

RCA Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)

Proposal for the Revision of the Procedure for Development of the RCA Programme Implemented under the TC Programme of the IAEA

Background:

The current procedure for development of the RCA Programme was reviewed by the PAC during the process of reviewing the RCA Project Concept Papers for the 2022/2023 programme and the PAC wishes to propose the following revisions to the procedure to be used from 2024/2025 onwards. The objective is to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of the procedure.

Current Procedure:

The current procedure for RCA Programme comprises the following main steps.

1. Invitation of Pre-Concepts, evaluation by PAC and selection for further development by GCM held in year N-3*
2. Review of the first round of Concept Papers by PAC and suggestions for revision
3. Review of the second round Concept Paper by PAC and recommendations for selection for the design stage by NRM held in year N-2*
4. Submission of the draft designs by the LCCs on the IAEA PCMF platform
5. Design of the projects according to the format of the IAEA at a Project Design Meeting with the participation of the LCCs, PAC , members and TOs of the IAEA in year N-2.
6. Submission of the final designs to the IAEA.

*N is the first year of the new implementation cycle

The process results in drafting (by GPs) and evaluation (by PAC) of a very large number of Pre-Concepts (approximately 50) and about 15 very detailed Concept Papers which is about the 50% of the number of projects the moved to the design stage.

PAC also noted that the procedure does not allow for formal consultation among GPs during the development of the projects and often achievements of the past projects and the needs of the participating GPs are not taken into account during the Concept and Design stages. It was also noted that the need for long term planning to ensure sustainable technology transfer is not adequately addressed. It was further noticed that there is no mechanism to address the special needs of the new GPs. The following revised and simplified procedure is proposed by the PAC for the consideration of the NRM

Proposed Procedure

1. Development of a Regional Programme Framework (RFP) for the RCA for 2024-2029. (see below for the details). A similar framework had been developed for the RCA for 2012-2017.

(Even though the current MTS identifies priority areas, they are rather broad and there is a need to improve the focus.)

2. Presentation of approximately 15 priority areas by PAC , based on the RFP, to the GCM in year N-3 for its consideration and appointment of Lead Countries for the priority areas selected by the GCM.
3. Appointment of contact persons by participating GPs with whom the LCCs can consult during the Concept and Design states.
4. Submission of Project Concepts by the LCs prepared according to a simplified format based on the assessment criteria and review by PAC. The proposed format is given in Annex 1.
5. Selection of the Project Concepts for further development by NRM in year N-2 taking the recommendations of PAC into consideration.

The new procedure will allow consultation among GPs during the Concept and Design stages, will make it possible to take into consideration of the needs of the GPs and past achievements and will allow long term planning.

Regional Programme Framework (RFP)

This can be considered as the RCA equivalence of the Country Programme Framework extensively used by the IAEA in developing its TC programme. The objective is to identify the current needs and gaps to be addressed in each project area within the Thematic Sectors, so that this information can be used in identifying the RCA priority areas for future TC cycles. The current MTS has also identified broad priority areas, but the RFP is expected to be much more detailed and more focused as indicated in Annex 3. The future MTSs can be expected to focus mainly on RCA Strategies and Policies.

The proposed procedure for development of the RFP is as follows.

1. Conducting a survey to identify the needs, priorities and resources of the GPs (A sample of the Survey Form is given in Annex 2)
2. Compilation of the information obtained through the Survey by an external consultant
3. Formation of expert groups in each Thematic Sector chaired by an NR with 2-3 experts in each area.
4. Development of the RFP according to a specified format (Sample given in Annex 3)

The survey to be conducted will provide information on the past achievements of the RCA which could be used in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA.

Proposed Action:

The approval of the NRM is sought for the revision of the procedure for programme development and for adoption of a Regional Programme Framework for the RCA. A detailed procedure for programme development and for development and adoption of an RFP will be presented to the GCM of 2020, if the proposal is approved in principle.

Format for Concept Papers and Criteria for Assessment

Format of Concept Papers

- Title
- Overall objective (one sentence)
- A short description (max. 300 words)
 - Should describe links to previous projects, show there is no duplication with past and current projects in the same area, and justify the need for further projects in the project area.
- Project Outcome (one statement)
- Expected socio-economic impact
- Specific RFP priority
- Justification as a regional project (common problem, transboundary issues, adoption of common standards)
- Nuclear technology to be used
- Requirements for participation

Criteria for evaluation of the Concepts

- Degree of alignment with RFP priorities
- The specific gap / need to be addressed, in relation to past and current projects in the same project area
- Expected socio economic impact
- Justification as a regional project
- Role of nuclear technology
- Suitability of requirements for participation

Sample Regional Profile Survey Form

(The Survey Form for used in development of the RPF for 2012-2017)

Section 1 addresses issues of the effectiveness of the RCA project in addressing national priorities and proposals for future RCA projects. Section 2 considers the benefits of participation in RCA projects and the sustainability of the technology.

