



The
Federal Government



IKI Thematic Call 2023

**[Joint] funding announcement for the selection of projects
under the International Climate Initiative (IKI)**

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Table of contents

| | | |
|------|---|----|
| 1 | Abbreviations..... | 2 |
| 2 | Important note | 3 |
| 3 | Preface..... | 4 |
| 4 | Funding objective, purpose of funding, legal basis | 5 |
| 4.1 | Funding objective and purpose | 5 |
| 4.2 | Legal basis..... | 6 |
| 5 | Object of funding | 7 |
| 5.1 | Thematic priorities | 7 |
| 6 | Implementing organisations | 8 |
| 6.1 | Requirements for consortia..... | 8 |
| 6.2 | Requirements for all implementing organisations..... | 9 |
| 6.3 | Requirements for the lead organisation | 9 |
| 7 | Type, scope and amount of the grant..... | 10 |
| 7.1 | Type of the grant | 10 |
| 7.2 | Amount and duration of the grant..... | 10 |
| 7.3 | Type of financing | 10 |
| 7.4 | Eligible expenses..... | 10 |
| 8 | Other grant or funding regulations | 11 |
| 9 | Procedure | 13 |
| 9.1 | Submission of project outlines and online seminar | 13 |
| 9.2 | Outline phase..... | 13 |
| 9.3 | Proposal phase | 14 |
| 9.4 | Involving a project management agency | 15 |
| 10 | Formal and technical requirements for project outlines..... | 16 |
| 10.1 | Partner countries/regions | 16 |
| 10.2 | Technical requirements for project outlines | 16 |
| 10.3 | Contact of project management agency..... | 21 |
| | Annex 1: IKI selection criteria..... | 22 |
| | Annex 2: Cooperation agreement | 26 |
| | Annex 3: Classification as “local” organisations | 27 |
| | Annex 4: Sample letter of endorsement | 28 |
| | Annex 5: Handling of mitigation credits in the IKI | 29 |

1 Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| AA | German Federal Foreign Office |
| ANBest-P | General Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Grants for Project Funding |
| BHO | Federal Budget Code (Bundeshaushaltsordnung) |
| BMUV | German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety |
| BMWK | German Federal Ministry for Economics and Climate Action |
| CBAM | EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CET | Central European Time |
| CORSIA | Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation |
| DAC | OECD Development Assistance Committee |
| GBF | Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework |
| IATI | International Aid Transparency Initiative |
| IFC | International Finance Corporation |
| IKI | The International Climate Initiative |
| IPLCs | Indigenous peoples and local communities |
| LTS | Long-term strategies |
| NAPs | National Adaptation Plans |
| NBSAPs | National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans |
| NDCs | Nationally Determined Contributions |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| OECMs | Other effective area-base conservation measures |
| PA | Paris Agreement |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| VV | Administrative Regulations |
| VwVfG | Administrative Procedure Act |
| ZEV | Zero Emission Vehicles |
| ZUG | Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft gGmbH |

2 Important note

Funding or commissioning within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) is preceded by an ideas competition. Participation in the ideas competition is open to German and international grant recipients as well as to contractors in the form of implementing organisations of the German Federal Government.

In general, projects implemented by organisations based in Germany and abroad receive funding through grants. German grant recipients receive a grant award document (Zuwendungsbescheid) while grants for international grant recipients are based on a private-law contract. This funding announcement serves as a basis for both kinds of grant recipients.

Information for federal implementing organisations on how to participate in this ideas competition is provided in a separate document (please find [here](#)).

3 Preface

2023 is an important year as the IKI celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Since its foundation in 2008, the IKI has focused on close cooperation in partnership with the developing and emerging countries in which IKI projects are implemented. Over the past 15 years, the IKI has become a well-established part of the international funding landscape and has thus become a reliable partner for climate protection and biodiversity conservation.

At the same time, the IKI is always responding to current developments and therefore constantly evolving – both in terms of thematic focus and structure.

The Federal Government of Germany is stepping up its measures to meet the current challenges. This is also reflected in the focus of the IKI which has been located at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) since 2022 and is implemented jointly with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

With the annual Thematic Call, the IKI addresses current key challenges in the areas of climate protection and biodiversity conservation. This year, the IKI Thematic Call sets out 13 thematic priorities for project ideas.

This funding announcement describes the object of funding and the criteria for project selection and implementation as well as the procedure for this IKI Thematic Call.

We look forward to numerous and innovative project ideas!

4 Funding objective, purpose of funding, legal basis

4.1 Funding objective and purpose

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 (PA – 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) with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The IKI is a central building block for Germany’s international financing measures for climate action, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity conservation in emerging and developing countries. To achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, all countries in the world must achieve a transformation towards greenhouse-gas-neutral societies. For this, the developing and emerging countries need extensive support from industrialised countries. The IKI therefore provides targeted support for developing and emerging countries to achieve the transformation towards a biodiversity-friendly, greenhouse-gas-neutral economy. The core of the IKI is to contribute to the implementation and further development of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

By systematically integrating a gender dimension into all areas of work, processes and project management, the IKI fulfils both national and international commitments. These include the 2030 Agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as, for example, the gender action plans of the UNFCCC (Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender), and the CBD (Gender Plan of Action). In addition, the IKI is guided by the Paris Agreement, which calls on contributing countries to promote gender justice and women’s empowerment in all climate action measures.

