



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE

IKI Medium Grants 2023

**Funding announcement for the selection of projects under the
International Climate Initiative (IKI)**

4 April 2023



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1. Objective of funding programme, purpose of funding, legal basis

1.1 Objective of funding programme and purpose of funding

With the International Climate Initiative (IKI), Germany fulfils part of its financial commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement (adopted by the “Act on the Paris Agreement of 12 December 2015” of 28 September 2016) as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Based on these international commitments and the interactions between climate action and environmental protection, the IKI aims to mitigate greenhouse gases, adapt to climate change, and conserve biodiversity in the context of sustainable and equitable development in both developing and emerging countries. At the overarching level, contributions are to be made to achieving the 1.5 °C target of the Paris Agreement, to implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD, and to fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN. Specifically, the IKI aims to improve framework conditions for sustainable climate and biodiversity policies and to implement and further develop Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in countries of the Global South. To this end, the IKI funds a wide range of projects. These are selected through various funding instruments and essentially contribute to the overarching goals along two different impact pathways (policy advice and policy implementation).

Through thematic and country-specific selection procedures, the IKI promotes primarily large-volume projects with a wide range of actors from politics, business, and civil society in order to accelerate the transformation towards a sustainable and low-emission economic and supply structure. Implementing the Paris Agreement and the CBD also requires strengthening the capacities of smaller actors of civil society in developing and emerging countries and encouraging the effective participation of all genders and social groups.

In the context of the overarching goals of the IKI, the programmes for small-scale projects are targeted exclusively to actors of civil society:

1. The **IKI Small Grants** funding programme aims to strengthen the capacities of smaller non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local actors in developing and emerging countries and is implemented on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (further information on the [IKI website](#)).
2. The **IKI Medium Grants** funding programme supports civil society organisations that are required to have a registered office in Germany when the awarded grants are disbursed. Together with partner organisations from ODA¹-eligible countries of implementation, these organisations implement measures to strengthen North–South cooperation for climate action, adaptation to climate change, and biodiversity conservation. The IKI Office of Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH implements the IKI Medium Grants as an entrusted project management agency within the framework of the IKI (further information on the [IKI website](#)).

The objectives of the IKI Medium Grants are to **explore innovative bottom-up approaches** to fulfilling the Paris Agreement and the CBD (with the goal of being taken up by other non-state actors), to

¹ Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocates public funds for development cooperation; these are credited by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). (<https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm>).

strengthen capacities (of implementing organisations and partners as well as other actors of civil society in the partner countries as knowledge carriers and implementation partners in the climate sector) and to **support the global networking of civil society between North and South**.

The programme is thus intended to contribute to the inclusion of the voices of civil society by partner governments in the transformation towards CO₂ neutrality as well as to the internationally networked cooperation on climate action, the adaptation to climate change, and biodiversity conservation.

The IKI is implemented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

1.2 Objectives of the project measures

The Federal Government of Germany shall award grants according to this funding announcement for up to twelve projects and a total funding volume of up to EUR 8 million. With the funding announcement projects on one of the two funding priorities listed below are sought:

- Piloting of sub-national decarbonisation initiatives
- Innovative pilot projects with smallholders and cooperatives to strengthen deforestation-free supply chains

The funded decarbonisation pilot projects serve to move away from fossil fuels and climate-damaging applications and technologies in the areas of sustainable energy supply, energy efficiency, sector coupling and sustainable mobility and thus contribute to both the implementation and ambition raising of NDCs through sub-national climate partnerships between civil society, public administration, and relevant networks.

The funded innovative pilot projects with smallholders and cooperatives to strengthen deforestation-free supply chains serve to implement the EU Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains and contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the CBD as well as to improve the integrity and functionality of the ecosystems concerned.

Through their implementation focus, the project measures contribute to the gradual achievement of the IKI Medium Grants programme objectives as well as to the climate action objectives of the Federal Government of Germany. They also encourage the emulation and implementation of further activities for climate action and biodiversity conservation.

This funding announcement describes the object of funding, the criteria for project selection and implementation, and the procedure for the IKI Medium Grants funding programme.

1.3 Legal basis

The Federal Government of Germany shall award grants according to the provisions of this funding announcement, Sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (Bundeshaushaltsordnung, BHO), and the respective Administrative Regulations (Verwaltungsvorschriften, VV) as well as the "Guidelines for Grant Applications on an expenditure basis (AZA)". There is no entitlement to a grant. Instead, the granting authority reaches a decision based on its dutiful discretion within the framework of the budgetary resources available.

