



CALL FOR MINIGRANTS

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Climate Resilience Solutions in Africa Project

Issued by: Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)
Application Deadline : July 15, 2026



IDRC · CRDI

Canada



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

a) About Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)

ARIN is an international think tank comprising over 400 researchers and policymakers, including a significant share (30%) who hold National Focal Point positions across 41 African countries. The network brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange knowledge and expertise, drawing on evidence from diverse African contexts to inform policy development, capacity strengthening, and on-the-ground results. With deep experience generating and consolidating evidence on effective interventions across Africa's most pressing strategic sectors, ARIN has established a distinctive platform for the science-policy interface — one that advances the sharing, profiling, and application of rigorous research and sound practice from across the continent. Through this peer-to-peer exchange, ARIN supports stakeholders in driving transformative policy action at national and regional levels.

b) About the Project

The Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Climate Resilience Solutions in Africa project is led by the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) in partnership with the University of Nairobi and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project builds critical capacities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for climate resilience, exploring and scaling AI's potential to address climate risks, support planning, and strengthen adaptive capacity across the continent. Grounded in Africa's distinct climate vulnerabilities and the expanding role of data-informed decision-making, the project applies machine learning, geospatial analysis, and digital innovation to advance climate action at local and national levels.

The AI for Climate Resilience Fellowship is a flagship capacity-building and mentorship initiative that develops a new generation of African climate leaders working at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), policy, and sustainability. The fellowship equips early-career professionals, researchers, innovators, and policy practitioners with the skills, resources, and networks needed to develop and deploy impactful, inclusive, and responsible AI solutions for climate resilience across Africa.

c) Call for Minigrants.

Through the ARIN AI for Climate Resilience Fellowship, the project will award 10 competitive minigrants, each valued at USD 2,500, to ARIN Fellows across Africa.

The grants support the development and application of AI-driven solutions to concrete climate resilience challenges across African contexts.

d) Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a minigrant, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a current and active ARIN Fellow under the AI for Climate Resilience Fellowship Program.
2. Have completed all Basic Level Modules under the Project's Fellowship Program.
3. Have a background in research and/or policy work, with a focus on climate change, artificial intelligence (AI), and/or machine learning (ML).
4. Submit a project proposal or concept note outlining how AI will be applied to address a specific climate resilience challenge in Africa.
5. Demonstrate the experience and/or skills necessary to carry a project through to successful completion.
6. Demonstrate a clear need for funding to support the practical implementation of the capstone project.
7. Institutional affiliation: Applicants must be affiliated with a recognised research institution (e.g., university, think tank) or a relevant policy organisation (e.g., government ministry or department).
8. Not currently holding an active ARIN minigrant award.

Thematic Focus Areas

Proposed projects must address one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for climate action
2. Data-driven intelligent decision support systems for climate action
3. Automation of climate data handling and processing
4. Pattern extraction from big climate data
5. Generative AI for analysing and communicating local adaptation metrics
6. Indigenous knowledge integration in climate models

e) How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following as a single combined PDF:

1. A concept note or project proposal presenting an original project idea (maximum 3 pages)
2. A three-page CV with a list of referees.
3. A letter of support from the applicant's host institution
4. A one-page motivation letter

Applications are to be submitted via e-mail to

f.oloo@arin-africa.org, copying e.akinyi@arin-africa.org and n.mutwii@arin-africa.org by July 15, 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.