

IKI Small Grants

- International Calls -

Funding Information

(objectives, conditions, and criteria)

Call 2021/2022

Submission Deadline: April 15 of 2022

1. Background

Since 2008 the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) has been funding projects that address climate change, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to climate change, conserving natural carbon sinks / REDD+ and the conservation of biodiversity. IKI projects and programmes are comparably large in scale, calling for integrated approaches of project consortia. Smaller organisations are part of these projects but rather as members of larger consortia. However, the implementation of measures under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also require the dedicated strengthening of stand-alone capacities of small and local organisations from partner countries.

BMU has therefore commissioned GIZ in the context of the project “Capacity Building and Finance for National and Local Action on Climate and Biodiversity” to implement the IKI Small Grants funding scheme, aimed at promoting the work of small organisations in developing and emerging economies, as part of the BMU’s International Climate Initiative (IKI).

The call for project proposals, the selection process and the disbursement of funds are handled by GIZ and in accordance with GIZ procedures.

2. Objectives

The focus of the IKI Small Grants scheme is to provide support to the implementation of both the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in enacting the Paris Agreement as well as to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in addressing the global loss of biodiversity (Aichi Targets and the goals of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework). With the IKI Small Grants scheme, BMU extends its IKI strategy and outreach to small national, regional, and local organisations to encourage active citizen involvement and local approaches to threats caused by climate change and biodiversity loss. They will be supported through the financing of their proposed projects and will also receive support through accompanying measures for capacity development of their organisations. Furthermore, GIZ will work with the organisations where possible and necessary in enlarging their networks and integrating their activities into national policy objectives.

Project proposals must clearly address one of the IKI funding areas (although in some cases project concepts might address more than one funding area):

- Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change
- Conserving natural carbon sinks / REDD+
- Conserving biological diversity

Please note that project proposals must clearly focus on solving challenges related to climate change and/or the loss of biodiversity. Proposals with another key focus will not be considered.

Please refer to the IKI homepage for details on the four IKI funding areas:
<https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/issues>

Innovative and ambitious projects with the focus of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions are explicitly invited and especially welcome.

Proposals that aim at contributing to gender equality and address gender-specific issues are also encouraged. A limited number of projects which particularly address gender issues or are submitted by women's rights organisations or networks will be selected.

Also, young people are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change - in the future and in the present. They bring in their perspectives for innovation and commitment, and their approaches will shape future policies. Project proposals that involve the engagement of young people are therefore particularly encouraged.

3. Partner countries

Applicants of project proposals must be based and registered in countries that fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Please consult the DAC List of ODA Recipients¹. Projects must be implemented in countries included in this list. Projects with a global focus will not be funded.

Please note that proposals for projects in countries that are official or potential candidates for EU membership - Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Northern Macedonia - are no longer eligible for IKI Small Grants as they are addressed by other BMU funding programmes.

4. Conditions for funding

The IKI Small Grants scheme will select project proposals with a total funding volume between EUR 60,000 and EUR 200,000. Proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will not be considered.

Project funding can be granted to

- not-for-profit organisations
- for-profit non-government organisations if they pursue strictly non-profit objectives within the scope of their proposed project

Individuals or natural persons, one-person organisations and government organisations are not eligible for funding. Also excluded are branches of organisations based in a non-ODA-country or based in one of the countries explicitly named in chapter 3.

Applicants will have to meet a set of requirements such as legal status and accounting capabilities and provide evidence for these.

- Only organisations which are operative for at least three years are eligible for funding,
- The average annual revenue of the organisation in the last three years should not exceed EUR 500,000 (five hundred thousand euros) and not fall below EUR 60,000
- The funding volume shall not exceed the average annual revenue of the last three years,

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>

- There have been no allegations or investigations of corruption or other offences (e.g. fraud, embezzlement, breach of trust) against the organisation, its board members or officers in the last five years,
- For further information regarding the application process read our “application guidelines”. This document can be downloaded on the IKI website.

