



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Climate Action

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



## IKI Medium Grants 2024

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

15 October 2024



## Table of contents

1.	Funding objective, purpose of funding, legal basis.....	2
1.1	Funding objective and purpose of grant.....	2
1.2	Objectives of the project measures.....	3
2.	Object of funding .....	4
2.1	Thematic priorities.....	4
2.2	Funding approaches .....	5
3.	Grant recipients .....	5
3.1	Requirements for the implementing organisation.....	5
3.2	Requirements of the implementing partners .....	6
4.	Type and scope of the grants.....	7
4.1	Nature of the grant.....	7
4.2	Amount and duration of the grant.....	7
4.3	Type of financing .....	7
4.4	Eligible expenditures .....	7
5.	Other regulations on grants.....	8
6.	Procedure .....	11
6.1	Involvement of a project management agency .....	11
6.2	Two-stage selection procedure.....	11
6.3	Submission and selection of project outlines .....	11
7.	Formal and technical requirements for IKI Medium Grants projects .....	12
8.	Requirements for the project idea .....	12
8.1	Formal requirements for the project idea .....	12
8.2	Technical requirements for the project idea .....	12
8.3	Requirements for partnership co-operation between North and South .....	14
9.	Submission of formal funding proposals and decision-making procedures.....	14
10.	Contact of project management agency .....	15
	<b>Annex I: Overview of assessment criteria .....</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>Annex II: Overview ODA-countries and regions .....</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>Annex III: Handling of emission mitigation credits in the IKI .....</b>	<b>21</b>

## 1. Funding objective, purpose of funding, legal basis

### 1.1 Funding objective and purpose of grant

With the International Climate Initiative (IKI), Germany fulfils part of its financial obligations 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 (GHG), adapt to climate change, and conserve biodiversity in the context of sustainable and just 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), Long-term Strategies (LTS), 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 approaches).

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. Implementation of the Paris Agreement and the CBD also requires strengthening the capacities of smaller civil society actors 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 funding instruments for small-scale projects are targeted exclusively to civil society actors:

1. The **IKI Small Grants** funding instrument 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 instrument 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 ODA<sup>1</sup>-eligible countries of implementation, these organisations implement measures to strengthen North–South co-operation 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 (IMG) are to **test innovative bottom-up approaches** to fulfilling the Paris Agreement and the CBD (these can be taken up by other non-state actors to **strengthen capacities** of implementing organisations and partners as well as other civil society actors in the part-

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<sup>1</sup> Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocates public funds for development co-operation; 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>).

ner countries as knowledge carriers and implementation partners in the climate sector) and to **promote the global networking of civil society between North and South**. In this way, the IMG primarily contribute to two of the objectives listed in the IKI strategy: improved framework conditions for cross-sectoral or transformative climate action, biodiversity conservation, and/or climate adaptation as well as the implementation of climate action, biodiversity, and/or climate change adaptation measures.

All success factors identified in the strategy should be addressed, especially the inclusion of the voices of civil society by partner governments in the transformation towards CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality and the internationally networked co-operation on climate action, the adaptation to climate change, and biodiversity conservation. The IMG funding call 2024 in particular also focuses on supporting participatory measures for climate and biodiversity conservation.

The IKI is implemented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) in close co-operation 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

According to this funding announcement, grants shall be awarded 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 thematic priorities listed below are sought:

- I. **Promotion of ambitious participatory measures for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions**
- II. **Integrative measures for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in cities**

The living, working, and educational realities of different population groups differ and are affected to varying degrees by the negative consequences of the climate and biodiversity crisis. The opportunities to participate in decision-making processes therefore vary. This year's funding call takes up these issues in order to realise untapped potential for climate and biodiversity conservation in a socially just way.

The selected projects for the support of ambitious participatory climate action measures contribute to the achievement of GHG reduction targets with needs-based capacity development and/or the piloting of innovative concepts in the mobility, urban development, and energy sectors or across sectors; whereby a greater impact for all population groups is ensured through the targeted participation of previously underrepresented groups.