Through the Thematic Calls, the IKI primarily funds large-volume projects to accelerate the transformation towards a sustainable, biodiversity-friendly, and low-emission economic and supply structure. In particular, the following overarching goals are pursued:

- The legal framework at the national and sub-national level in partner countries is designed to strengthen emission reduction, adaptation and biodiversity conservation as well as the implementation of this across sectors.
- The governments of partner countries have appropriately increased the ambition of climate and biodiversity contributions in NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and/or long-term strategies (LTSs).
- The IKI makes medium-term contributions to both direct and indirect emission reductions in partner countries.
- People affected by climate change in IKI partner countries are supported in their adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
- Ecosystems in IKI partner countries, including coasts and marine areas, are subject to improved conservation practices and sustainable use.
- The IKI leverages its invested funds to finance climate and biodiversity measures from the public and private sector.

Considering the aforementioned overarching goals, the projects address specific obstacles in implementing the NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs of the partner countries.

4.2 Legal basis

The Federal Government of Germany shall award grants in accordance with the provisions of this funding announcement, Sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (Bundeshaushaltsordnung, BHO) and the Administrative Regulations (Verwaltungsvorschriften, VV) issued in connection with this. There is no entitlement to a grant. Rather, the granting authority decides based on its dutiful discretion within the framework of the budgetary resources available.

In general, projects implemented by organisations based in Germany and abroad receive funding through grants.

In the case of grants to non-German implementing organisations, regulations corresponding to the General Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Grants for Project Funding (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung, ANBest-P) become part of a private-law contract. Where grants are issued to multilateral development banks and international intergovernmental organisations, the model agreements negotiated with the Federal Republic of Germany shall apply.

In the case of concrete evidence of non-compliance with the funding eligibility requirements the grant award document can be revoked in accordance with the statutory provisions and the funds can be reclaimed.

5 Object of funding

The IKI finances climate, adaptation and biodiversity projects exclusively in ODA¹-eligible countries. The aim is to fund projects that pursue holistic approaches across multiple levels and, above all, demonstrate how to practically implement climate action, adaptation and biodiversity conservation on the ground (including policy advice, capacity building, technological cooperation, investment, and local implementation in particular). This Thematic Call addresses the present challenges in climate action, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation that are currently arising in the context of international climate and biodiversity negotiations. For these challenges, the below-mentioned thematic priorities with the respective objectives are defined. For these, project outlines can be submitted. Depending on the thematic priority, the funding volume per project can range from 5 to 20 million EUR.

5.1 Thematic priorities

Funding is only available for project concepts that fall under one of the 13 thematic priorities and that make major contributions to achieving the respective objectives of the thematic priority. The thematic priorities each fall within the area of responsibility of one of the three federal ministries responsible for the IKI: the BMWK, the BMUV, or the AA.

The following thematic priorities can be selected:

1. Climate-friendly transport: Supporting partner countries in the creation of foundations, strategies, and concrete approaches for climate action and Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) /energy transition in transport (BMWK)
2. Embodied carbon: Decarbonisation of the construction and basic materials industry (BMWK)
3. Flexibilisation of the distribution grids for the integration of high proportions of renewable energies (BMWK)
4. Support to partner countries on the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and carbon pricing for industrial decarbonisation (BMWK)
5. Upscaling of successful mitigation-relevant IKI approaches in the sectors energy, energy efficiency, industry, finance and mobility (BMWK)
6. Closing the loop – circular and resource-efficient management as a driver for climate and environmental protection, especially in G20 emerging economies (BMUV)
7. Climate Information Services – Promotion of regional systems for evidence-based NAP processes to strengthen the resilience of people and ecosystems (BMUV)
8. Protecting, restoring, and strengthening the resilience of mountain peatlands in Latin America as well as peatlands in the Argentinian part of Patagonia (BMUV)
9. Capacities and structures for ambitious biodiversity conservation at the sub-national level (BMUV)
10. Resilience through biodiversity – networking and restoration of protected areas, OECMs, and highly degraded areas in Sub-Saharan Africa (BMUV)
11. From the negotiating table to the high seas: Support for the implementation of the BBNJ Treaty for marine protection (BMUV)
12. Diverse, cultural world-views in equitable conservation approaches (BMUV)
13. Accelerating the energy transition in Sub-Saharan Africa (AA)

The thematic priorities are explained in detail in a separate document (please refer to [Thematic Priorities](#)).

¹ ODA (Official Development Assistance) is an internationally recognised measure of public development performance agreed in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Only services to countries included in the [DAC country list](#) are eligible for ODA. The country list is regularly revised by the DAC.

6 Implementing organisations

6.1 Requirements for consortia

Applicants for funding must **apply as a consortium** (i.e. as an association comprised of at least two organisations). When establishing a consortium, it should be taken into account that the coordination effort increases considerably with the number of consortium members. For this reason, bilateral projects may be carried out by a maximum of three consortium partners and regional or global projects are to be implemented by a maximum of six consortium partners. The consortia must designate a lead organisation. IKI projects are expected to implement at least 50% of the funding through local actors in the partner countries / regions. Therefore, wherever possible, organisations from the partner country or from other ODA-eligible countries should be involved in the project as part of the consortium or as contractors (please refer to [Local Content Criterion](#)).

The **lead organisation** becomes the sole contracting or agreement partner of the IKI. It 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 forwarding of grants to consortium partners is based on sub-grant agreements, which the lead organisation concludes with each consortium partner individually (for more information and templates refer to the [IKI Website](#)). A cooperation agreement should also be concluded with all consortium partners (please refer to [Annex II](#)). As far as possible, the main features of the cooperation agreement should already be agreed upon between the implementing organisations when drafting the project outline.

As a rule, the lead organisation is obliged to review the project progress of its consortium partners (organisations receiving sub-grants) over the entire project duration. The type and scope of this inspection as well as a possible obligation to submit inspection notes are regulated in the contracts or grant award documents depending on the underlying legal relationship between the funding agency and the recipient.

