



Text module for the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

International Climate Initiative (IKI) is one of the most important instruments of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the international financing of climate change mitigation and biodiversity. IKI operates within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), financing climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in developing, emerging and transition countries. Since 2008 to 2019, IKI approved more than 730 climate and biodiversity projects with a total funding volume of EUR 3.9 billion in more than 60 countries.

The partner countries are supported with IKI funding to help them implement and ambitiously develop their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) anchored in the Paris Agreement. The NDCs include measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change and increase resilience to its unavoidable impacts. In the field of biodiversity, IKI supports partner countries in achieving the goals of the CBD to counteract the dramatic global loss of natural resources. The activities of IKI also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Four funding areas and two funding pillars

Projects that are implemented in one of the following four funding areas are eligible for support: Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, conservation of natural carbon sinks with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and conservation of biodiversity. IKI projects use policy advisory services, capacity building, technology cooperation and financing mechanisms to achieve their objectives. Studies, concepts and specific measures for climate change mitigation and protection of biological diversity can also be funded. Depending on the project, funding can be bilateral, regional or global.

IKI supports through two funding pillars: the thematic and the country-specific selection procedures. Both procedures use idea competitions to select innovative projects. This approach ensures that the best ideas and concepts will be implemented and that the diversity of the implementing partners grows. Both of these funding pillars have been geared towards large-volume projects since 2017.

Two small-scale project programmes have been associated with the thematic pillar since 2019 and 2020, namely IKI Small Grants and IKI Medium Grants, respectively. All funding procedures are two-stage, with the exception of the Small Grants. The competitive character of the funding procedures and the inclusion of non-governmental implementing organisations are important features of IKI that distinguish its work from classical development cooperation procedures – this means that IKI funds do not go to government institutions in partner countries. The IKI Secretariat, located at the German state-owned company Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH (Future – Environment – Society), supports technical monitoring and programme management.