The funded projects for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in cities serve the inclusive and integrative design and implementation of conservation measures that benefit all people and nature in terms of the development and use of biodiversity-friendly solutions. They contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and improve the integrity and functionality of the ecosystems affected.

Through their implementation focus, the project measures contribute to the gradual achievement of the overarching goals of the IKI Medium Grants as well as to the climate action goals 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 funding instrument of the IKI Medium Grants.

## 2. Object of funding

The IKI Medium Grants are aimed at civil society actors who can prove the existence of a permanent business establishment, branch office, or other facility in Germany (implementing organisation) when the awarded grants are first disbursed. Together with local partner organisations in selected ODA-eligible countries of implementation (implementing partners), measures to strengthen North–South co-operation 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 civil society actors 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. To this end, the following thematic priorities are available to interested parties with innovative project ideas.

### 2.1 Thematic priorities

#### I. Promotion of ambitious participatory measures for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions

The aim of this thematic priority is the participatory and inclusive development and implementation of ambitious climate action measures to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup>. To this end, measures to reduce GHG emissions should include the targeted participation of currently underrepresented groups, so as to ensure greater impact for all population groups. Projects can choose a cross-sectoral mitigation focus (e.g. contributing to climate action plans or to the implementation or updating of nationally determined contributions (NDCs)/long-term strategies (LTS)) or address specific challenges in the mobility, urban development, or energy sectors.

Projects can contribute to the reduction of inequalities and thereby achieve a better mitigation impact. They can identify and implement approaches for **needs-based capacity development** so that the **perspectives of persons of different genders are tangibly integrated into (political) processes relevant to mitigation at the (sub)national level**. Taking into account the respective country context, the envisioned climate protection projects can develop and pilot **innovative concepts** for overcoming **local challenges** faced by women and/or marginalised groups and raise (public) awareness about them so that they can be taken up by other actors

Projects that implement measures in an intersectional way and promote a contribution to representative participation in climate action (e.g. by involving relevant organisations, networks, and interest groups) are particularly welcomed.

#### II. Integrative measures for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in cities

The aim of this thematic priority is to promote specific measures to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in (peri-)urban habitats (blue-green infrastructure, parks, forests, and wetlands) and nature-based solutions that are to be implemented in cities in an inclusive and integrative manner.

Projects should result in replicable conservation measures for wild species and (peri-)urban ecosystems with a particular focus on adaptation to the impacts of climate change. These measures include pilot projects and/or capacity development to conserve biological diversity and ecosystem services in cities as well as to mitigate drivers of urban biodiversity loss.

The measures can include action-orientated knowledge transfer and awareness raising. Projects should focus on the diverse perspectives, interests, and needs of different target groups (e.g. women) in relation to the design and implementation of appropriate conservation measures as well as the development and use of biodiversity-friendly and nature-based solutions.

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<sup>2</sup> UNFCCC Decision 3/CP.25 Enhanced Lima work program

The projects should contribute to the equal participation of all genders and marginalised groups in relation to biodiversity conservation (e.g. through the involvement of relevant organisations, networks, and interest groups in project design and implementation). Civil society actors should network with each other where possible.

## 2.2 Funding approaches

In addition to the selection of one of the above thematic 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. Pilot project

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, specific 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 co-operations, 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 development or the use of local expertise.

### II. Capacity Development

Funding is provided for suitable and innovative methods and measures to strengthen the expertise and methodological and management skills of key civil society actors as well as measures to establish and further develop organisations and strategies. Civil society actors 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 main contacts for funding. In the following, they will be referred to as the lead implementing organisation and initial recipient of the grant.

Commercial enterprises as well as governmental and intergovernmental actors (e.g. federally owned companies<sup>3</sup>, municipalities, multilateral organisations, and UN organisations) are excluded from funding.

The implementing organisation must demonstrate an ideal business area. The project must be part of the ideal business area of the applicant. The applicant 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.