The lead organisation must prove its **access to the stakeholders relevant to the project** in the respective partner country directly or via the consortium partners. Projects should strive for appropriate diversity in the consortium and among the contractors to better involve target groups and other actors, especially at the local level (e.g. indigenous peoples and local communities, IPLCs), and to increase the sustainability of the project. In line with the [IKI Gender Strategy](#), local organisations working for social and gender justice in the context of climate and biodiversity should ideally be involved. The involvement of these organisations should contribute to a gender-responsive and inclusive as well as, where possible, gender-transformative project planning and implementation.

The **roles and responsibilities within the consortium** must be clearly presented and reflect the strengths of the individual consortium partners. The distribution of roles and responsibilities should also contribute to sustainable anchoring of the project in the partner country/region. Accordingly, roles in the implementation should be assigned to local organisations wherever possible. The total budget must be divided clearly and appropriately between the implementing organisations and contractors. Subcontracting is permitted if it is proven to be economically viable. The locally applicable public procurement laws must be applied.

6.2 Requirements for all implementing organisations

Eligible organisations

The following organisations are welcome to apply:

- Non-governmental organisations,
- Universities and research institutions,
- International intergovernmental organisations and institutions (such as development banks),
- Organisations and programmes of the United Nations
- Private sector companies.

Governments of the partner countries are not eligible to apply for IKI funding.

Organisations against which the EU has imposed sanctions are excluded from IKI-funding. In particular, the following are excluded from funding:

- a) persons, organisations, or bodies specifically mentioned in the legal acts imposing these sanctions
- b) companies owned or controlled by persons, organisations, or bodies subject to EU sanctions
- c) companies operating in sectors subject to EU sanctions insofar as the aid would undermine the objectives of the sanctions in question

As an applicant or a recipient of funding, the implementing organisation undertakes to comply with all applicable EU and UN sanctions regimes. If the applicable sanction regulations are violated, the full grant can be reclaimed.

Information for German federal implementing organisations on how to participate in this ideas competition is provided in a separate document (please refer to [Information für Durchführungsorganisationen des Bundes zur Auswahl von Projekten im Rahmen des IKI - Themencall 2023](#)).

Expertise and experience

The lead organisation and consortium partners must have the **technical competence, administrative capacity, and management competence** necessary to plan and implement the project.

6.3 Requirements for the lead organisation

Turnover criterion

The average annual IKI project funding volume shall not exceed the average annual turnover of the lead organisation measured over the last three financial years; this shall be substantiated by certified annual accounts.

Professional experience and regional expertise

The lead organisation must have been implementing international cooperation projects in the respective thematic area in ODA countries for at least five years. The lead implementing organisation should also have experience in the respective target region. The lead organisation must demonstrate this professional experience and regional expertise via references in the project outline.

7 Type, scope and amount of the grant

7.1 Type of the grant

For the implementation of the projects, grants may be awarded as non-repayable subsidies on an expenditure basis within the framework of project funding. **Cost-based grants to the lead organisation are excluded** because a transfer here is not permissible under subsidy law. However, implementing organisations that are the final recipients of grants can receive funding on a cost basis within the framework of a referral (applicable only for organisations with headquarters in Germany).

7.2 Amount and duration of the grant

Duration of the grant

The maximum duration of funding is eight years. A minimum duration is not specified.

Amount of the grant

The funding volume provided by the IKI is **a minimum of 5 million to a maximum of 20 million EUR** per project. The specifications on the funding volumes defined in the thematic priorities apply. Exceeding or falling short of the permissible funding volume will lead to the exclusion of the project outline.

7.3 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. 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 grants. Furthermore, cooperation with projects financed by donors is conceivable.

Projects should **contribute to mobilising private finance** – either by directly mobilising private sector capital or by supporting conditions for private sector investments in the climate and biodiversity sectors.

7.4 Eligible expenses

According to the BHO, grant recipients must first exhaust all other funding possibilities before claiming federal funds. Therefore, the IKI only provides supplementary funding, in accordance with the **principle of subsidiarity**. Furthermore, projects can be funded only if the project has not yet started at the time of application.

All expenses required to meet the objectives of the project through sound, cost-effective financial management are eligible for funding. **Efficient expenditure** and the **economical use of funds** must be demonstrated during implementation.

With the **IKI exclusion criteria**, certain activities that are considered too risky for the environment and people are excluded from funding without exception (please refer to [IKI exclusion criteria](#)).

8 Other grant or funding regulations

Any grant award document for IKI funding on an expenditure basis includes the current version of the ANBest-P.

In the proposal for funding, implementing organisations must agree that

- all documents submitted with the proposal or in the subsequent procedure are submitted to the federal ministry responsible or the project management agency, the Federal Audit Office, and the auditing bodies of the European Union upon request, the necessary information is provided, access to books and documents relating to the project and audits are permitted, and the relevant documents are made available;
- 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;
- the funding is recorded in a centralised federal system (funding database, Zuwendungsdatenbank) on the basis of Section 44 BHO in conjunction with VV 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 owned by the project management agency, the federal ministry in charge, or an agency commissioned by one of the two;
 - may be further processed for the purpose of performance monitoring in accordance with the Administrative Regulation on Section 7 BHO;
 - may be passed on to and processed by third parties, which have been commissioned by the federal ministry in charge with the evaluation of the project and which are bound to confidentiality;
 - may be used and evaluated for the purposes of processing and checking funding proposals, statistics, monitoring, scientific issues, linking with official data, evaluation, and performance monitoring of the funding instrument;
- anonymised or aggregated evaluation results may be published and forwarded to the Bundestag as well as to federal and European Union institutions.

To enable electronic processing, it must be ensured in advance that there is a possibility of legally secure electronic drawing and delivery of funding documents.