2. Object of funding

The IKI Medium Grants are aimed at actors of civil society (implementing organisation) who can prove the existence of a permanent business establishment, branch office, or other facility in Germany when the awarded grants are first disbursed. Together with local partner organisations (implementing partners) in selected ODA-eligible countries of implementation, measures to strengthen North–South cooperation for climate action, adaptation to climate change, and biodiversity conservation are to be implemented. The objective of the IKI Medium Grants is explicitly aimed at strengthening these actors of civil society as well as their international network. Specifically, IKI Medium Grants support project activities that address innovative bottom-up contributions to implementing the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The following funding priorities, to which interested actors with innovative project ideas can apply, serve this purpose.

2.1 Thematic funding priorities

I. Piloting of sub-national decarbonisation initiatives

The path to carbon neutrality in developing and emerging countries cannot be achieved through centrally driven implementation of policies and measures alone. Instead, it also requires interaction with sub-national actors as well as their contributions and solutions in the form of decentralised decarbonisation initiatives.

The project ideas under the framework of this funding priority are intended to contribute to climate action (mitigation of greenhouse gases) in multi-level governance systems and in order to localise NDCs. The objectives are to pilot local decarbonisation measures and/or pursue their financing. In addition, sustainable value creation structures are to be initiated. Here, partnerships at the sub-national level between civil society, public administration, and relevant networks as a target group are to be fostered or created. The respective technologies and approaches of the piloting/financing should focus on one or more of the following application areas: sustainable energy supply, energy efficiency, sector coupling, and sustainable mobility.

In order to widely disseminate and replicate the decarbonisation initiatives, the relevant actors can additionally be empowered and their awareness can be raised ideally through existing capacity building approaches. Relevant existing initiatives and networks (e.g. of regions and cities – also in a cross-border context – such as Transition Towns, NDC Partnership) should be used or embraced. Project ideas should be highly ambitious and have considerable potential in terms of promoting gender justice, a just transition and socially acceptable climate action.

II. Innovative pilot projects with smallholders and cooperatives to strengthen deforestation-free supply chains

The objective of this funding priority is to strengthen local and regional production and marketing structures in order to build capacity for compliance with the new requirements of the EU regulation on deforestation-free supply chains, to build capacity for the sustainable, CBD-compliant, and gender-responsive production of agricultural commodities without deforestation, and to build bridges between the producers and consumers of sustainably produced agricultural commodities.

The projects take specific steps to preventing the loss and degradation of high biodiversity forest ecosystems through deforestation and fires resulting from non-sustainable production chains and to restoring the ecosystem services of forest landscapes (Forest Landscape Restoration, FLR). The projects contribute to the long-term improvement of the living conditions of local communities, permanently dispense the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and climate protection, and promote gender-responsive local development. Pilot projects for the production of agricultural raw materials listed in the EU regulation are tested or strengthened in cooperation with smallholders/cooperatives and implemented in a gender-responsive manner. The cultivation methods and marketing comply with the EU regulation on deforestation-free supply chains, and the actors involved are empowered to document the process steps in a transparent manner. A permanent connection to EU sales markets is thus made possible/strengthened, and agricultural commodities are produced under fair conditions for land users.

Innovative, gender-responsive bottom-up approaches as well as traceability tools and a smart communication and networking strategy are needed in order to bring land users into the focus of the supply chain and to pilot transferable approaches – if possible using a specific supply chain.

2.2 Funding approaches

In addition to the selection of one of the above described thematic funding priorities, this funding announcement pursues the implementation of the following funding approaches. One of the two funding approaches must be selected. The combination of both approaches is also possible as long as it is well justified and it can be plausibly demonstrated how this will support the achievement of the project objectives.

I. Implement pilot projects locally

In order to raise ambitions for the mitigation of, adaptation to, and protection from climate impacts as well as the conservation and protection of biodiversity, pilot projects with demonstrative character can be funded using this approach. These projects should be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative technologies and concepts and share the resulting knowledge between North and South as well as South and South.

Innovations can be instruments and measures that trigger radical changes on the basis of analyses or technological cooperations, thereby enabling long-term and sustainable climate-neutral and biodiversity-friendly development paths. It must be ensured that the pilot project is sufficiently anchored locally – for example, through appropriate capacity building or the use of local expertise.