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<sup>3</sup> An overview of the non-eligible federally owned companies can be found on the website of the [Federal Ministry of Finance](#).

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. This must demonstrably enable independent and long-term participation in business transactions in Germany with its own management, freedom of disposition, and accounting.

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

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 notification from the IKI Office of ZUG and is accordingly the initial applicant 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 sub-grant recipient(s). The sub-grant is to be regulated between the implementing organisation and the implementing partners in the form of project 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 website.

### **Technical requirements of the implementing organisation**

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

### **3.2 Requirements of the implementing partners**

The funding instrument of the IKI Medium Grants aims to strongly anchor project implementation locally. This is to be achieved through intensive and co-operative partnership with local implementing organisations from the country/region of implementation.

#### **Formal requirements of the implementing partners**

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

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

Partnership with two local implementing 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 each in one of the selected countries of implementation.

The designated implementing partners are to pursue a non-profit purpose according to their object of organisation. The creditworthiness of the implementing partners must be checked by the implementing organisation. Further information can be found in the IKI Medium Grants administrative guidelines.

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 local law. Legally dependent representations do not count.

#### **Technical requirements of the implementing partners**

The implementing partner can demonstrate three years of experience in the selected thematic funding area 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 of the IKI Medium Grants should be completed within 24 to 36 months. There are no plans for follow-up financing.

#### **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. Which amount of own funds is appropriate 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 financing can be secured based on the planned funding, own funds, and, if applicable, further third-party funds. 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 self-funding and third-party funding.

#### **4.4 Eligible expenditures**

Eligible expenditures 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, expenditures 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 considered too risky for the environment and people are also excluded from funding without exception. The exclusion criteria can be viewed on the IKI website 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 award document and the reclaiming of the grant awarded. The Federal Audit Office of Germany is entitled to audit in accordance with Section 91 BHO. 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 award document on an expenditure basis. In the proposal for funding, applicants must agree that

- all documents submitted with the proposal or in the subsequent procedure are to be made available to the Federal Ministry responsible or the project management agency, the Federal Audit Office, and the auditing bodies of the European Union on request in order to allow inspection of the books and documents relating to the project as well as audits;
- the funding is to be recorded in a centralised federal system (funding database) on the basis of Section 44 Federal Budgetary Regulations (BHO) in conjunction with Administrative Regulation No. 9.1 and 9.2 on Section 44 BHO;
- all data and evidence disclosed in connection with the funding
  - may be stored on data carriers by the project management organisation, the responsible federal ministry, or a body commissioned by one of them
  - may be further processed for the purpose of performance monitoring in accordance with the administrative regulation according to Section 7 BHO
  - may be passed on by the federal ministry responsible to third parties commissioned with an evaluation and further processed there
  - will be used and analysed for the purposes of processing and checking applications, statistics, monitoring, scientific issues, linking with official data, evaluation, and measuring the success of the funding instrument;
- the anonymised or aggregated evaluation results can be published and forwarded to the Bundestag as well as to federal and European Union institutions.
- the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) or its authorised representatives submit project-specific information to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) platform as part of their reporting. 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](#)).

Implementing organisations must also agree that the federal ministry responsible or its authorised representatives may disclose the name of the funded applicant as well as the funding purpose as part of its public relations work.

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

### IKI complaints mechanism

IKI Medium Grants 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. The implementing organisations for IKI Medium Grants 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 co-operate in the event of possible investigations.

#### Evaluation and transparency

The implementing organisations are obliged to provide all data required for the performance review and specified by the funding agency or a body commissioned by it. As a key contribution to measuring success, the impact of 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 respective federal ministry, the project management agency, and the bodies commissioned to carry out the evaluations with the necessary data and information as well as the necessary personnel capacities and to participate in the surveys, interviews, and other data collections provided for this purpose.

The [evaluation results will be published on the IKI website](#), among other places, in compliance with all data protection regulations.

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.