Evaluation and transparency

The implementing organisations are obliged to provide all data required for the performance monitoring and specified by the funding agency or a body commissioned by it. All projects selected as part of this procedure will be subjected to an external interim and final evaluation as a key contribution to monitoring their success. Selected projects will also be reviewed as part of an impact assessment or strategic evaluation across projects. The implementing organisations are obliged to make the necessary data and information available to the federal ministry in charge, the project management agency, and the bodies responsible for the evaluations and to participate in surveys, interviews, and other data collections intended for this purpose. The evaluation results will be published on the IKI website, among other places, in compliance with all data protection regulations (please refer [to IKI website](#)).

The federal ministry responsible publishes comprehensive project information on ongoing and newly committed IKI projects from climate and biodiversity conservation on a quarterly basis in accordance with the **IATI standard** (please refer to [IATI Data](#)). The implementing organisations must agree that the federal ministry responsible or its agents may submit project-specific information to the IATI platform as part of their reporting.

Handling of mitigation credits in the IKI

IKI funds should be used to promote quality and transparency in the carbon market and to attract private capital to scale IKI projects. The basis for this are the accounting rules for 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. The German government promotes the use and implementation of the UNFCCC Article 6 framework and the alignment of all market segments of the international carbon market with the goals and requirements of the Paris Agreement². A Paris-aligned carbon market thus includes both the compliance markets (UNFCCC and CORSIA) and the voluntary carbon market. Possible funding of projects under the IKI should therefore include capacity building for the application of Article 6; this also applies 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. 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, ODA funds must not be used to generate mitigation credits that could be traded on the compliance market to meet international reduction targets (outside the project country). It must be insured that all IKI-funds are ODA-eligible and contribute to **additional greenhouse gas mitigation**. Thus, emission reductions financed by IKI funds may **not generate internationally transferable and tradable mitigation credits that are used to reach the mitigation targets of 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 5](#) as well as the rules on climate protection projects in the voluntary carbon market as well as in the area of technical and natural carbon sinks must be complied with.

IKI complaints mechanism

[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 IKI implementing organisations are obliged to publicise this complaint option appropriately 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.

² See also [G7 CQM 2023 Annex "Principles of High Integrity Carbon Markets"](#). 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.

9 Procedure

The procedure for selecting projects takes place in two phases: the outline phase and the proposal phase. Participation in the ideas competition as part of the outline phase is open to German and international grant recipients as well as to contractors in the form of implementing organisations of the German Federal Government. However, the latter cannot apply for funding in the form of grants. Information for federal implementing organisations on how to participate in this ideas competition is provided in a separate document (please refer to [Information für Durchführungsorganisationen des Bundes zur Auswahl von Projekten im Rahmen des IKI - Themencall 2023](#)).

9.1 Submission of project outlines and online seminar

Deadline and documents

The project outline must be submitted **in due time** in English based on the IKI outline form exclusively via the [IKI online platform](#). The following deadline shall apply: **27 February 2024**. For this Thematic Call, only project outlines received in due time via the online platform by **04:00 p.m. (CET)** on the last day of submissions will be considered.

The project outline consists of the following documents, which must be submitted together on the online platform:

1. Outline form to fill in on the [IKI online platform](#)
2. Project concept (max. five pages) as a .pdf document of the completed template (more information please refer to [10.2 Project concept](#))
3. Organisational chart explaining the consortium structure.
4. Letter of endorsement from the partner government for bilateral projects (please refer to [10.2 Letter of endorsement for bilateral project outlines](#))

Additional documents submitted (e.g. draft cooperation agreement) are not decisive for the selection process and will not be considered in the assessment of the outlines.

Online seminar

An online seminar in English is planned for 19 December and 20 December 2023 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 (please refer to [IKI website](#)).

9.2 Outline phase

The outlines are selected within the framework of a selection process based on selection criteria. These selection criteria are subdivided into minimum requirements and assessment criteria. If any of the minimum requirements are not fulfilled, the outline is automatically excluded. The assessment criteria serve as the basis for the assessment of eligible project outlines in different weightings (please refer to [Annex I](#)).

The federal ministry in charge pre-selects the most promising project outlines from all eligible project outlines that meet the minimum requirements. These pre-selected project outlines will be assessed in detail according to the formal and technical assessment criteria described in this funding announcement. Based on the results of the detailed assessment, the ministry's own technical evaluation, and the budgetary resources available, the federal ministry in charge shall decide which outlines will be pursued in the second phase of the procedure. In most cases, only one outline per thematic priority is selected. In exceptional cases or for bilateral thematic priorities, also two to a maximum of three outlines may be selected.

9.3 Proposal phase

The procedure for the proposal phase described below is aimed at lead organisations that apply for funding in the form of a grant via a project proposal after successful completion of the outline phase. Implementing organisations of the Federal Republic of Germany that have participated in the ideas competition may be commissioned after submitting a bid, provided that the Federal Republic of Germany has a corresponding interest.

Submission of formal funding applications and decision-making procedures

At the beginning of the proposal phase, all lead organisations of the selected outlines will be informed in writing about the outcome of the assessment and, in the case of success, invited to submit a detailed project proposal. The relevant provisions and sample templates are provided and can be found on the [IKI website](#).

Preparation phase

Depending on the necessity, a preparation phase is recommended for the preparation of the full project proposal to optimally align the project with the local needs together with relevant actors. The preparation phase and the results obtained are intended, in particular, to improve the quality of the project proposal, to ensure local anchoring and the political backing of the partner government(s), and to minimise enquiries during the initiation process. A preparation phase is particularly recommended if:

- the implementing organisation has no direct experience in implementing IKI projects;
- project regions for local measures must be defined together with the partner countries;
- long-term project cooperation in the proposed consortium with the selected local partners has not yet taken place;
- the success of the project is particularly dependent on a cross-sectoral connection in the partner countries and the participation of local actors.