II. Build and expand capacities

Funding is provided for suitable and innovative methods and measures to strengthen the expertise and methodological and management skills of key actors of civil society, measures to establish and further develop organisations, and the further development of strategies. Actors of civil society in the countries of implementation should be empowered to initiate dialogue, participation, consultation, and stakeholder processes as well as to strengthen dynamics across all governance levels by building and expanding their networks.

3. Grant recipients

3.1 Requirements for the implementing organisation

Formal requirements for the implementing organisation

Funding is available for civil society organisations with a non-profit purpose (non-governmental organisations, associations, foundations, think tanks) and academic institutions (universities and research institutions) as well as non-profit enterprises. These are the contract partners for funding. In the following, they will be referred to as the lead implementing organisation as the initial recipient of grants.

Commercial enterprises as well as governmental and intergovernmental actors (e.g. federally owned companies, municipalities, multilateral organisations, and UN organisations) are excluded from funding.

The implementing organisation must demonstrate an ideal business unit. The project must be located in the ideal business unit of the organisation. The organisation may not pursue any intents to realise a profit through the implementation of the project. In addition, the implementing organisation must be able to plan measures in a qualified manner, implement them efficiently, monitor them, and account for them on an expenditure basis.

At the time of the first disbursement of a grant awarded, the implementing organisation is required to have a permanent business establishment, branch, or other facility serving the activities of the grant recipient in Germany.

The calculated average annual funding volume applied for may not exceed 50% of the average annual turnover of the last two fiscal years of the implementing organisation (turnover criterion).

The implementation of the IKI Medium Grants projects should also be carried out in partnership between the implementing organisation and one or two local implementing partners from the country of implementation/region of implementation. The implementing organisation shall submit a project outline. If the outline selection is successful, the implementing organisation shall also submit the final project proposal. The prerequisite for submitting a proposal is the legal independence of the implementing organisation.

If the proposal is successful, the implementing organisation will receive a grant agreement from the IKI Office at ZUG and is accordingly the initial organisation receiving the grant. The implementing organisation is the sole recipient of direct payments from the IKI and is responsible for the budgetary implementation of the project as well as its reporting system. The implementing organisation transfers the approved project funds to the implementing partner(s) and, in this case, assumes financial responsibility for the actions of the implementing partners as the subgrantee. The subgrant is to be regulated between the implementing organisation and the implementing partners in the form of subgrant agreements under private law in accordance with VV No. 12.5 to Section 44 BHO.

The implementing organisation is obliged to check the interim and final reports to be submitted to it. The implementing organisation must also attach the inspection note to its own final report according to the General Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Grants for Project Funding ([ANBest-P](#)). [Templates](#) covering the minimum requirements of the check are provided on the IKI homepage.

Technical requirements for the implementing organisation

The implementing organisation must demonstrate three years of experience in international cooperation through the attached reference projects as well as three years of experience in the selected thematic funding area.

3.2 Requirements for the implementing partners

The IKI Medium Grants funding programme aims to strongly anchor project implementation locally. This is to be achieved through intensive cooperation with local implementing organisations from the country of implementation/region of implementation.

Formal requirements for the implementing partners

Up to two implementing partners are appointed to implement the project together with the implementing organisation.

Partnership with one partner organisation – the implementing partner organisation is based in one of the selected countries of implementation.

Partnership with two local partner organisations – If the project is to be implemented in *one country of implementation*, at least one implementing partner should be based in the selected country of implementation. The second implementing partner is preferably based in the selected country of implementation but may also be from the same geographical region (see Annex II). If the project is to be implemented in *two countries of implementation*, both implementing partners should be based in one of the selected countries of implementation.

The designated partner organisation(s) are to pursue a non-profit purpose according to their object of organisation. The creditworthiness of the partner organisation(s) must be checked by the lead implementing organisation.

According to the IKI definition, implementing partners are institutions that operate in at least one of the countries of implementation as an independent legal entity under national law. Legally dependent representations are not included.

Technical requirements for the implementing partners

The implementing partner can demonstrate three years of experience in the selected thematic funding priority by means of the attached reference projects.

4. Type and scope of the grants

4.1 Nature of the grant

For the implementation of the projects, grants may be awarded on an expenditure basis by way of project funding as non-repayable grants. Funding on a cost basis is possible only in exceptional cases.

4.2 Amount and duration of the grant

A funding volume between EUR 300,000 and EUR 800,000 can be granted per project. Work on projects in the funding programme should be completed within 24 to 36 months. Follow-up financing will not be provided.

