



IKI Elements

Supporting sustainable change

Thematic selection procedures are an important part
of the work of the International Climate Initiative

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is the most important instrument utilised by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) to finance climate action and biodiversity conservation at an international level. Since its formation in 2008, the IKI's funding budget has seen strong growth, with a total of EUR 596 million available in 2021. This growth in funds permits larger funding volumes, especially in relation to thematic selection procedures (thematic calls): forming a central pillar of the IKI's work, these calls fund larger-scale projects run by consortia. As a rule, the IKI organises a thematic call once a year: the call addresses current challenges in relation to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

Four funding areas

The IKI uses thematic calls to identify projects capable of optimally supporting and accelerating transformational change. One key point of focus is innovative solution approaches in developing and emerging countries that generate sustainable change beyond individual projects: these should be transferable and involve as many countries as possible. The aim is to trigger ambitious and lasting structural change that follows new development pathways to establish sustainable national economies and systems for civil societies.

These thematic calls are allocated an annual budget of EUR 240 million, which is used to support projects in the IKI's four funding areas:

- Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions
- Adaptation to climate change
- Preserving and restoring natural carbon sinks
- Conservation of biological diversity

New topics every year

Each thematic selection procedure has its own funding priorities for which project outlines can be submitted. These topics are as varied as the challenges facing climate action and biodiversity conservation: they may address strategic issues or provide an agile response to current developments. Depending on the funding priority, the funding awarded to each project may range from EUR 5 million to EUR 30 million, with project durations of up to eight years. The catalogue of measures includes policy advice, capacity building, technology cooperation initiatives and innovative funding mechanisms.

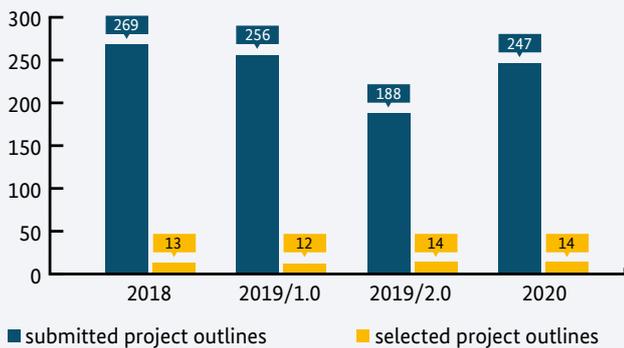
NDC Transport Initiative for Asia

BMU grant: € 19.750.000,00, duration 11/2019 to 02/2024

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Who can apply?

IKI thematic calls target both domestic and international organisations and institutions, who can apply as the lead implementing organisation or as a consortium partner. Such applicants may include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), commercial enterprises, federal implementing organisations, higher education and research institutions, and international or multilateral organisations such as development banks or establishments within the United Nations. To obtain IKI funding, proposed projects must be based in countries on the ODA list prepared by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Governments in cooperating countries and individuals are not eligible to apply for IKI funding.



Ratio of submitted to selected project outlines. In 2021, the date for the thematic call has been moved from autumn to spring 2020

Work in consortia

Projects funded by thematic calls are typically managed by a consortium, which is an association consisting of at least two implementing organisations. The IKI is especially interested in involving local organisations from implementing countries in these consortia. Thematic calls are specifically aimed at organisations with long experience in international project work, and which have the administrative structures in place that allow them to take overall responsibility for handling the respective funding volume. However, the IKI expressly encourages organisations with no previous IKI experience to participate as project partners: this kind of learning-by-doing allows them to mature into the role of a future consortium leader.

Selection process

An IKI thematic call usually receives up to 250 project outlines, submitted from all over the world. A two-stage selection process is used. In the first stage, the BMU prepares a shortlist from all of the project outlines submitted. This

review process ensures that the project outlines can meet the formal and technical selection criteria as set out in the funding information. Apart from the BMU, co-reviewers at this stage include Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH as programme implementing agency as well as external experts. During the second stage, the shortlisted consortia then develop a detailed project proposal, working closely with their contacts in the IKI, with ZUG and BMU partners, and with political partners in the various cooperating countries.

Mainstreaming biodiversity into food value chains

BMU grant: € 5.000.000,00, duration: 11/2018 to 10/2022

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Support, dialogue and transparency

During the work of transforming project outlines into proposals, and during later implementation, the participating organisations and institutions receive constant support from the IKI Secretariat. This support is provided in the form of workshops, online seminars and phone-based assistance. Each project selected is also assigned a personal contact within the IKI Secretariat. The IKI is careful to ensure that funded projects uphold human rights, and comply with stringent environmental and social standards. Since 2017, a binding safeguards approach has therefore been applied.

Any problems or conflict situations that arise are handled by the IKI complaints mechanism in the near future.

The IKI Secretariat also assists in securing project compliance with policy and international agreements, promotes knowledge sharing and networking, and also handles the IKI's public relations work.

Contacting the IKI Secretariat

The IKI strives to achieve long-term success for its projects. Accordingly, the IKI Secretariat advises and assists implementing organisations from the initial idea to implementation:

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IMPRINT | PUBLISHED BY

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