Section 1: General information

Government Party:

Name of National Representative:

Number of RCA projects participated in since 2007: (to be revised to suit the new period of the RFP)

The attached table lists the major thematic areas and associated project areas in the RCA.

1. Which of these address national priorities in your country?
2. In the table, please rate the importance of each project area to your country on a scale of 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).
3. Are there new project areas or technologies that address national priorities in your country that you believe should be included in the RCA programme?
4. Please add any information or suggestions that you feel should be considered in developing future projects in the RCA.

Section 2a: Benefits to Member States

For each of the project areas that your country has participated in, please consult with the National Project Coordinator to complete the following.

Relevant Project Area:

1. Are there any national programme in this project area: Yes / No
2. If not, will a national programme be established and when?
3. Availability of trained human resources: Available / Needs further development / Not available
4. Availability of physical infrastructure supporting the technology used in the project: Available / Under development / Not available
5. Availability of Protocols / Guidelines / Standards: Yes / No / Not relevant
6. Existence of national society / professional body (or equivalent) relevant to this project area: Yes / No
7. Have end users been identified: Yes / No, Involved Yes / No
8. Has participation in this project area been of benefit to your country?
9. If yes, please list the outcomes of relevant to your country.

Section 2b: Sustainability

1. What additional needs exist for your country to gain further benefits in this project area?
 - a. Human resources development Yes / No
If yes, please describe
 - b. Infrastructure Yes / No
If yes, please describe
 - c. Protocols and standards Yes / No
If yes, please describe
 - d. Technical assistance Yes / No
If yes, please describe
 - e. Other needs Yes / No
If yes, please describe
2. What constraints does your country face in achieving sustainability? Please give details.
3. What actions are currently being taken in your country to address these constraints?

Other comments (optional):

Major Thematic Areas and Associated Project Areas in the RCA

Thematic Area – Agriculture

Project Area	Area of National Priority? (Y / N)	Importance of the Project Area (Scale of 1-6)*
Land use – Soil Erosion		
Land use – Fertilizer uptake		
Animal Health and Nutrition		
Animal Reproduction		
Mutation Plant Breeding		
Food Irradiation		

* 1 = most important

6 = least important

Thematic Area – Environment

Project Area	Area of National Priority? (Y / N)	Importance of the Project Area (Scale of 1-6)*
Marine and coastal environment		
Development of water resources		
Air-Pollution		

Thematic Area – Human Health

Project Area	Area of National Priority? (Y / N)	Importance of the Project Area (Scale of 1-6)*
Nuclear Medicine		
Radiation Oncology		
Medical Physics		
Radioimmunoassay		
Radiation Sterilization of Tissue Grafts		

Thematic Area – Industry

Project Area	Area of National Priority? (Y / N)	Importance of the Project Area (Scale of 1-6)*
Industrial applications of nuclear tracers and sealed sources		
Radiation Processing		
Nuclear Gauges and Nucleonic Control Systems		
Non-destructive Testing		

Other areas

Project Area	Area of National Priority? (Y / N)	Importance of the Project Area (Scale of 1-6)*
Energy Planning		
Research Reactor Utilization		

Format of the Regional Programme Framework

1. Introduction
 - a. History of the RCA
 - b. Rationale for the programme framework
 - c. Development of the framework, work methodology
2. For past and current RCA projects (based on the survey)
 - a. Summary of achievements in each project area
 - b. Gaps identified
3. Future priorities
 - a. *Project area 1 (e.g. Radiotherapy)*
 - i. Rationale, discussion of the need and beneficiaries
 - ii. Technological priorities (e.g. IMRT, 3-D conformal radiotherapy etc.)
 - iii. Specific requirements (e.g. Human resources, protocols, standards, laboratory analysis)
 - b. *Project area 2*
 - i. Rationale, discussion of the need and beneficiaries
 - ii. Technological priorities
 - iii. Specific requirements
 - ..
4. Conclusions