4.3 Type of financing

Financing is usually provided as partial financing. The grant recipients shall contribute appropriately to the financing of the purpose to be promoted, taking into account their financial strength. The appropriateness of own funding can be decided only on a case-by-case basis. There is no fixed minimum amount for own funding. Overall, it must be demonstrated that the project funding can be secured based on the planned funding, own funds, and, if necessary, additional third-party funding. Furthermore, it must be confirmed that the project activities are not already supported by financial assistance from a public body in the Federal Republic of Germany. During the review of the proposal, the funding rate is determined on a proposal-specific basis, taking into consideration the expenditure necessary for the project and the possible own funds and third-party funding.

4.4 Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses are those that are incurred in the usual manner for the implementation of the project, taking into account the principles of economic efficiency and economy (e.g. for the personnel required for the project implementation, contracts with third parties, material and travel costs, and supporting public relations measures).

Measures to neutralise the climate impact of business trips (e.g. through video or telephone conferencing) are expressly advocated. If business trips cannot be avoided, expenses for the compensation of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from business trips are eligible. In the case of grants on an expenditure basis, the Federal Travel Expenses Act or the State Travel Expenses Act is to be used as a basis if this applies to the applicant.

The following are not eligible for funding: institutional funding, pure research funding, predominantly investment projects, and projects that pursue project activities focused on Germany. Furthermore, projects can be funded only if they could not be realised without this funding or only to a significantly lesser extent (principle of subsidiarity) and only if the project has not yet been started when the proposal is submitted.

With the IKI exclusion criteria, certain activities that are considered too risky for the environment and people are also excluded from funding without exception. The exclusion criteria can be viewed on the IKI homepage under the [section IKI Safeguards – Environmental and social standard](#).

5. Other regulations on grants

Sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), Sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), and the general administrative regulations issued in this regard shall apply to the approval, disbursement, and accounting of the grant as well as to the proof and examination of its use and, if necessary, the revocation of the grant agreement and the reclaiming of the grant awarded. The Federal Audit Office of Germany is entitled to audit in accordance with Sections 91, 100 BHO (Bundeshaushaltsordnung). The General Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Grants for Project Funding (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung – ANBest-P), as amended from time to time, are also part of a grant agreement on an expenditure basis.

Upon request, the BMWK or its authorised representatives must be provided with the necessary information and be permitted to inspect and audit the records, data, and documents relating to the project. Implementing organisations must agree that the BMWK or its authorised representatives may disclose the name of the funded organisation and the funding purpose as part of its public relations work.

Every quarter, the BMWK publishes comprehensive project information on ongoing and newly committed IKI projects in the areas of climate action, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and biodiversity conservation according to the IATI standard (see also: [IATI data](#)). The implementing organisations must agree that the BMWK or its representatives may submit project-specific information to the IATI platform as part of their reporting.

In order to enable electronic processing, it must be ensured in advance that there is a possibility of legally secure electronic signing and delivery of funding documents.

IKI complaints mechanism

IKI Medium Grant projects should actively promote the overcoming of discrimination against socially, culturally, geographically, politically, legally, religiously, or economically disadvantaged groups within the framework of their project activities.

[The independent complaints mechanism of the IKI](#) is designed to enable people who suffer (potentially) negative social and/or environmental consequences from IKI projects or who wish to report the improper use of funds, to voice their complaints, and seek redress. IKI Medium Grants implementing organisations are therefore obliged to publicise this complaint option in an appropriate manner among their target groups as well as affected target groups in the project area as part of their project implementation and to cooperate in the event of possible investigations.

Evaluation

The impact of the measures introduced by the projects is evaluated externally at regular intervals. In the context of these monitoring and evaluation purposes, the implementing organisations shall provide access to relevant project documents and project stakeholders so that data collection and interviewing can also be carried out by external service providers and their subcontractors. The implementing organisations are obliged to provide the required data and information as well as the necessary personnel capacities for this purpose and agree to the publication of the evaluation results. Consent to the collection of data is requested in the project outline. This is done in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union.

6. Procedure

6.1 Involvement of a project management agency

The funding programme is supervised by

Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH

IKI office at ZUG

Stresemannstraße 69–71

10963 Berlin

Email: IKI-Office@z-u-g.org

as the commissioned project management agency. All documents required in the procedure must be submitted to the project management agency.

6.2 Two-stage selection procedure

The IKI Medium Grants selection procedure consists of two stages. In the first stage, interested parties submit a substantial and meaningful project outline (ideas competition). If the formal requirements are fulfilled and the project outline is positively assessed with regard to the requirements and selected

after a multi-stage review, the second stage entails submitting a formal funding proposal via the online platform [Easy Online](#).