#### Handling of emission credits in the IKI

IKI funds will be used to promote quality and transparency in the carbon market and to attract private capital to scale IKI projects. The basis for this is the crediting rules of the emission reductions in the national energy balances of the respective partner countries as well as the contribution to ambition raising in the partner countries. It is in the interest of the German government to promote the use and implementation of the UNFCCC Article 6 framework and to align all market segments of the international carbon market with the goals and requirements of the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup>. A Paris-compatible carbon market thus includes both the compliance markets (UNFCCC and CORSIA<sup>5</sup>) and the voluntary market segment. Possible funding of projects under the IKI should therefore include capacity building for the application of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; this applies also to the possible use of certificates in the voluntary carbon market.

Furthermore, the German government welcomes the use of the carbon market to scale sustainable measures and secure funding for emission reduction measures beyond the end of the project, especially with the aim of integrating them into the future NDCs of the partner countries.

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<sup>4</sup> See also G7 CQM 2023 Annex “Principles of High Integrity Carbon Markets” (<https://www.meti.go.jp/information/g7himosima/energy/pdf/Annex004.pdf>).

These principles contain a clear market orientation towards the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This includes principles for the market infrastructure and supply and demand side that cover the mandatory and voluntary carbon markets.

<sup>5</sup> CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) is a carbon offsetting and reduction programme for international civil aviation. It was adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation ([ICAO](#)) in 2018

However, the use of the carbon market as a source of funding in IKI projects must be done within certain limits and guidelines: In principle, no ODA funds that can be used on the compliance market to meet international reduction targets (outside the project country) may be used to generate emission mitigation credits. The additionality of greenhouse gas mitigation and the ODA-eligibility of the IKI funds must be ensured. Thus, emission reductions financed by IKI funds may not generate internationally transferable and tradable mitigation credits that are used for the achievement of targets by states or companies (compliance). Nevertheless, the additional emission reductions achieved in a partner country can be used to increase its ambition compared with the respective current NDC target. This requires corresponding agreements with the partner country.

A clear separation between ODA-eligible climate finance and the compliance market must be ensured. The requirements set out in Annex III in this regard as well as the rules on climate action projects in the voluntary carbon market as well as in the area of technical and natural carbon sinks must be complied with.

## 6. Procedure

### 6.1 Involvement of a project management agency

The support measure is supervised by

Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH

IKI office of the ZUG

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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 meaningful project outline (ideas competition). If the minimum requirements and technical evaluation criteria listed in Annex I are met and the project outline is positively assessed and selected following a multi-stage review, the second stage entails submitting a formal funding proposal via the on-line platform Easy Online.

### 6.3 Submission and selection of project outlines

For the process step, project outlines based on the outline form for the IKI Medium Grants are submitted exclusively via the on-line platform. The following deadline shall apply: **14 January 2025**. For this selection procedure, only project outlines received via the on-line platform in due time (11:59 a.m. Central European Time, CET) on the last day of submissions will be considered. Project outlines not submitted via the on-line platform will not be considered for the further selection procedure. All project outlines submitted in due time via the on-line 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 in due time 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 co-operation.

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. In the event of ambiguities, particularly with regard to minimum administrative requirements within the framework of the outline evaluation, the IKI Office of ZUG reserves the right to approach the implementing organisation for clarification. The selection of the most informative project outlines is made by the BMWK on the basis of the available budget.

#### On-line seminar

An on-line seminar in English is planned **for 07 November 2024** in order to give interested organisations an idea of what makes a good outline. In addition, in-depth information about the selection process and the further procedure will be provided. More information will be published on the IKI website in due course.

## 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 co-operation. The requirements for the project idea and partnership co-operation are described below. The requirements for the implementing organisation and implementing partners 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 co-operation 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 implementing partners 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 project concept must be submitted together with the project outline. The project concept addresses the classification of the project idea with reference to the overarching objective of the IKI Medium Grants within the IKI as well as the selected thematic priority and the funding approach. The project concept 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 project concept may not exceed five pages and must be written in 11 pt Arial font. The template to be used for the project concept can be found 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 project concept are listed in detail below:

#### Funding approaches<sup>6</sup>

**Funding approach I – pilot 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

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<sup>6</sup> For an explanation of the funding approaches, see also Section 2.2.

groups or regions/countries not previously addressed). It must be ensured that the pilot project is sufficiently anchored locally – for example, through appropriate capacity development or the use of local expertise.

