



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

# **SCAC Small Research Top-up Grant 2021**

Project: Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in the South  
Caucasus (SCAC)

## Company Overview

The Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (Sustainable Caucasus) was founded in 2014 to enhance sustainable development in the Caucasus region by supporting regional cooperation, bringing together key stakeholders, and implementing innovative solutions on the ground.

The mission of Sustainable Caucasus is to facilitate cooperation and coordination pursuant to the sustainable development of the Caucasus mountain region.

Its objectives are:

- to foster sustainable development in the Caucasus mountain region; and
- to elaborate regional approaches to transboundary problems at national and local levels.

To achieve these objectives, Sustainable Caucasus will cooperate with local and central authorities, scientific institutions, businesses, international organisations, local communities/populations, and other parties concerned with sustainable development in the Caucasus mountain region.

Striving toward the accomplishment of its objectives, Sustainable Caucasus, inter alia: facilitates capacity building; transfers and disseminates knowledge; develops, analyses, and monitors relevant policies; supports training and education, research, and development; raises awareness; enhances cooperation and experience-sharing; promotes and introduces recognised best practices; and, as appropriate, implements other actions targeted at sustainable development in the Caucasus mountain region.

## Description

SCAC Small Research Top-up Grant 2021 seeks to provide the young researchers from Georgia and Azerbaijan with co-financing opportunities in funding ongoing collaborative (transboundary) research done within the Caucasus region regarding one of the priority topics identified in the [Caucasus Regional Research Agenda \(C-RRA\)](#): Climate Change, Biodiversity, Forest Resources, Water Resources, Land Use, Natural Hazards, Population and Cultural Diversity, Tourism and Recreation, Socio-economic Development and Planning, and Mountain Cryosphere.

The aim of the program is to support Georgian and Azerbaijani young researchers through encouraging the publication of applied, sound research outcomes in peer-reviewed international journals and support the evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development of the Caucasus region.

We offer the young researchers and scientists (including PhD students) the possibility to:

- Support in finding and communicating with co-researchers from the region in order to conduct transboundary joint studies;

- Provide small traveling grants to finance the research project kick-off and/or any other partner meetings;
- Support to plan and execute the upper mentioned meetings (e.g. venue, transportation, accommodation, etc.);
- Provide funds for the reimbursement of translation, interpretation and editing costs;
- Provide financial support to publish the collaborative applied research papers in peer-reviewed journals (publishing fees);
- Provide the young researchers and scientists the possibility to present the results obtained within our biennial Caucasus Mountain Forum conferences while using the reduced registration fee scheme;
- Disseminate the results obtained via our [SNC-mt online platform](#), as well as our social media channels and other relevant communication channels.

Moreover, the top 2-3 research project representatives will be automatically invited to the Caucasus Mountain Forum and fully exempted from registration fees.

## Purpose of Top-up Grant

Small research top-up grants are available and intended to support and co-finance small scale activities related to (transboundary) applied research done throughout the Caucasus region in the following topics, outlined by the [Caucasus Regional Research Agenda \(C-RRA\)](#) as being of crucial for the sustainable development of the region:

1. Climate Change,
2. Biodiversity,
3. Forest Resources,
4. Water Resources,
5. Land Use,
6. Natural Hazards,
7. Population and Cultural Diversity,
8. Tourism and Recreation,
9. Socio-economic Development and Planning, and
10. Mountain Cryosphere.

## Eligibility

An applicant for the top-up grant must be a young researcher from (citizen of) Georgia and Azerbaijan currently working on the applied research project. The research must correspond to (at least) one of the topics outlined in the Caucasus Regional Research Agenda (C-RRA) and preferably be of collaborative and transboundary character – the minimum two Caucasus ecoregion countries involved.

Applicant must be PhD student/holder (or equivalent) or a young researcher (in exceptional cases – holder of the master degree or equivalent) working at the higher education/research institutions (universities, research institutes).

The applicant must be one of the major members of the research group and the main authors identified in the article.

*The Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees or research applicants on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or a marital status.*

## Value

The applicants can be awarded from 500 CHF up to 1000 CHF for small-scale activities directly connected to the research development.

## Eligible Costs

Allocated top-up funds may be sought to cover one or more of the following direct expenses incurred in planning, conducting, developing, and finalizing the research, including:

- Travel costs to finance the research project kick-off and/or any other partner meetings
- Meeting costs for small workshops (including per diem and accommodation)
- Short-term fieldwork costs (travel, accommodation, etc.)
- Translation/interpretation and editing costs
- Publication costs in peer-reviewed journals

In exceptional cases, other top-up costs like the purchase of small equipment directly related to the research activities can be funded as well.

## Deadline and Important Dates

Opening date	20 April 2021
Closing date	20 June 2021 (18:00 UTC/GMT + 4)
Result notified by	By 20 July 2021

**Q & A Session** – 20 May 2021, 12:00 (UTC/GMT + 4); Zoom platform:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84915778394?pwd=VHJKZ0JNb2gvODNEcmNnaXArbzYzdz09>

(Meeting ID: 849 1577 8394, Passcode: 626154)

## How to apply

Please submit the completed Application Form (Annex 1), CV of the applicant and the recommendation letter(s) to the following address: [grants@sd-caucasus.com](mailto:grants@sd-caucasus.com). Please indicate “SCAC Small Research Top-up Grant 2021” in the email subject line.

All the submitted documents must be in the English language and sent no later than **20 June 2021** (18:00 UTC/GMT + 4).

## Required documentation

Following documents must be provided by the applicant:

1. Completed Application Form (Annex 1) in Word and PDF formats;
2. CV of the applicant (preferably in EUROPASS format);
3. The recommendation letter(s) from the supervisor of the PhD research project, the head of the research unit or similar.

## Reporting

Top-up grant recipients will be required to submit the financial report and manuscript of the research paper indicating the grant support.

## Evaluation Process

The applications undergo the peer review process done by the commission composed of external panel reviewers and internal staff. The process will last approximately 1 month. The main criteria for the assessment will be the connection to the C-RRA topics, research timeline, research team, and budget adequacy.

## Contact

Please address your questions to Sustainable Caucasus Programme Associate — Mary Kate Ugrekhelidze ([mkugrekhelidze@sd-caucasus.com](mailto:mkugrekhelidze@sd-caucasus.com); [marykate.ugrekhelidze@gmail.com](mailto:marykate.ugrekhelidze@gmail.com)).