In the project outline, implementing organisations must explain why a preparation phase is necessary or not necessary for the preparation of the project proposal. The expenses involved in the preparation phase are eligible as part of the overall project and reduce the budget of the implementation phase accordingly. The duration of the preparation phase does not reduce the maximum duration of funding for the actual project. This means that the duration of the preparation phase is estimated in addition to the maximum duration of funding of eight years (please refer to [7.2 “Duration of the grant”](#)). The period and activities of the preparation phase must be clearly distinguished from the period and activities of the actual project (implementation phase). During the preparation phase, only measures of a preparatory nature are funded; measures to implement project objectives of the implementation phase are not yet funded during this period.

For the implementation of a preparation phase, the lead organisation must submit a corresponding project proposal at the beginning of the application phase. The relevant provisions and model templates are provided on the [IKI website](#).

The preparation phase can take up to nine months. Once the detailed project proposal has been received, it is finally reviewed by the IKI Office of ZUG and the federal ministry responsible, and funding is granted if the review result is positive.

Carrying out a gender analysis

In the application phase, a gender analysis carried out according to the minimum standards of the IKI must be submitted for all projects (please refer to [IKI Gender Guidelines](#)). For projects with a preparation phase, the gender analysis should be carried out during this phase; for all other projects, this should be carried out within the first six months of the start of the project.

Regulations to be observed

Sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), Sections 23 and 44 of the 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 (Bundeshaushaltsordnung).

9.4 Involving a project management agency

The IKI Office of Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH is responsible for supervising the funding project and handling the initiation formalities (please refer to [10.3 Contact of project management agency](#)).

10 Formal and technical requirements for project outlines

10.1 Partner countries/regions

ODA-eligibility and number of partner countries

All partner countries must be ODA-eligible by the deadline for submission of the project outline ([list of ODA-eligible countries](#)). The number of countries addressed in the project outline must be limited to five in order to increase the impact in individual countries. Project outlines that include more than five partner countries will not be considered in the project selection process.

Geographical approach

In the respective thematic priority, the geographical approach may be further specified. In this case, the submitted project outline must be consistent with this. Deviations from the specified geographical approach of the respective thematic priority will lead to the exclusion of the project outline.

If the geographical approach is not further specified in the thematic priority, the following principles apply: For regional projects, the countries included in the respective geographical region do not necessarily have to be neighbouring countries. Projects with a partner country (bilateral projects) are possible and explicitly envisaged in some thematic priorities but should nevertheless have a regional focus. Global projects that cover more than one continent are eligible only in exceptional cases and where justification of added value is provided. In any case, the geographical approach of the project outline (regional/bilateral/global) must be appropriate and clearly documented. The desired partner countries must be defined in the project outline.

Connectivity/avoidance of double funding

To take advantage of synergies and avoid double funding, **references to other funding instruments and priorities** must be taken into account with respect to planned, ongoing, and previous funding measures offered by the German Government and the European Union as well as national and international funding organisations. The more similar a planned project is to an ongoing/completed project in terms of its objectives, target groups, measures, and specific products, the more precise this distinction or affiliation should be.

10.2 Technical requirements for project outlines

Project concept

To present the project idea, a project concept must be submitted together with the completed outline form (please refer to [9.1 Deadlines and Documents](#)). The project concept addresses the classification of the project idea with reference to the overarching objective of the Thematic Call and the selected thematic priority. The project concept serves as a detailed description of the country selection and the initial situation on site, the envisaged project planning and results chain, and the formulation of the target groups. In addition, explanations on the implementation of at least a gender-responsive approach as well as on local content, innovation, and transformation are part of the project concept.

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 is available on the [IKI online platform](#).

The requirements for the project outline and the project concept are listed below:

Thematic fit

The project outline must **align with the chosen thematic priority**.

Climate and biodiversity relevance

Depending on the orientation of the thematic priority, the projects should support the partner countries in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement or the CBD and thus the GBF. The project outline should clearly demonstrate how the planned project activities contribute to the implementation or further development of the NDCs, the NAP process, or the NBSAPs.

SDGs

Projects should pursue a holistic approach in line with the 2030 Agenda and should take into account all relevant SDGs of the UN as well as possible conflicting goals. In particular, consistent consideration should be given to life cycle assessment methodology (i.e. the holistic management of resources, chemicals, and waste) in order to satisfy the transformative approach of the 2030 Agenda to achieving greater sustainability.

Target groups

The project concept should clearly list all target groups relevant to the project and clearly explain how the planned project activities can make a specific and visible contribution to solving current challenges for the target groups. The list of relevant target groups is gender-disaggregated and, if necessary, broken down according to other factors relevant to the project context (e.g. age, socio-economic position, and indigenous status). It must be shown how these stakeholders and their concerns, in particular vulnerable groups (e.g. IPLCs), have been and will be involved in the previous and future project design and implementation (see also Chapter 9. *Stakeholder engagement* of the [IKI Safeguards Policy](#)). It must also be outlined how knowledge transfer to these actors is to take place.

Political backing

The successful implementation of the projects requires the explicit interest of the governments of the partner countries in cooperating with the Federal Republic of Germany on climate action and biodiversity conservation. In the outline phase, an initial assessment is made with regard to political support.

To that end, the project outline must clearly demonstrate how planned project activities correspond to the priorities of the respective partner country and will be supported by the governments of the partner countries involved if implemented. It is recommended to indicate whether partner country governments and other key stakeholders have already been consulted on the proposed project concept during the outline preparation phase.

In the further process, the political backing is to be ensured by the implementing organisation together with the responsible federal ministry.

