The International Climate Initiative (IKI)

IKI Medium Grants Call 2026 for Project Outlines



Online Seminar

19.11.2026

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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Agenda

Welcoming remarks from BMUKN

I. Overview: IMG

II. Thematic priorities 2026

III. Partner structure & formal requirements

IV. Development & submission of a project idea

V. Selection of the project ideas

VI. Q&A session

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Welcoming remarks from BMUKN

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I. Overview: IMG

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IKI Medium Grants in a nutshell I

To promote climate and biodiversity projects in developing and emerging countries

Large-scale projects

- **Large funding volume**
- **Long project term**
- Implementation by **consortia**

IKI Large Grants

Small-scale projects

- **Small funding volume**
- **Short project term**
- Implementation by small consortia or individual implementing organisations

IKI Small Grants

IKI Medium Grants

IKI Compete

IKI Medium Grants in a nutshell II

- est. in 2020, second phase from 2025-2030
- funding volume call 2026: 8 million €
- funding per project: 300 – 800 thousand €
- project duration: 2 – 3 years
- 2 thematic priorities, 2 methods to choose



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II. Thematic priorities 2026

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Thematic priority I:
Green skills for local climate action

We are looking for projects that connect:

1. **Climate action that demonstrably reduces greenhouse gas emissions:** e.g. community-based renewable energy, sustainable agriculture or low-carbon construction.
2. **Green skills leading to income opportunities:** vocational training leading to employment, self-employment or other income-generating activities.
3. **Local value creation with social equity:** viable business models, fair economic participation and local ownership.
4. **Sustainability with long-term impact:** structures and models that are financially viable, scalable and replicable.
5. **Advancing Economic Inclusion**: participation and leadership roles for women, LGBTIQ individuals, and marginalised groups.



Source: IMG-Project in El-Salvador

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Thematic priority I:
Green skills for local climate action

What is not enough on its own?

Technology-only projects: e.g. installing solar systems without linking them to skills development, income generation and local value creation.

Training without career pathways: green skills programmes without clear routes into employment, self-employment or income-generating activities.

Social or employment projects without climate impact: promoting jobs or inclusion without a demonstrable contribution to GHG emission reductions.

Short-term interventions without sustainability: activities lacking viable business, financing or governance models beyond the project period.

Pilot projects without a transfer perspective: local solutions with no clear approach to long-term operation, replication or knowledge sharing.



Image: AI-generated

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Thematic priority I:
Green skills for local climate action

Project idea	Initial assessment	What would strengthen the fit?
Solar installations for a community	Not sufficient on their own	Local workforce development, employment or enterprise opportunities, and a sustainable operating model
Training in sustainable agriculture	Not sufficient on its own	Demonstrable emission reductions and clear pathways to income-generating activities
Women-led climate businesses	Potentially strong fit	Measurable climate impact, economic viability, and equitable participation
Development of a municipal climate action plan	Not sufficient on its own	Concrete implementation measures that reduce emissions and link green skills to employment, entrepreneurship and local value creation
Pilot project for low-carbon construction	Potentially strong fit	Emission reductions, vocational training, viable local business models, and potential for replication

Thematic priority II:
Future proof coasts: digital and practical solutions for marine ecosystems

We are looking for projects that connect:

1. **Local ownership and shared visions:** communities help shape the future of their coastal resources
2. **Practical conservation:** address pressures and implement effective marine/coastal protection or restoration
3. **Accessible digital monitoring:** local actors systematically document biodiversity change and combine data with local knowledge
4. **Evidence into decisions:** findings inform participatory management and governance
5. **Long-term stewardship:** inclusive structures, capacities and responsibilities endure beyond funding



Source: Unique land use GmbH, EbA Dunes and Mangroves

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Thematic priority II:
Future proof coasts: digital and practical solutions for marine ecosystems

What makes an integrated approach?

