



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



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE



Exclusion criteria for IKI projects

Valid from 15.01.2023

(updated: May 2023, July 2026)

The following projects and activities are not eligible for IKI funding:

- 1. Violation of national or international rules on phase-outs, or of prohibitions or an international ban:**
 - i. certain pharmaceuticals in line with [WHO 'Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability'](#);
 - ii. toxic substances such as mercury in line with the [Minamata Convention](#);
 - iii. protected animals as well as animal products, plants and plant products in line with [CITES](#);
 - iv. destructive fishing methods¹;
 - v. cross-border trade in waste in line with the [Basel Convention](#).
- 2. Activities which use forced labour or harmful child labour in line with the ILO core labour standards.**
- 3. Manufacturing, sale or purchase of arms or ammunition.**
- 4. Activities involving forced eviction which violate the [UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement](#).**
- 5. Activities with a direct impact on land that belongs to indigenous peoples or that indigenous peoples use on the basis of customary law without appropriate consultations corresponding to international law with the affected indigenous peoples.**
- 6. Manufacturing, sale or use of racist, ableist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic or other antidemocratic media.**
- 7. Activities which are prohibited by the legislation of the country of implementation or by international conventions to protect resources, biodiversity or cultural heritage.**
- 8. Activities which promote the prospecting for, exploration of and exploitation of coal, oil, natural gas or radioactive resources. This also includes activities that facilitate the use of these resources to generate energy and their respective infrastructure.²**
- 9. Activities which contribute directly to the destruction or substantial impairment of areas or ecosystems that merit particular protection (critical habitats and high conservation value areas) or which require offsetting measures due to their negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystem performance.**
- 10. Activities which contribute directly to the introduction or spread of invasive species.³**
- 11. Introduction of neophytes or neozoa which are not yet found in the project region.⁴**

¹ High seas fishing using dynamite, drift nets longer than 2.5 km or the use of drift nets in a way that destroys ecosystems or renders essential ecosystem functions impossible (FAO/UNEP [Expert Meeting on Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices](#)).

² This also applies to transition energy. In well-founded cases, an exception can be made for funding existing energy infrastructure which contributes to the conversion to zero-carbon energy carriers or to significant reductions in emissions.

³ Inter alia in line with the database of invasive species of the [IUCN Species Survival Commission](#).

⁴ E.g. in line with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility database [www.gbif.org](#).

12. Activities which contribute directly to the **deforestation of primary forests**.
13. Manufacturing, sale or use of **living modified organisms**.⁵
14. Manufacturing, sale or use of **active pesticide substances** or their formulation covered by [WHO criteria 1-8](#) because they are categorised as acutely toxic, chronically toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction or are listed by UN conventions⁶, as well as of glyphosate or other total herbicides with a similar effect, and of fipronil, clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam when used on open land.⁷
15. Activities which require **animal testing** and do not comply with [Directive 2010/63/EU](#) on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.
16. Production, sale or use of **radioactive material**.⁸
17. Manufacturing, sale or use of **asbestos**.
18. Activities which promote **prostitution, pornography** or controversial forms of **gambling**.
19. Use of **by-products or waste products from coal extraction or combustion** for the decarbonisation of industrial processes.⁹

⁵ Living modified organisms (LMOs) are also described as genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

⁶ [Rotterdam Convention](#) (1998), [Stockholm Convention](#) (2001)

⁷ Projects which demonstrably aim to reduce or stop the manufacturing, sale or use of these pesticides are excepted from this.

⁸ Medical devices, quality control devices, uses in which the radioactive source is insignificant or appropriately shielded, are excepted from this.

⁹ This exclusion criterion was added in the July 2026 update and applies from the date of publication

Guidance Note

Exclusion criterion 8

Steel production:

- Measures that extend the service life of coal-fired blast furnaces or use fossil coal for steel production are excluded. These include, amongst others:
 - energy efficiency measures,
 - the co-firing of biomass or hydrogen in coal-fired blast furnaces and
 - the use of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in combination with the blast furnace process.

Cement production:

- CCUS measures for energy-related emissions in the cement sector are excluded. CCUS measures aimed at reducing process-related emissions are eligible for funding if these emissions cannot be avoided through other measures.
- CCUS schemes designed to promote fossil fuels are excluded. These include the use of CO₂ for:
 - offshore oil production,
 - fracking and
 - similar applications.

Energy sector:

- The footnote relating to exclusion criterion 8 refers to transitional energy sources, typically natural gas. As a general rule, no measures aimed at subsidising or investing in new gas-fired power stations are eligible for funding. Exceptions for existing energy infrastructure may be eligible for funding if they
 - demonstrably lead to a transition to CO₂-free energy sources (e.g. green hydrogen) or
 - result in significant emission reductions that are directly attributable to the project activities (in accordance with Standard Indicator 1 – direct emissions).

Exclusion criterion 19

Steel production:

- Measures relating to scrap recycling are not excluded.

Cement production:

- Measures that promote the use of coal-based fly ash in the production of cement or concrete are excluded.

Change log

May 2023

- 1) Editorial changes
- 2) Exclusion criterion 4: Activities involving forced evictions (previously referred to as forced resettlements) that contravene the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement.

July 2026

- 1) Editorial changes

- 2) The wording of Exclusion Criterion 8 has been amended to make it easier to read. No changes have been made to the content.
- 3) Inclusion of the new Exclusion Criterion 19.
- 4) Inclusion of Guidance Notes.
- 5) Inclusion of the Change log.