Letter of endorsement for bilateral project outlines

For project outlines with only one partner country (bilateral project outlines), a letter of endorsement from the respective partner government must also be submitted during the outline phase. At best, this should be available when the project outline is submitted. Otherwise, this letter of endorsement should be submitted upon request by the IKI Office³.

³ Emails from partner ministries confirming support for the project concept will also be accepted. In this case, the letter of endorsement must be submitted at the latest at the kick-off meeting.

Letters of support should be issued by the national ministry responsible for project implementation in the sector concerned and by the relevant ministry for environment and climate issues, including UNFCCC climate negotiations and CBD biodiversity negotiations (template for letters of support under [Annex 4](#)).

Letters of support can also be submitted for project outlines with more than one partner country (regional or global project outlines); however, these are not required at this stage.

Embedding in national framework conditions

Planned project activities must take into account the respective **political, economic, cultural, and legal framework conditions** in the partner countries/regions and must align with national/regional policies (including those beyond NDCs/NBSAPs/NAPs). This also applies to national gender justice strategies, especially if the main or important secondary objective of the project is to promote gender justice.

To this end, existing global, regional, and national partnerships and collaborative mechanisms should also be used or contributions made to them (e.g. the [NDC Partnership](#) or the [NBSAP Accelerator Partnership](#)). Their contents, structures, processes, and networks in the respective country context can be used in the context of publicly accessible information services and in coordination with the contact persons in the secretariats or on-site.

Local Content Criterion

IKI projects are expected to implement at least 50% of the funding through local actors in the partner countries' regions. Local actors are implementing organisations of the consortium as well as contractors that have their own legal personality according to the applicable national law of the partner country or, in the case of regional organisations, focus their activities on the respective project region (please refer to [Annex 3 Classification as "local" organisations](#)).

Beyond the implementation of funding, the project aims to use and/or further develop the professional and administrative expertise of local organisations. Close cooperation with local organisations is intended to contribute to the local anchoring of capacity development on-site and the sustainability of projects. For more information please refer to [How the International Climate Initiative \(IKI\) strengthens the local embedding of projects](#).

Ambition, transformation and innovation

The project must pursue **ambitious goals** in the respective country and sector context and be designed to achieve **measurable results**. IKI-funded projects should contribute to the social and economic transformation towards a greenhouse gas-neutral, biodiversity-friendly, and gender-balanced society as well as a way of life that respects the physical limits of our planet. **Transformative change** is far-reaching and brings about profound changes across all levels of society (i.e. environmental, economic, and social).

The **transformative character** of the project concept must be demonstrated by one or more of the following aspects:

- **Ambition:** The project will achieve and document a substantial and measurable improvement compared with a business-as-usual trajectory.
The outline must demonstrate how the project is embedded in and supports existing carbon neutral and/or biodiversity conservation development initiatives in the partner country from a regional and/or global perspective.
- **Change:** The project should bring about systemic and/or behavioural changes in decision-makers or a considerable number of individuals or institutions. The steps

required to achieve this should be as irreversible as possible (creating “positive path dependencies” – for example, through the large-scale development of climate-friendly infrastructure or entry into force of new legal frameworks).

- **Model potential:** The project works transparently, is replicable through suitable public documentation, and evolves to have a scalable impact in other countries/regions and/or similar sectors.

The IKI promotes **innovative** approaches that offer new or partially new solutions to the challenges of mitigating climate change and biodiversity conservation. A high level of innovation is characterised by a clear distinction from the previous state of knowledge or the state of technological solutions. In this context, “innovative” means any technological, methodological, or social measure that has not been applied in the project region before or not in the same form.

Project planning

Projects must demonstrate the quality of their solutions by applying a results chain that contributes to the overarching goals of the IKI and follows the methodological guidelines of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (please refer to [Guidelines on Project Planning and Monitoring](#) in the International Climate Initiative). The results chain of these should be plausibly presented in the relevant context and should provide sufficiently ambitious **yet realistic and detailed solutions to the problems** involved in the project. The proposed project activities should be realistically feasible within the available budget and time frame.

Sustainable project results after the end of the funding (exit strategy)

The project outline must show how the project activities contribute to the **continuation or maintenance of funded activities and results by local actors after the end of the IKI funding**. Reference can also be made to the chosen consortium structure. During the last two years of the project duration, activities must focus on ensuring this (“**exit strategy**”). An increase in funding at or after the end of the project is generally not envisaged.

Climate neutrality

The IKI supports measures to reduce emissions from business trips (e.g. by using video conferencing). Implementing organisations are required to **conduct project activities and investments using project funds in a manner that is as climate-neutral, resource-efficient, and environmentally friendly as possible**. If business trips are unavoidable, they may be eligible for compensation. When selecting offset projects, emphasis should be placed on high-quality certificates (please refer to [Voluntary CO₂ compensation through climate protection projects](#)).

Environmental and social standards

Systematically taking into account environmental and social standards within the IKI aims to prevent IKI projects from negatively impacting people and the environment. The IKI implementing organisations are expected 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 outlined in the project outline. The risk category does not affect the project selection process as long as the safeguards measures are in line with the risk.

Gender strategy and the overcoming of discrimination

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 protection and adaptation to the impacts of climate change as well

as the conservation of biodiversity. Based on this, the IKI supports projects with at least gender-responsive project planning and implementation (please refer to [Information on carrying out a gender analysis](#)). The IKI supports projects with a gender-transformative approach and/or projects with the promotion of gender justice as a main objective.

Similarly, IKI projects should contribute to overcoming social, cultural, geographical, political, legal, religious, racial, ableist, and/or economic discrimination and disadvantage in their project activities.

