate consideration (if any) of the potential environmental impacts of project activities.
- c. demonstrate how gender inclusivity will be promoted and adopted with respect to the following:
 - i. project team composition and leadership,
 - ii. the design and implementation of the proposed activities.

WAAVP-AN is under no obligation to issue any funds prior to the applicant returning a fully executed Grant Agreement to WAAVP-AN. WAAVP-AN reserves the right to cancel this call at any time without prior notice and/or not to issue any grants under this call.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

2.3.1 First stage (Concept Note Stage)

Concept notes that meet the following eligibility criteria will be considered for technical evaluation during the first stage.

1. The lead applicant must be an African citizen and African-based professional working in the field of veterinary parasitology for a legally recognized African Institution (public or private),
2. The lead applicant must be a member of the WAAVP-AN Community of Practice ([refer to www.waavpafrica.org](http://www.waavpafrica.org)),
3. The project team must comprise at least 2 applicants (1 lead applicant and 1 co-applicant) from different organizations. Collaborations between different African countries will be given priority,
4. The project team should be gender inclusive. Teams led by women and early career scientists/professionals will be given priority. However, this should not compromise the expertise needed to accomplish the project objectives,
5. The concept note submitted must be in the format recommended by WAAVP-AN ([refer to the WAAVP-AN concept note template](#))
6. Applicants from the International Research Institutions including the Consultative Group

on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres are not eligible as lead applicants but are eligible as co-applicants or collaborating organizations.

2.3.2 Second stage (Full proposal)

The full proposal development stage shall be done following the WAAVP-AN proposal template ([refer to WAAVP-AN proposal template](#)). In addition, the lead applicant shall:

- a. Provide a rationale for the inclusion of the collaborator's other personnel and their roles in the project.
- b. Describe the governance and coordination arrangements they will use to produce quality work and support fair and equitable partnership arrangements.
- c. Be responsible for the grant as shall be detailed in the Grant Agreement.
- d. Assume responsibility for ensuring that the project activities are appropriately coordinated and implemented and will coordinate any necessary communication between the funding agency and the project team.

Furthermore, the collaborative entities shall be required to:

- a. Formally indicate that they are committed to the project and must have the facilities, infrastructure, and project management systems (evidence required) to support the implementation of the project.
- b. Sign a research consortium agreement specifying each collaborating institution's/individual's responsibility, including issues of confidentiality, modalities for sharing intellectual property rights and publications.
- c. Ensure that the application is endorsed by the Chief Executive Officers/Heads of the affiliate institutions or the Directors of Research.
- d. Ensure that proposals on research areas requiring ethical clearance and research licenses/approvals are provided prior to the release of funds.

Other complementary criteria for full proposals shall consider the following:

- a. Quality for impact:

Scientific rigour and extent to which the project design demonstrates accepted standards of technical merit for its domain and discipline. This involves an assessment of the structural quality of the project, including the following: the study is framed by examination of current knowledge on the issue, clear presentation of research questions and data-collection strategies (that would enable reproduction), adherence to methodological standards for the type of research, identification of relevant analytical frameworks, and well-considered reporting and sharing. Project legitimacy, originality, and relevance, as well as the knowledge sharing plan.

- b. The proposed project adopts a systems approach to strengthen, rather than create silos of information or action.
- c. Existing capacity of participating institution(s) to carry out the project, including financial and administrative capacity.
- d. Feasibility of achieving project goals and objectives, as well as appropriateness of proposed human and financial resources.
- e. Support from other agencies or institutions (formal letters of support are required as proof).
- f. Where relevant, strength of the project monitoring, evaluation and learning plan.
- g. Attention to ethical considerations and potential risks.
- h. Potential for, or commitment of, local contribution and in-kind resources.

2.4 Gender-equity and inclusion considerations

The WAAVP-AN strives for gender equality in all aspects of its work. Therefore, concept notes and full proposals should demonstrate how gender equality and inclusion will be promoted and adopted using an intersectional approach, both with respect to the following:

- a. team composition and organizations comprising the project team,
- b. the design and implementation of the proposed project.

More specifically, consideration of gender in the formation of the consortium and gender-specific commitments should be made.

2.5 Budget and eligible expenditures

The approval of funding for the successful project proposals is subject to the terms and conditions of the WAAVP-AN grants management guidelines ([refer to the guidelines](#)). Funding of a project will depend on the nature and duration of the proposed activities and must be justified in terms of resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project.

The lead applicant and collaborators should note the following while developing their proposals:

- a) Budget request: the maximum award request this grant is provided in section 2.2 above. All budget line items must directly support research and dissemination activities in the proposal and must be justified in relation to the scope of work.
- b) Duration of the grants: grants are awarded for a maximum of three-year (36 months) period. The WAAVP-AN expects that the funds provided will be utilized during the three-year (36 months) period for research and dissemination of data by the consortium, and there shall be no extension beyond the three (3) years (36 months).
- c) The management of the grants shall not be transferred to another researcher or institution. In cases where a lead applicant transfers to another institution during the project period, a determination shall be made by the Grant Governance Committee.

- d) The funds shall not be used for infrastructural development, vehicle purchases, and costs associated with accompanying dependents.
- e) The allowable costs for this grant are as follows:
 - i. Supplies, services, and equipment required specifically for the project and not otherwise available through the host or affiliate Institutions. The cost of equipment shall not exceed 5% of the total grant.
 - ii. Travel expenses, accommodation and subsistence expenses are allowed only for data collection directly related to the proposed research not exceeding 15% of the total grant.
 - iii. Costs related to organizing seminars and workshops for data collection/dissemination within the project.
 - iv. Research management costs must not exceed 5% of the total grant.
 - v. A budget itemization and justification are required in the proposal using the prescribed WAAVP-AN budget template ([refer to the WAAVP-AN budget template](#)).
 - vi. Any other cost not stated above shall be on request and approval by WAAVP-AN.