**Funding approach II – capacity development:** 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. The planned project activities must take into account the respective political, economic, and cultural framework conditions in the partner countries/regions. Where appropriate and possible, existing global, regional, and national partnerships and collaborative mechanisms should also be used or contributions made to them (e.g. the NDC Partnership or, in the future, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership).

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 step. The risk category does not affect the project selection process as long as the safeguards 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 the protection of the climate, the adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and 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.

#### Stabilisation 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. An increase in funding at or after the end of the project is generally not envisaged.

#### **8.3 Requirements for partnership co-operation between North and South**

IKI Medium Grants envisage a partnership on equal terms between the implementing organisation and the implementing partner(s). The form of the co-operation 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 process step, 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 process step. They can also be found on the [IKI website](#).

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 proposal can be successfully reviewed only if the partner government has no objections to the implementation of the project. The partner government is informed about the planned project in the form of a letter of information.

A project start can be expected from the 2nd quarter of 2026 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](mailto:IKI-Office@z-u-g.org)

Tel.: +49 30 726180222

*For telephone consultation hours, see the [IKI website](#).*

Berlin, 15 October 2024

For the German Federal Government  
represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

On behalf of  
Dr Philipp Behrens

## Annex I: Overview of assessment criteria

Criteria		Explanations
<b>! - Minimum requirements</b>		
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 “! ”.		
<b>Formal eligibility of the project concept</b>		
<b>Funding requirements</b>		
	!	Submission by the deadline
		The project outline must be submitted by the deadline of 14 January 2025 at 11:59 a.m. (CEST) and only via <a href="#">the online platform</a> .
	!	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 (pilot projects, capacity development) 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 <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Duration and amount of funding</b>		
	!	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.
<b>Project funding</b>		
		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 thematic priority topic	The project concept must be clearly in line with the selected thematic 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 – pilot 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 pilot project is sufficiently anchored locally through appropriate capacity building.
		Methods for strengthening capacities (Funding approach II – capacity development)	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.

		Carbon neutrality	The project concept reflects negative climate impacts and gives possible approaches to CO <sub>2</sub> avoidance (e.g. through video or telephone conferences).
<b>Target groups</b>			
		(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.
<b>Sustainability of the project results</b>			
		Exit strategy	The project concept provides an answer as to how the project impacts and results can be maintained after the end of IKI funding.
		Replicability and upscaling	The project concept describes the potential for replicability and upscaling of the project results and effects.
<b>Formal eligibility of the lead organisation</b>			
	!	Lead organisation	Projects are eligible only with <u>one</u> lead organisation. The latter submits the project outline and receives the grant notification 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.
	!	Intent to realise a profit	Implementing organisations may not pursue any intent 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.
<b>Technical eligibility of the lead organisation</b>			
	!	Experience in international co-operation	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.
<b>Formal eligibility of the implementing partner</b>			
	!	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 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.
<b>Professional eligibility of the implementing partner</b>			
	!	Thematic experience	Partner organisation(s) can demonstrate three years of experience in the chosen thematic funding priority by means of the attached reference projects.
<b>Assessment of the North–South partnership</b>			
		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

### Africa

#### **Northern Africa**

Algeria  
Egypt  
Libya  
Morocco  
Sudan  
Tunisia

#### **Eastern Africa**

Burundi  
Comoros  
Djibouti  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Rwanda  
Somalia  
South Sudan  
Tanzania, United Republic  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

#### **Central Africa**

Angola

Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Congo  
Congo, Democratic Republic  
Equatorial Guinea  
Gabon  
São Tomé and Príncipe