10.3 Contact of project management agency

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

Email: IKI-Office@z-u-g.org
Tel.: +49 30 72618 – 0222

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

Berlin, 5 December 2023

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

On behalf of
Dr Philipp Behrens

Annex 1: IKI selection criteria

The projects are assessed and selected by the respective ministries according to the following selection 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 | | |
| 1 | ! | Submission in due time via online platform |
| | | The project outline was submitted in due time and via the IKI online platform. |
| 2 | ! | Completeness of the documents |
| | | The documents were submitted completely and in accordance with the specifications. |
| 3 | ! | Need for funding |
| | | There is a need for funding. |
| 4 | ! | No early start of measures |
| | | The project implementation has not yet started before the submission of the outline. |
| 5 | ! | Exclusion criteria |
| | | The project does not provide for any activities that are excluded from funding in accordance with the IKI exclusion criteria . |
| Duration and amount of funding | | |
| 6 | ! | Funding volume |
| | | The IKI funding volume proposed in the project outline is in line with the specifications of the respective thematic priority. Exceeding or falling short of the permissible funding volume will lead to the exclusion of the project outline. |
| 7 | ! | Project duration |
| | | The maximum duration of funding is eight years. |
| Project funding | | |
| 8 | | Own funds |
| | | The financial contributions of the lead organisation as well as the amount of additional funding resources (co-financing) are clear and appropriate. |
| 9 | | Private sector mobilisation |
| | | The project should contribute to mobilising private finance. |

| Choice of partner country / countries | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 10 | ! | ODA-eligible countries | The partner countries are on the list of ODA-eligible countries at the time the outline is submitted. |
| 11 | ! | Partner countries | The partner countries suggested in the project outline are in line with the possible partner countries for the thematic priority. Deviations will lead to the exclusion of the project outline. |
| 12 | | Appropriate geographical approach | The geographical approach of the project outline (regional/bilateral/global) is clearly justified. |
| 13 | ! | Number of partner countries | The number of countries addressed in the project outline is limited to five. Project outlines that include more than five partner countries will not be considered. |
| Technical eligibility of the project concept | | | |
| 14 | ! | Objective of the thematic priority | The planned project is technically suitable for achieving the specific objectives of the respective thematic priority. |
| Implementation context | | | |
| 15 | | Relevance for the implementation of the NDCs/NBSAPs/NAPs | The planned project makes a relevant contribution to the implementation of NDCs/NAPs/NBSAPs. |
| 16 | | Connectivity with national/regional policies | The planned project ties in with specific underlying political and legal frameworks as well as policies and priorities in the respective region/country and leverages existing partnerships. |
| 17 | | Relevance for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN | The planned project follows the comprehensive approach of the 2030 Agenda and takes into account all applicable SDGs. Possible conflicting goals are taken into consideration. |
| 18 | | Political backing/ Letter of endorsement | The project outline indicates that the government of the partner country generally supports the planned project activities. When submitting the project outline, letters of endorsement can be attached. However, these are required only for bilateral project outlines during the outline phase. |
| 19 | | Linking to the project/funding landscape | The planned project ties in with the existing local project landscape/funding landscape. Double funding is avoided. |

| Project planning | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 20 | | Theory of change/results chain | The project outline demonstrates the quality of its problem-solving approach by applying the OECD results chain (please refer to Guidelines on Project Planning and Monitoring in the International Climate Initiative). The proposed solution approach is ambitious and can be realistically implemented within the selected time frame with the available budget. |
| 21 | | Ambition and measurability | The planned project has ambitious goals for the respective project context and is designed for measurable results. Considering gender justice during project planning is positively assessed. |
| 22 | | Transformation | The project aims to bring about systemic and/or behavioural changes in decision-makers or a considerable number of individuals or institutions. |
| 23 | | Innovation | The planned project offers an innovative solution for a specific region. |
| 24 | | Environmental and social risks, possible safeguard measures | Possible environmental and social risks as well as possible safeguards measures are presented in a comprehensible and appropriate manner. The commitment to comply with the Safeguards Standards is a funding requirement. |
| 25 | | Prevention of discrimination (including implementation of the IKI gender strategy) | The project concept provides for the implementation of specific measures to promote gender justice and prevent discrimination. These measures serve to implement the project objectives and are clearly recognisable in the results chain. |
| Target groups | | | |
| 26 | | Participation and knowledge transfer to target groups | The project outline clearly shows how relevant target groups and their concerns have been or will be included in the previous and future project design and implementation. It also clearly shows how knowledge transfer to relevant target groups is to take place. |
| Sustainable and replicability of the project results | | | |
| 27 | | Exit strategy | The project outline indicates how project activities contribute to ensuring that funded activities and results continue or are maintained once the IKI funding ends (exit strategy). |
| 28 | | Replicability | The planned project can be replicated in other countries/regions and/or in other sectors. |
| Eligibility of implementing organisations | | | |
| Eligibility of the consortium | | | |
| 29 | ! | Application as consortium Number of consortium partners | The project outline provides for an application as a consortium (i.e. an association of at least two organisations). Bilateral projects may be carried out by a maximum of three consortium partners, and regional or global projects are to be implemented by a maximum of six consortium partners. Exceeding the maximum permissible number of consortium partners will lead to the exclusion of the outline. |
| 30 | | Local content (50% rule) | As far as possible, 50% of the funding will be implemented by actors classified as local organisations (please refer to Annex 3:Classification as “local” organisations) |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 31 | | Appropriate distribution of roles and tasks | The roles and tasks within the consortium are clearly and appropriately assigned. |
| 32 | | Appropriate budget allocation | The total budget allocation between the implementing organisations is documented and appropriate. |
| Eligibility of implementing organisations | | | |
| 33 | | Technical eligibility and qualification of all implementing organisations | The lead organisation and consortium partners have the necessary technical and administrative eligibility as well as management competence to implement and coordinate the planned project activities. |
| 34 | | Access to relevant stakeholders | The lead organisation presents its access to the stakeholders in the partner country relevant to the project in a comprehensible way – either directly or via the consortium partners. |
| 35 | ! | Legal structure | The lead organisation and consortium partners have a suitable legal form and are therefore eligible for funding. |
| Formal eligibility of the lead organisation | | | |
| 36 | ! | Turnover criterion | The lead organisation meets the turnover criterion. |
| 37 | ! | Expenditure based accounting | The accounting of the lead organisation is done on an expenditure basis (applicable for organisations with headquarters in Germany). |
| Technical eligibility of the lead organisation | | | |
| 38 | ! | Experience in international cooperation | The lead organisation has at least five years of experience in thematically relevant project implementation in ODA countries. |
| 39 | | Regional expertise | The lead organisation should have experience in the chosen target region. |