6.3 Submission and selection of project outlines

In the first stage, project outlines based on the outline form for the IKI Medium Grants are submitted exclusively via the [online platform](#). The following deadline shall apply: **4 July 2023**. For this selection procedure, only project outlines received via the online platform by the deadline (12:00 p.m. Central European Summer Time, CEST) on the last day of submissions will be considered. Project outlines not submitted via the online platform will not be considered for the further selection procedure. All project outlines submitted by the deadline via the online platform will be reviewed. The project outlines must include the completed form and the project concept.

The outlines will be evaluated in several steps. All project outlines submitted by the deadline will be checked for compliance with the formal project requirements. In the next steps, those project outlines that have not been excluded will be subjected to a technical assessment with regard to the project concept, the technical eligibility of all implementing organisations listed, and the presentation of the partnership cooperation.

The project outlines will be assessed on the basis of the requirements listed in Annex I by the technical experts of the ZUG and, if necessary, reviewed by relevant external experts. The selection of the most promising project outlines is made by the BMWK on the basis of the available budget.

7. Formal and technical requirements for IKI Medium Grants projects

The selection of promising IKI Medium Grants project outlines includes the assessment of the following requirements: the formal and technical eligibility with regard to a) the project idea; b) the implementing organisation and implementing partners; c) the partnership cooperation. The requirements for the project idea and partnership cooperation are described below. The requirements for the implementing organisation and partner organisations(s) can be found in Chapter 3. Annex I also provides an overview and specific explanations of all the requirements mentioned in this funding announcement.

8. Requirements for the project idea

8.1 Formal requirements for the project idea

Partner structure

The partnership cooperation between an implementing organisation and up to two implementing partners from the country of implementation/region of implementation must be presented.

Selection of the country of implementation

Priority is given to bilateral and, in individual cases, regional projects. Bilateral projects refer to project implementation between the implementing organisation and the partner organisation(s) in a selected ODA country as the country of implementation. Regional projects refer to global projects with a maximum of two countries of implementation of a particular geographical region. The recommendations on the allocation to geographical regions for selected ODA countries can be found in Annex II.

All projects must be implemented in countries that, according to the definition of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) meet the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA). A country must be ODA-eligible by the

deadline for submitting the project outline. More information on ODA eligibility can be found on the [DAC list of ODA recipients](#).

8.2 Technical requirements for the project idea

To present the project idea, a concept note must be submitted together with the project outline. The concept note addresses the classification of the project idea with reference to the overarching programme objective of the IKI Medium Grants as well as the selected funding priority and funding approach. The concept note provides a detailed description of the country selection and the initial local situation, the envisaged project planning and results chain, the formulation of the target groups, the presentation of measures to promote gender justice and to reduce discrimination, the naming of possible project risks, and the explanation of how the project results will be sustained (exit strategy).

The concept note may not exceed five pages and must be written in 11 pt Arial font. The template to be used for the concept note can be found in the outline form. It provides headings, orientation questions, and guidelines regarding page size and format for all concept sections.

The requirements to be highlighted in the concept note are listed in detail below:

Funding approaches

Funding approach I – model project: The project uses either new means (e.g. methods/approaches/technologies) or existing means in the context of a new purpose (e.g. new topics/target groups or regions/countries not previously addressed). It must be ensured that the model project is sufficiently anchored locally – for example, through appropriate capacity building or the use of local expertise.

Funding approach II - capacity building: On the basis of plausibly presented needs, the project sustainably strengthens the capacities of clearly defined target groups in the countries of implementation through suitable and innovative methods. Depending on the needs, this can include an increase in specialist knowledge, methodological and management skills or strategic organisational development skills.

Selection of the country of implementation

The rationale for the selected countries of implementation is based on the explanation of how the project idea addresses and links to the initial local situation. In addition, possible synergies with existing local projects will be addressed.

Project planning

The project objectives are presented in a transparent, systematic, and concrete manner. A convincing, ambitious, and realistic results chain (output, outcome, impact) is described. The project planning explains, in particular, how the intended objectives are to be achieved efficiently through the planned activities within the project duration. During the project planning, particular attention should be paid to making the implementation of the project carbon neutral. Duplication of content with ongoing and completed IKI projects should be avoided. Where possible, approaches to promote gender justice, empower marginalised groups, and reduce discrimination should be integrated into the results chain as a contribution to climate action, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and the conservation of biodiversity.