#### **Southern Africa**

Botswana  
Eswatini  
Lesotho  
Namibia  
South Africa

#### **Western Africa**

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Cabo Verde  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Liberia  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Niger

Nigeria  
Saint Helena  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Togo

### Latin America and the Caribbean

#### **Caribbean**

Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Grenada  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
Montserrat  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

#### **Mexico and Central America**

Belize  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama

### South America

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Colombia  
Ecuador  
Guyana  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Suriname  
Venezuela

### Europe

#### **Eastern Europe**

Moldova, Republic  
Ukraine

#### **Southern Europe**

Albania  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Kosovo  
Montenegro  
North Macedonia  
Serbia

### Asia and Pacific

#### **Central Asia**

Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Tajikistan

Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan

#### **Eastern Asia**

China  
Mongolia

#### **Southeast Asia**

Cambodia  
Indonesia  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Philippines  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Viet Nam

#### **South Asia**

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Maldives  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

### Middle East, Caucasus, Turkey

Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Palestinian territories  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Turkey  
Yemen

### Pacific

Fiji  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia  
Nauru  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tokelau  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu  
Wallis and Futuna Islands

### Annex III: Handling of emission mitigation credits<sup>7</sup> in the IKI

In order ensure a clear **separation between ODA-eligible climate finance funds and the compliance market**, the following requirements must be met:

- IKI-funded projects can include **conceptual preparations for mitigation activities under Article 6 of the OCP** (methodology development, project design and feasibility studies) in their objectives – however, the technical implementation (i.e. after financial close) must be achieved through other funding sources and not through IKI funds. With this clear demarcation from IKI funding, it is possible to generate internationally transferable and tradable mitigation credits.
- **Start-up financing** for Article 6 project activities is possible under the condition that mitigation credits generated by IKI funds must either be set-aside (proof required) or remain in the partner country and be credited to the host-country NDC (“non-authorised Article 6.4” mitigation units) and thus contribute to the NDC implementation of the country. However, this requires activity-based agreements with the partner country.

**Climate action projects in the voluntary carbon market sector:** Emission reductions achieved through IKI funds are, **in principle, not allowed to generate mitigation credits that are internationally transferable and tradable on the voluntary carbon market**, and which have been authorised by the implementing states for compliance purposes. Promotion of mitigation credits for a national voluntary certification system (not internationally transferable and tradable) of the respective partner country in which the emission reductions occur is possible and desirable to increase ambition compared with the NDC. After finalising the UNFCCC rules on Article 6.4 for the Contribution Claims segment<sup>8</sup>, the German Federal Government will decide whether and in what way internationally transferable and tradable certificates can be used outside the various compliance markets to mobilise private capital in order to supplement financing through IKI funds.

**Climate action projects in the area of technical and natural carbon sinks:** Because the rules for mitigation credits from technical and natural carbon sinks under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement have not yet been finally developed and adopted, currently only methodology development, especially in the area of MRV (measurement, reporting, and verification), and benefit-sharing concepts in this area/these sectors can be supported with IKI funds. As soon as new developments in the international negotiations make it possible to assess the eligibility of projects dealing with technical and natural carbon sinks in the same way as other projects, a notice will be published on the IKI website. For the financing of climate action projects in agriculture, forestry, and land use, it is also necessary to fulfil the sustainability, including social (benefit sharing), requirements of the IKI and the relevant international standards.

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<sup>7</sup> Article 6.4 certificates that represent a contribution to the fulfilling the targets host country and which are also referred to as “mitigation contributions” are certificates that the host country does not release for target fulfilment. These certificates are not eligible for the target fulfilment of NDCs, CORSIA, and other offsets, in particular as a contribution to climate neutrality. However, these certificates can, in principle, serve other business purposes that do not conflict with the crediting in the host country and would lead to double counting of certificates. A more detailed formulation of the basically conceivable use option is to be made after the conclusion of the UNFCCC negotiations on Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement as well as the technical work of the Supervisory Body of Article 6.4.