1. Communities help shape management decisions, rather than simply participate
2. Young people can contribute digital skills, ideas and future perspectives
3. Intergenerational exchange connects local ecological experience with new approaches
4. Use or adapt existing, preferably open tools: accessible, proportionate and maintainable
5. **Close the loop: monitor → interpret together → decide → act → assess and adapt**



Image: AI-generated

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Thematic priority II:
Future proof coasts: digital and practical solutions for marine ecosystems
Aspects to consider

Starting point:

"Restore mangroves and map the sites" — useful, but not a complete approach

1. Diagnose pressures and agree on a shared community vision, including young people and underrepresented groups
2. Build locally-led stewardship and accessible monitoring with clear roles and data quality
3. Use the evidence in real management decisions and implement measures addressing degradation
4. Show conservation outcomes, lasting responsibilities and transferable learning



Source: Wildlife Conservation Society, Papua-New Guinea

III. Partner structure & formal requirements

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Spotlight on partner structure

	Lead organisation	Partner organisation(s)
Location	✓ Based in EU at outline submission ✓ Office in Germany (by first disbursement)	✓ Located in implementation country / second partner in country or region (ODA)
Non-profit status	✓ Charitable purpose	✓ Charitable purpose ✓ Substantive self-interest (no exchange of services)
Independence	✓ Legally independent entity	✓ Legally independent entity
Implementation capacity	✓ Turnover criterion ✓ Sufficient admin. & technical staff ✓ ≥ 3 years experience in int. cooperation + thematic funding area	✓ ≥ 2 years experience in thematic funding area ✓ Fair budget distribution/ task division
Eligible types of organisations	✓ CSOs, universities, research institutions, and non-profit enterprises	✓ CSOs, universities, research institutions, and non-profit enterprises

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Spotlight on formal requirements

Criteria marked with “!” in Annex I are mandatory; non-compliance results in exclusion.

Outline, concept note & submission

- ✓ Relevant references
- ✓ Submit on time via online platform
- ✓ Max. 5 pages
- ✓ Clearly defined partner roles

Financial restrictions

- ✗ No institutional funding
- ✗ No double funding or project overlap
- ✗ No earmarked co-funding
- ✗ In-kind contributions excluded from budget plan
- ✗ Cost-based calculation not accepted

Project start & eligible expenditures

- ✓ Project not yet started
- ✓ Overheads: max. 10%
- ✓ Basic equipment not eligible
- ✓ Contractors not yet selected

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IV. Development & submission of a project idea

Development - Key elements of a strong concept note

Situation analysis & narrative flow

- ✓ **Evidence-based** baseline assessment
- ✓ **Clear logical thread** – each section follows naturally from the previous one.

Value proposition

- ✓ **Explicit benefits** for each beneficiary
- ✓ **Quantified target groups -** precise numbers and geographic focus.

Participation & ownership

- ✓ **Meaningful participation** of civil-society throughout the project
- ✓ **Local ownership** for long-term sustainability

Risk management

- ✓ Identify **key risks**
- ✓ Outline **mitigation measures** and **contingency plans**

Logframe

- ✓ Structured project logic
- ✓ Clearly show the links between activities, outputs and the intended impact

Map link

- ✓ Provide a map link showing the project location

NEW

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Submission - How do I apply for IMG 2026?