Environmental and social standards

Systematically taking into account environmental and social standards within the IKI aims to prevent

IKI Medium Grants projects from negatively affecting people and the environment. The implementing organisations are obliged to comply with the [IKI Safeguards Policy](#) and the Safeguards Standards of the Green Climate Fund (currently [IFC Performance Standards](#)). Possible environmental and social risks and planned safeguards measures must be presented in the project proposal in the second selection stage. The risk category does not affect the project selection process as long as the safeguard measures are in line with the risk.

(Knowledge transfer to) target groups

The project concept clearly lists all target groups relevant to the project and transparently sets out how the planned project activities can make a concrete, visible, and relevant contribution to solving current challenges for international climate action and biodiversity conservation as well as adaptation to the impacts of climate change for the target groups. The listing of the relevant target groups is disaggregated by gender. It should also be outlined how knowledge is to be transferred to these actors.

Implementation of the IKI gender strategy

In order to address the interactions between climate change, biodiversity loss, and gender, achieving gender justice is central to the IKI ([IKI Gender Strategy](#)). To this end, IKI projects are to be aligned with concrete measures in such a way that gender-based disadvantages and discrimination are reduced. A targeted consideration of existing gender relations should result in a better contribution to climate action and adaptation to the impacts of climate change as well as the conservation of biodiversity. Based on this, the IKI promotes projects with at least gender-responsive project planning and supports projects that adopt a gender-transformative approach. In the second selection phase, a gender analysis carried out according to the minimum standards of the IKI must be submitted for all projects.

Sustainability of the project impacts after the end of the funding (exit strategy)

The project concept provides answers to how the project activities can help to ensure that funded activities and results can be sustained after the end of the funding. In addition, reference is made to a possible potential for replicability and upscaling of the project results and impacts.

8.3 Requirements for partnership cooperation between North and South

IKI Medium Grants envisage a partnership on equal footing between the implementing organisation and the implementing partner(s). The form of the cooperation shall be described in detail. In particular, the distribution of tasks and roles between the partners must be explained. According to the distribution of roles, attention must be paid to an appropriate budget distribution. This does not imply a percentage-based equal budget distribution but rather is to be carried out in a needs-oriented and transparent manner. Furthermore, the possibilities of knowledge exchange and mutual learning opportunities between the partners will be addressed.

9. Submission of formal funding proposals and decision-making procedures

At the beginning of the second selection stage, all implementing organisations of promising project outlines will be informed in writing about the result of the assessment and invited to submit a detailed project proposal (funding proposal). The relevant provisions and templates – including monitoring and safeguards requirements – will be made available after completion of the first selection stage. They can also be found on the [IKI homepage](#).

In order to ensure the visibility of the projects in the countries of implementation, letters of information and project descriptions are sent to the CBD or United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Focal Points in the respective countries.

A project start can be expected from the 3rd quarter of 2024 at the earliest.

10. Contact of project management agency

IKI Office at Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH
Stresemannstraße 69–71
10963 Berlin

Email: IKI-Office@z-u-g.org
Tel.: +49 30700181222

Phone consultation hours:
Mondays: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

On behalf of
Dr Phillip Behrens

Annex I: Overview of assessment criteria

| Criteria | | Explanations |
|--|---|--|
| ! - Minimum requirements | | |
| Both the minimum requirements and the assessment criteria are used to assess the outlines submitted. All minimum requirements which, if not met, will lead to the exclusion of the project outline from the selection process are marked with a “!”. | | |
| Formal eligibility of the project concept | | |
| Funding requirements | | |
| | ! | Submission by the deadline |
| | | The project outline must be submitted by the deadline of 4 July 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (CEST) and only via the online platform . |
| | ! | No institutional funding |
| | | Only one project implementation with a limited project duration can be funded. Institutional funding is excluded. |
| | ! | No investment measures |
| | | The funding covers the implementation of a project concept and not predominantly (< 50%) the financing or procurement of objects that exceed the individual acquisition value of EUR 800. |
| | ! | No research funding |
| | | The implementation of a measure (model projects, capacity building) and not a pure investigation/research project will be funded. |
| | ! | No focus on Germany |
| | | The funded measures must take place mainly in the country of implementation and not primarily in Germany. |
| | ! | Projects not started |
| | | Only projects that have not yet started are eligible for funding. |
| | ! | Need for public funds |
| | | The project cannot be realised on its own and without substantial public funding. |
| | ! | Exclusion criteria |
| | | With the exclusion criteria, certain activities considered too risky for the environment and people are excluded from funding without exception. The exclusion criteria can be viewed here . |
| Duration and amount of funding | | |
| | ! | Funding volume |
| | | The funding volume of the project is between 300,000 EUR and 800,000 EUR. |
| | ! | Project duration |
| | | The duration of the project is between 24 and 36 months. |
| Project funding | | |
| | | Self-financing |
| | | The implementing organisations provide appropriate self-financing and/or additional financial resources (co-financing). |
| | ! | Dual funding |
| | | The project or the measures may not already be funded by other donors. |