5. Capacity development

- As mentioned above IKI Small Grants is aimed at strengthening the capacities of small local, national, or regional organisations in developing and emerging economies through accompanying capacity development measures. Well-designed capacity development measures will play an important role in the evaluation and selection of project proposals.
- For profit organisations that propose a project which pursues strictly non-profit objectives are eligible for funding but will not receive the accompanying measures listed above.
- In addition to the requested project funding, an amount of up to EUR 10,000 may be budgeted for capacity development measures for non-profit organisations. For details regarding those capacity development measures, and budget please also consider all information given in the IKI Small Grants online application system and in the application guidelines.

6. Conceptual priorities

We explicitly encourage projects which:

- support the implementation or increase the ambition of nationally determined contributions (NDCs),
- support action on the ground to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
- support the engagement of young people²
- address the risks, challenges and opportunities of global megatrends (e.g. increasing demand for natural resources, rapid urbanization, digitalisation) or the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss,
- support a just transition of economies towards decarbonization including fair social change especially for underprivileged groups,
- strengthen networks, knowledge sharing and cooperation of organisations working on climate change and biodiversity related issues,

² "Youth" includes persons aged 15-30 years

- develop and promote the use of climate smart technologies,
- contribute to awareness building and education regarding climate change and biodiversity,
- develop and introduce economic incentives favourable for climate and biodiversity,
- Proposals that engage in cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, involve the local population, and strengthen gender equality in society are encouraged. The project should be embedded within an enabling environment and produce tangible and practical results that can be replicated further.

The IKI Small Grants scheme will not finance research projects unless they have a strong implementation component.

7. Selection criteria

We recommend paying special attention to the following selection criteria:

- The relevance of the proposed project for the objectives of IKI Small Grants (as specified in this funding information and on the IKI website),
- The quality of the project concept and ambition (comprehensibility, effectiveness, choice of appropriate methods, feasibility regarding the project duration and the budget),
- The qualification of the implementing organisation / the applicant (professional expertise and experience, networking with relevant stakeholders, general accordance with the IKI Small Grants target group, clear accounting guidelines),
- The project risks and safeguards (assessment of relevant risks/safeguards and appropriate mitigating measures, likelihood of jeopardizing the project implementation or the safeguard dimensions),
- The sustainability and replicability of the proposed project (continuation of activities after the project end, embedding in other national or regional strategies, replicability in other contexts).

8. Formal regulations and requirements

- The duration of the proposed projects should be a minimum of twelve months and a maximum of two years. Longer durations may be acceptable if justified appropriately,
- Additional own funds for implementing the project are appreciated and encouraged,
- The applicant must have dedicated accounting staff and have accounting principles that ensure internal as well as external control mechanisms,

- The applicant organisation must employ a software-based accounting system which meets its respective national standards,
- The applicant must adhere to the environmental and social safeguards system applied in this programme,
- The proposal must include an operational plan including indicators and a detailed budget plan demonstrating how the funding will be used,
- Any increase of funding during or after the end of projects is not envisaged,
- Forwarding funds to other implementing partners will not be permitted,
- After the call is closed, the submitted proposals will undergo a selection process and the submitting organisations will be informed in due time. This might take several months.

Please do refrain from inquiries about the status of your proposal,

- The successful submission of a proposal does not represent any commitment for funding and does not give rise to any legal entitlement. The decision whether to fund a project will be based on the review of the proposal and the assessment of the organisation,
- When submitting a project, the project start should be planned for the fourth quarter of 2022 onwards,
- We expect a high number of project proposals. Please note that only a limited number of project proposals can be chosen during each call for proposals (approximately 30-40 per year),
- The project proposal must be submitted in English,
- GIZ may have the projects audited or evaluated at its own expense at any time by independent chartered consultants commissioned by GIZ, by its own experts or by its own audit authority.