2.6 Submission Process

Submission of complete applications (concept notes and full proposals) shall be done through the application portal on the WAAVP-AN website (www.waavpafrika.org). The applications must be labelled: **1st Call for Proposals for WAAVP-AN Innovations & Capacity Building (Ref No: WAAVP-AN/G01/2024)**. The documents should be saved in *doc*, *docx*, or *pdf* formats. The maximum file size accepted for any single file is 10MB. Once submitted, no changes can be made to the application.

2.6.1 Conditions for submission of concept notes

Applicants must submit the following:

1. The concept note written in Times New Roman font, size 12, line spacing of 1.5, margins normal (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), and portrait orientation and must be done using the WAAVP-AN concept note template. The template can be obtained from ([refer to the WAAVP-AN concept note template](#)). All headings should appear in their stated order as outlined in the template. Information must be provided for all the headings and no additional heading shall be added by the applicant.
2. Resumes of all the project team members (this is part of the template).

2.6.2 Conditions for submission of full proposals

Applicants must submit the following:

1. A proposal of maximum five (5) pages excluding references. The proposal should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, line spacing of 1.5, margins normal (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), and portrait orientation and must be done using the WAAVP-AN full proposal template. The template can be obtained from ([refer to the WAAVP-AN proposal template](#)). All headings should appear in their stated order as outlined in the template. Information must be provided for all the headings and no additional heading shall be added by the applicant.
2. A results matrix done using the provided template ([refer to the WAAVP-AN results matrix template](#)).
3. A project budget done using the provided template ([refer to the WAAVP-AN budget template](#)).
4. Research work plan for the project.
5. Resumes of all the project team members (in case of an additional project team member after the concept stage).
6. Letters of support from the CEOs or directors of research of affiliate institutions for both lead and co-applicants.

By submitting a full proposal, the applicant agrees to the following:

- a. to abide by all rules for participating in this call as outlined in the guidelines and related documents.
- b. that the WAAVP-AN decision on the proposal is final.
- c. that if successful, the names, and organization of affiliation of members of the project team, and title, objectives and total budget of the project will be shared on the WAAVP-AN website (*It's the responsibility of the applicant to notify WAAVP-AN if there are any proprietary and confidential information, which should not be publicly shared*).
- d. that the names of independent expert evaluators shall be kept confidential and will not be released to applicants under any circumstances. However, feedback based on the review comments may be provided to the applicant.
- e. that the submission timelines and schedules of funds disbursement to selected proposals may be adjusted without prior notice in the event of uncertainties in funding.

2.7 Evaluation

The evaluation process shall include an initial screening for the concept notes and proposals that are complete and meet the eligibility requirements. Incomplete concept notes and proposals, and those that fail the eligibility check will be automatically disqualified. Concept notes and Proposals that pass the eligibility screening will be evaluated by a team of independent experts. The final decision will be based on the experts' comments and assessment of the quality,

innovativeness, feasibility, and potential impact of the proposals. The governance committee's final decision shall not be subject to further claims or revisions and reserves the right to revoke its decision on a selected proposal(s) if it is established that the information provided by the applicant(s) is false.

2.8 Selection Process and Important dates

The following steps with important dates shall be considered in the selection process.

- a. Call opening date for Concept notes: 27th June 2024
- b. Call closing date for Concept notes: 15th August 2024
- c. Selection of best concept notes for request for full proposal:
 - Screening for eligibility by the secretariat,
 - Internal review of Concept notes by Scientific Committee
 - Technical evaluation by the Scientific Advisory Panel,
 - Ranking with attention to technical soundness, gender balance, geography, early career representation and type of grant.
- d. Request for full proposal for the selected Concept Notes: date to be communicated to successful applicants
- e. Call closing date for full proposal: date to be communicated to successful applicants
- f. Selection of best full proposals:
 - Screening for completeness, eligibility, and compliance with the guidelines by the secretariat,
 - Internal review of proposals by Scientific Committee providing a careful evaluation of the full proposals in relation to the call,
 - External review by the Scientific Advisory Panel comprising of subject matter specialists,
 - Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel to select the best 10-15 proposals,
 - Internal discussion based on the priorities of the call for the selected proposals, and recommendation to the Grand Governance Committee (Donor + WAAVP-AN Co-chairs + ACBF Leadership + WAAVP + relevant governance)
 - Meeting of the Governance Committee to identify the grants selected.
- g. Communication to successful applicants: 10th November 2024
- h. Signing of grant agreement: 30th November 2024
- i. Disbursement of funds: Before 15th December 2024

2.9 Ethical issues

In the process of preparing the project grant application, the project team is obliged to observe ethical principles and rules and describe how ethical issues in the proposed project will be

addressed. The applicant should indicate plans to obtain ethical approval from relevant bodies if the proposed project involves human or animal subjects. The period for providing the approval shall be as specified in Section 2.3.2 above.

2.10 Further information

Please visit <https://www.waavpafrika.org> for more information about WAAVP-AN and this call or contact us on email: info@waavpafrika.org for any inquiries about the call. Information webinars on this call will be conducted fortnightly. Interested applicants should visit the WAAVP-AN website for the schedule of the webinars.