| Selection of the country of implementation | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | ! | Country/countries of implementation | The project must be implemented in at least one and at most two ODA-eligible countries. A list of the selected ODA-eligible countries can be found in Annex II. |
| | ! | Countries in the same region | The selected countries of implementation must be in the same geographical region. The allocation to geographical regions for selected ODA countries can be found in Annex II. |
| Technical eligibility of the project concept | | | |
| | ! | Consistency with the chosen funding priority topic | The project concept must be clearly in line with the selected funding priority topic. |
| | | Argumentation for funding approach | The project concept plausibly presents and justifies how the selection of the relevant funding approaches supports the planned impact of the intended project objective. |
| | ! | Scope of the project concept | The project concept may not exceed 5 pages. The default font size is 11 pt Arial. |
| Funding approaches | | | |
| | | Level of innovation of innovation (for Funding approach I – model project) | The project uses either new means (e.g. methods, approaches, and technologies) or existing means in the context of a new purpose (e.g. new themes, target groups, or regions/countries). This ensures that the model project is sufficiently anchored locally through appropriate capacity building. |
| | | Methods for strengthening capacities (Funding approach II – capacity building) | On the basis of plausibly presented needs, the project sustainably strengthens the capacities of the defined target groups through suitable and, if necessary, innovative methods. |
| Selection of the country of implementation | | | |
| | | Link to the initial situation in the country of implementation | The project establishes a link to the local implementation landscape and addresses possible synergies with existing projects. |
| Project planning | | | |
| | | Convincing and realistic project planning | The project concept convincingly demonstrates the realistic achievement of the intended project objectives through the planned activities within the project duration. The project objectives are presented in a transparent, systematic, and concrete manner. The targeted consideration of gender justice in the context of project planning is positively assessed. |
| | | Results chain | The project concept shows a convincing, ambitious, and realistic application of the OECD results chain for the problem-solving approach (output, outcome, impact). If the main or secondary objective of the project is to promote gender justice as a contribution to the protection of climate and biodiversity, this is anchored in the results chain. |
| | | Environmental and social standards | Possible environmental and social risks and safeguard measures are presented in a transparent and appropriate manner. |

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| | | Carbon neutrality | The project concept reflects negative climate impacts and gives possible approaches to CO ₂ avoidance (e.g. through video or telephone conferences). |
| Target groups | | | |
| | | (Knowledge transfer to) target groups | The project concept clearly lists all target groups relevant to the project in a gender-disaggregated manner, describes approaches to solutions for the challenges of the relevant target groups, and describes how knowledge can be transferred to these actors in a transparent manner. |
| | | Implementation of the IKI gender strategy | The project concept includes approaches to reduce gender-based discrimination, empower marginalised groups, and promote gender justice in the context of the project objectives and sectors. |
| Sustainability of the project results | | | |
| | | Exit strategy | The project concept provides an answer as to how the project impacts and results can be maintained after the end of BMWK funding. |
| | | Replicability and upscaling | The project concept describes the potential for replicability and upscaling of the project results and effects. |
| Formal eligibility of the lead organisation | | | |
| | ! | Lead organisation | Projects are eligible only with <u>one</u> lead organisation. The latter submits the project outline and receives the grant award document from ZUG gGmbH upon successful proposal review. |
| | ! | Domicile and business activity of the lead organisation | At the time of the first disbursement of a grant awarded, the lead organisation must be able to demonstrate the existence of a permanent business establishment, branch, or other facility in Germany (implementing organisation) that serves the activities of the organisation receiving the grant. |
| | ! | Ideal business area | The lead organisation must have an ideal business area. The project must be located in the ideal business area of the German implementing organisation. |
| | ! | Intents to realise a profit | Implementing organisations may not pursue any intents to realise a profit with the project. |
| | ! | Turnover criterion | The calculated average annual IKI funding volume may not exceed 50% of the average annual turnover of the last two business years of the lead organisation. |
| Technical eligibility of the lead organisation | | | |
| | ! | Experience in international cooperation | The lead organisation must demonstrate at least three years of experience in international cooperation. |
| | ! | Thematic experience | The lead organisation must demonstrate at least three years of experience in the chosen thematic funding area. |
| Formal eligibility of the implementing partner | | | |
| | ! | Local organisation(s) from country of implementation | Project implementation with a partner organisation – the partner organisation must be based in the country of implementation/in one of the selected countries of implementation. Project implementation with two partner organisations – If the project is to be implemented in <i>a country of implementation</i> , at least one partner organisation should be based in the selected implementing country. The second partner organisation is also preferably based in the chosen country of implementation. However, this can also come |

