

Guidelines on knowledge management in projects of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

This document provides guidelines on knowledge management in the course of planning and implementing IKI projects. The corresponding knowledge management activities for each IKI project need to be described by the applicant in the project proposal (especially sections 5.2 and 5.1) and steadily implemented throughout the entire project.

Background and objectives of IKI knowledge management

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is an important part of the German government international climate finance commitment. Since 2022, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) has been the lead ministry for the IKI. The funding program cooperates with its founding ministry, the Federal Ministry for Environment Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), as well as the Federal Foreign Office.

In order to avert the gravest consequences of climate change, the IKI seeks to initiate concrete reform and transformation processes in its partner countries. Such targeted cooperation efforts with partner countries also provide crucial impetus for the processes in context of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Furthermore, IKI projects should support the policy dialogue between the respective ministry and partner governments, as well as other stakeholders relevant to the IKI.

The individual IKI projects possess a wealth of technical, regional and policy-strategy information as well as knowledge on biodiversity and climate protection. Through existing cooperation networks, project implementers have potential access to an enormous number of knowledge-sources around the world covering almost all intervention areas and topics relevant to the IKI. However, this expertise is very heterogeneous and thus makes it imperative for individual IKI projects to have structured and reliable knowledge management mechanisms, in order to harness resources across the entire IKI portfolio.

Interface Projects

As part of the knowledge management strategy of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), so-called “interface projects (IFP)” have been set up in selected partner countries¹. These projects support the exchange of all implementing organisations and projects that are engaging in these countries and provide the ministries with information regarding the entire country portfolio. In particular, tasks of these interface projects include:

- Distribution of an IKI newsletter every three months
- Compiling and maintenance of a mailing list that contains all involved actors and implementing organisations on behalf of IKI in the respective partner country
- Organising and hosting interface workshops for IKI implementing organisations, including meetings with a focus on specific subjects
- Compilation of climate and biodiversity relevant political issues for the ministries

¹ Currently, interface projects are being implemented in the following countries: Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and Ukraine.

The information is used by the ministries for internal consultation both at the technical and the management level in order to ensure as better understanding and management of IKI activities within partner countries and with regards to the communication with partners.

If you are planning concrete activities in one or several countries with interface projects please include the cooperation with the interface project in your knowledge management strategy and plan for the annual participation in the networking workshops. You will receive further information from the project manager of the interface project shortly after approval of your IKI project. Your contact details will be forwarded.

Knowledge management in IKI projects

In general, IKI knowledge management seeks to ensure that the knowledge and skills required for achieving the strategic and operational IKI goals are available and can be actively used by all participating actors.

Operationalising knowledge management in IKI projects encompasses two core elements: firstly, the development of a project specific knowledge management strategy, which is presented in the project proposal (see sections 1. and 2. below). Secondly, a regular and up to date transmission of knowledge to the respective ministry in order to allow for efforts performed by implementing organisation to be acknowledged in political processes (see section 3 and the appendix on project updates).

The following points are addressed in the project proposal (PP) form:

1. Knowledge management within projects and provision of access to relevant information for the IKI (PP, Section 5.2)

Among others, the project proposal should contain the following information:

- A contact person for knowledge management within the project (in case this role could not be assigned in the proposal phase, it has to be provided as soon as possible after the project begins)
- Details on the knowledge management strategy and potentially, the strategy for communicating project results, including in particular:
 - The target group of the respective knowledge management output (e.g. the ministry/ IKI Office at Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH, project partners, other implementing organisations)
 - Expected project results relevant to knowledge management as well as
 - Instruments to systemise and communicate project experiences (e.g. project website, newsletter, IKI-website, workshops/ conferences, online cooperation platforms, etc.)
- Measures to generate, document and disseminate knowledge on
 - the activities of other donors to the theme, country, region or project environment as well as
 - the political framework conditions of the country or region also with regards to the UN-negotiation context

2. Horizontal knowledge transfer aimed at avoiding duplication, fostering synergies and encouraging the replication of successful approaches (PP, Section 5.1)

Regarding the strategy for knowledge exchange with relevant actors the project proposal should contain the following information:

- A list of relevant projects (IKI-projects, projects of other donors) and institutions for an active knowledge exchange

- A definition of the specific goals and target groups of knowledge exchange between the IKI project and other projects or actors
- A list of important existing and/or planned results/products by other projects, which are relevant to the proposed IKI project
- Design and instruments of knowledge exchange (potentially including a process map)
- The type and scope of regular information provision and, potentially, the inclusion of IKI Office/the ministry in this knowledge exchange

3. Biannual project update

On the basis of annual reports, the ministries retrospectively tracks the progress of projects with special regard to goal attainment. It is, however, equally important for the visibility of the IKI as well as for knowledge management at the portfolio level to have access to up to date and, where suitable, anticipatory project information from the implementing organisations at regular intervals. Therefore, it is helpful to receive information of public interest as well as information on relevant political developments and project activities in the projects' environment every six months. In addition, we seek to keep the project short descriptions up to date on our website. Therefore, it is expected of implementing organisations to adjust the short descriptions in case significant changes have occurred during the project's implementation leading to alterations in comparison to the original project concept. To this end, in cooperation with implementing organisations, we intend that IKI projects contribute in the best possible way to knowledge management, public communication and to international cooperation of the ministries with their political partners.

We would thus be very grateful if you could send us the biannual project update by 31 March as well as by 15 September of every year. The format of the short descriptions to be updated every six-months as well as useful tips for transmitting other updated project information can be found in the appendix on project updates. This is not subject to the general requirement that IKI Office needs to be informed if relevant circumstances change or become entirely obsolete in such a way that project goals will not be reached as planned.