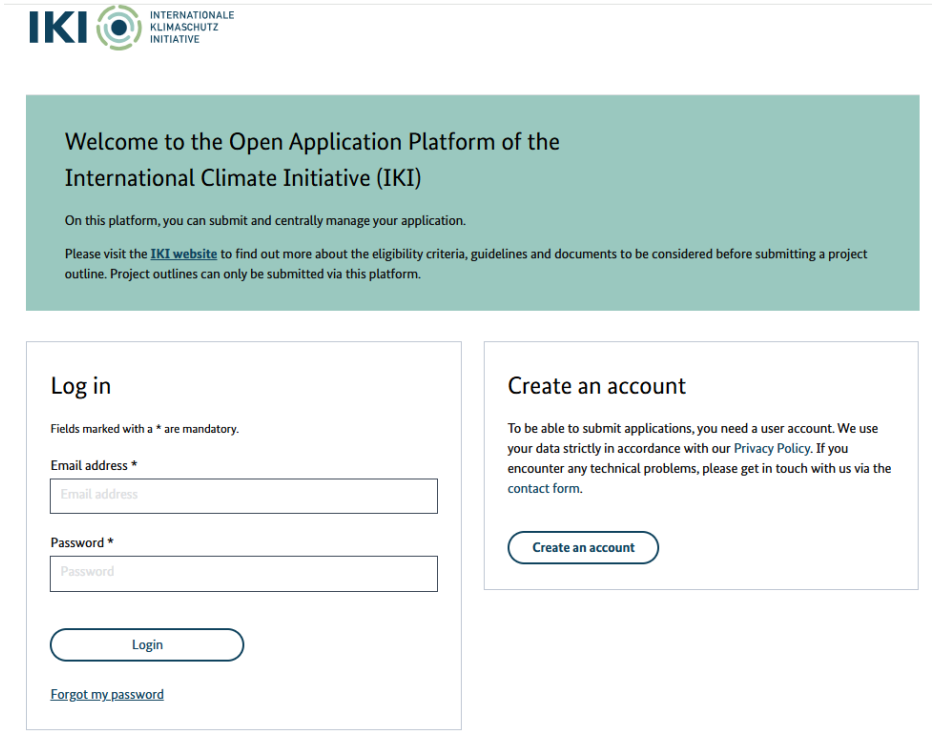
Registration and login

Submission only via IKI online platform
Deadline: 12 January 2027, 11:59 (CET)

We're here to help!

If you encounter any problems while trying to register on the IKI online platform, please don't hesitate to contact us: https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/contact/

Phone hours:
Tuesdays 1 pm - 3 pm (CET)
Thursdays 9 am - 11 am (CET)
+49 30 72618 0222



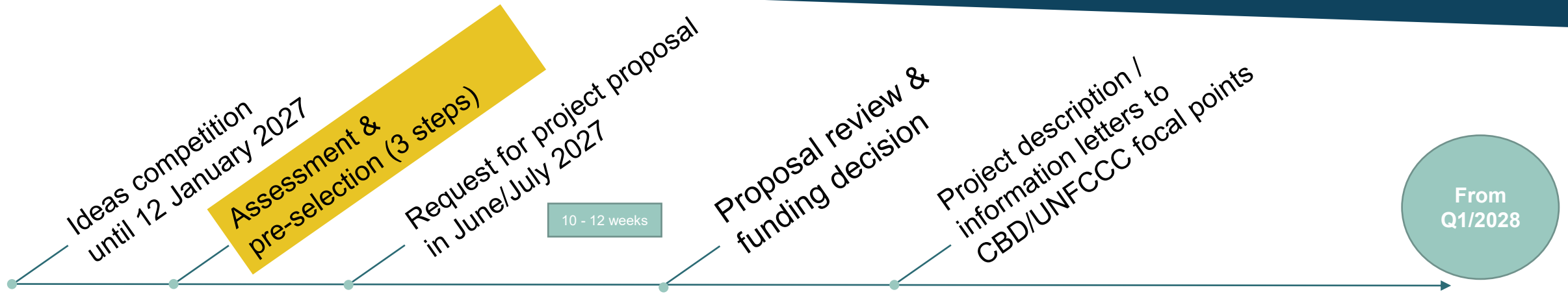
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https://ideas.international-climate-initiative.com/

V. Selection of the project ideas

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The two phases of the selection procedure



1st stage

- Project Outline
  1. Formal criteria
  2. Project concept
  3. Partner structure

2nd stage

- Project Proposal

Implementation

(Evaluation)

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VI. Q&A

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Important links and documents

Before you leave, we'd like you to know…

- More information can be found in the funding announcement for IKI Medium Grants 2026
- You can find more answers in the FAQ document
- Outline forms can be downloaded from the IKI online platform at any time via the dashboard in your account.



https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/contact/

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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