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| | | | from the geographical region. Insofar as the project is to be implemented in <i>two countries of implementation</i> , both partner organisations are based in one of the selected countries of implementation. |
| | | Charitable purpose | The partner organisation pursues a non-profit purpose according to its object of organisation. |
| Professional eligibility of the implementing partner | | | |
| | ! | Thematic experience | Partner organisation(s) can demonstrate three years of experience in the chosen thematic funding priority by means of the attached reference projects. |
| Assessment of the North–South partnership | | | |
| | | Allocation of tasks and roles | The division of tasks and roles between the lead organisation and the partner organisation(s) is coherent and appropriate based on the respective skills. |
| | | Budget distribution | The distribution of the total budget between the implementing organisations is appropriate and transparent. |
| | | Knowledge exchange in partnership | The exchange of knowledge among all implementing organisations takes place on equal terms and enables mutual learning from each other. |

Annex II: Overview ODA-countries and regions

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Africa | Cameroon | Saint Helena | South America | Uzbekistan | Azerbaijan |
| Northern Africa | Central African Republic | Senegal | Argentina | | Georgia |
| Algeria | Chad | Sierra Leone | Bolivia | Eastern Asia | Iraq |
| Egypt | Congo | Togo | Brazil | China | Jordan |
| Libya | Congo, Democratic Republic | | Colombia | Mongolia | Lebanon |
| Morocco | | Latin America and the Caribbean | Ecuador | | Palestinian territories |
| Sudan | Equatorial Guinea | Caribbean | Guyana | Southeast Asia | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Tunisia | Gabon | Caribbean | Paraguay | Cambodia | Turkey |
| | São Tome and Principe | Cuba | Peru | Indonesia | Yemen |
| | | Dominica | Suriname | Lao People's Democratic Republic | |
| Eastern Africa | Southern Africa | Dominican Republic | Venezuela | Malaysia | Pacific |
| Burundi | Botswana | Grenada | | Myanmar | Fiji |
| Comoros | Eswatini | Haiti | Europe | Philippines | Kiribati |
| Djibouti | Lesotho | Jamaica | Eastern Europe | Thailand | Marshall Islands |
| Eritrea | Namibia | Montserrat | Moldova, Republic | Timor-Leste | Micronesia |
| Ethiopia | South Africa | Saint Lucia | Ukraine | Viet Nam | Nauru |
| Kenya | | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | | | Niue |
| Madagascar | Western Africa | | Southern Europe | | Palau |
| Malawi | Benin | | Albania | South Asia | Papua New Guinea |
| Mauritius | Burkina Faso | Mexico and Central America | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Afghanistan | Samoa |
| Mozambique | Cabo Verde | Belize | Kosovo | Bangladesh | Solomon Islands |
| Rwanda | Côte d'Ivoire | Costa Rica | Montenegro | Bhutan | Tokelau |
| Somalia | Gambia | El Salvador | North Macedonia | India | Tonga |
| South Sudan | Ghana | Guatemala | Serbia | Maldives | Tuvalu |
| Tanzania, United Republic | Guinea | Honduras | | Nepal | Vanuatu |
| Uganda | Guinea-Bissau | Mexico | Asia and Pacific | Pakistan | Wallis and Futuna Islands |
| Zambia | Liberia | Nicaragua | Central Asia | Sri Lanka | |
| Zimbabwe | Mali | Panama | Kazakhstan | | |
| | Mauritania | | Kyrgyzstan | Middle East, Caucasus, Turkey | |
| Central Africa | Niger | | Tajikistan | Armenia | |
| Angola | Nigeria | | Turkmenistan | | |