Annex 2: Cooperation agreement

Applicants for funding must apply as a consortium (i.e. as an association comprised of at least two organisations). The consortia must designate a lead organisation.

The lead organisation becomes the sole contracting or agreement partner of the IKI. It 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. A cooperation agreement should be concluded with all consortium partners and attached to the full proposal. As far as possible, the main features of the cooperation agreement should be agreed between the implementing organisations when the project outline is prepared. The agreement supplements the underlying arrangements for the funding between the consortium partners and may not contain any agreements or arrangements to the contrary.

The consortium partners maintain full responsibility for the cooperation agreement and should seek legal advice if necessary. No legal advice, liability, and/or review of content is provided by the federal ministry responsible or the IKI Office of ZUG.

Before a funding decision is made, evidence of a basic agreement between the implementing organisations on at least the following points must be provided:

- Lead organisation
- Other implementing organisations (legal status, headquarters, representative authority)
- Duration, work schedule, and clear division of responsibilities in other implementing organisations

In addition, the following aspects should be coordinated within the framework of the cooperation agreement:

- Reporting and information obligations in the consortium
- Liability of the consortium partners
- Rights of use and copyrights
- Dealing with changes along the project duration
- Visibility of the consortium partners
- Procedures for settling internal disputes (e.g. the use of mediation)

Annex 3: Classification as “local” organisations

For local organisations in the consortium or as contractors:

- (1) Local organisations must have their own legal personality according to the respective national law in force in the partner country.
- (2) Partner ministries are generally excluded from funding.

The following applies to national and regional offices of international organisations:

- (1) Offices must be registered in a partner country and pay taxes there.
- (2) The national or regional office can make independent decisions and is largely independent of instructions from the “umbrella organisation” in the operational design and implementation of project funds.

International organisations that do not meet these criteria cannot count their project budget share as local content – even if national personnel are employed in the project. National offices of international multilateral organisations (e.g. UN agencies, the GIZ, or the KfW), embassies of other countries, or the national offices of other bilateral donor countries therefore do not count as local content.

The following applies to regional organisations such as regional development banks, regional associations of states / economic communities:

- (1) The organisation is based in a country of the region in which the IKI project is implemented and focuses activities on the partner countries.
- (2) At least one of the partner countries is part of this region.
- (3) National partner institutions are involved in the implementation at the country level.
- (4) For banks and networks: Partner countries are members of the regional bank or network.

In justified exceptions, IKI projects may deviate from the target of 50%:

- (1) In the spirit of promoting South-South exchange, there may be an exception to the 50% rule if a substantial part of the project budget is implemented by organisations from the Global South that are not registered in the partner country or region.
- (2) Projects may deviate from the 50% rule if they can plausibly justify that the local content requirement is not possible because of specific country or subject contexts and/or represents a high obstacle to the effectiveness and implementation of the project or there are other reasons inherent in the specific project constellation.

It shall be decided on a case-by-case basis whether exceptions are permissible. Even in the case of exceptions, the local content should be as high as possible.

For more information, please refer to [IKI website](#).

Annex 4: Sample letter of endorsement

Contact of IKI
IKI Office
Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH
Stresemannstraße 69–71
10963 Berlin
Germany

Sample letter of endorsement

Place, Date

Dear ...,

The [*Name of institution*], represented by [*Name of representative*], hereby confirms its support of the project outline [*“Project title”*] as submitted by the project consortium of [*Names of implementing organisations*] for the ideas competition “Thematic call 2023” under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

We confirm that the objectives of the project outline are aligned with national policies and strategies, including the national commitments of the [*NDC/ NBSAP/ NAP*].

We understand that this letter does not represent any commitment to IKI-funding, nor does it give rise to any legal entitlement. The decision on funding will be based on the review of a full project outline and depends on the available budgetary allocations.

Given the above, we are pleased to confirm the support of this project outline if pre-selected for IKI-funding, and we are willing to collaborate extensively with the consortium for its successful completion.

Signature

Name of contact person

Position

Ministry

Annex 5: Handling of mitigation credits⁴ in the IKI

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

- IKI-funded projects may aim to develop **conceptual preparations for mitigation activities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** (methodology development, project design, and feasibility studies). However, the technical implementation (i.e. after financial close) must be implemented 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 emission 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 protection 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 country of implementation 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 segment⁵, 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 protection projects in the area of technical and natural carbon sinks: Since the rules for mitigation credits from technical and natural carbon sinks under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement have not yet been 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 protection 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.

⁴ This certifies an emission reduction (converted into the unit CO₂ equivalent) that results either from an additional mitigation or integration of greenhouse gases (compared with the baseline). These certificates should not be confused with emission allowances, which are traded in an emissions trading system and are subject to a “cap”. For the sake of clarity, we use the term (emission) mitigation credits here.

⁵ 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.