

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

IKI Small Grants

- International Calls -

Funding Information

Call 2022/2023

1. Objective

Since 2008 the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Government has been funding large scale projects that support the implementation of both the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in enacting the Paris Agreement as well as 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). However, achieving these ambitious targets requires the active participation of all social groups worldwide, especially on the ground. The IKI is implemented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

In 2019 the IKI therefore extended its strategy and commissioned GIZ to implement the IKI Small Grants Programme. Its call for proposals, the selection process and the disbursement of funds are handled by GIZ and in accordance with GIZ procedures.

It focusses on small regional, national, and local organisations in selected partner countries. Through annual calls for proposals, IKI Small Grants provides project funding to encourage active engagement of the civil society and implement effective, locally adapted approaches to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. In addition, it supports small implementing organisations in further developing their capacities and in strengthening their professional networks by customized measures. This aims to foster them as agents of change for climate and biodiversity action on the ground.

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

The following chapters describe the eligibility criteria and funding conditions of the fourth IKI Small Grants call for proposals 2022/2023. Please find further information in the application guidelines and on the [IKI Small Grants website](#)¹.

2. Requirements for projects

Project proposals should clearly focus on one or more of the following four IKI funding areas²:

- (1) [Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions](#)
- (2) [Adapting to the impacts of climate change](#)
- (3) [Conserving natural carbon sinks / REDD+](#)
- (4) [Conserving biological diversity](#)

Please note that proposals with another key focus will not be considered.

Research projects will not be financed unless they have a strong implementation component. This means that basic research projects concentrating mainly on data collection, evaluation, and publications are not eligible as such. However, a project that has its focus on addressing the needs of target groups and through this achieving substantial changes in the IKI Small Grants' funding areas, may carry out project related research as a side activity.

Projects must be implemented 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).³

Please note that, with the exception of the Ukraine, proposals for projects in countries that are official or potential candidates for EU membership are not eligible for IKI Small Grants⁴.

Projects must be implemented on a local, national, or regional level. Projects with a global focus cannot be funded.

¹ The IKI Small Grants application guidelines can be downloaded on the IKI Small Grants website under <https://iki-small-grants.de/current-selection-procedure/>.

² Please refer to the IKI website for details on the four IKI funding areas under <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-iki/>.

³ DAC List of ODA Recipients: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf>

⁴ List of EU candidates and potential candidates not eligible for funding: Albania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

IKI Small Grants selects 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. Generally, an increase of funding during or after the end of projects is not envisaged.

Forwarding funds to other implementing partners or beneficiaries as well as the transfer of grant money into any kind of fund is not permitted.

The duration of the projects shall cover a minimum of twelve months and a maximum of three years.

3. Conceptual priorities

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 justice and follow a gender-transformative approach as outlined in the [IKI Gender Strategy](#) are encouraged since gender is recognised as a significant factor influencing the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of individuals and groups: Working towards gender justice is a declared objective of IKI Small Grants following the targets of this strategy. For this reason, projects which follow a gender-responsive or gender-transformative approach, working on structural discrimination in the funding sectors or are submitted by women's/LGBTQI* rights organisations, cooperatives or networks will be considered with priority.

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 people⁵ are therefore particularly encouraged.

We further 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,
- address the risks, challenges and opportunities of global megatrends (e.g., increasing demand for natural resources, rapid urbanization, digitalisation, pandemic) in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss,

⁵ "Youth" includes persons aged 15-30 years

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

- support a just transition of economies towards decarbonization including fair social change especially for vulnerable groups,
- strengthen networks, knowledge sharing and cooperation of organisations working on climate change and biodiversity related issues,
- develop and promote the use of climate smart technologies,
- contribute to awareness raising and education regarding climate change and biodiversity,
- engage in cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and / or involve the local population.

4. 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 our homepage
- 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 self-assessment of the organisation's capacities and suggested measures,
- the relevant risks and safeguards dimensions as well as the expected impacts on gender justice of the proposed project must be addressed (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). Projects should be embedded within an enabling environment and produce tangible and practical results that can be replicated further.

5. Requirements for applicants

In general, applicants should be not-for-profit organisations. Private companies are eligible if they pursue strictly non-profit objectives within the scope of their proposed

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

project. Individuals or natural persons, one-person organisations and governmental organisations are not eligible for funding.

Applicants 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 Recipients](#)⁶. Please note that applicants based and registered in countries that are official or potential candidates for EU membership, with the exception of the Ukraine, are not eligible for IKI Small Grants. Also excluded are applicants that are not financially and legally independent and branches of organisations based in a non-ODA-eligible country or in one of the countries explicitly mentioned above. Projects must be implemented by the applicant organisation itself. Consortia are not eligible as this would imply the forwarding of project funds from the lead organisation to partners in the consortia. The forwarding of funds is not permitted.

The applicant organisation must be operative for at least three years. Over the last three years the applicant organisation must have an average annual revenue of at least EUR 60,000 and no more than EUR 500,000. The average annual revenue of the last three years must be higher than (or equal to) the requested funding volume.

The applicant organisation must have dedicated accounting staff and have accounting principles that ensure internal as well as external control mechanisms. The applicant organisation must also employ a software-based accounting system which meets its respective national standards.

6. Capacity Development

IKI Small Grants aims at strengthening the capacities of the implementing organisations. In addition to the individual support offered by GIZ during the project implementation, all applicants shall propose and budget measures of up to EUR 10.000 for further developing their organisation's capacities. Please note that a brief assessment of the applicants' capacities and suggestions for capacity development measures are mandatory. If the project is selected for funding, the proposed capacity development measures will be reviewed, reflected and, if necessary, adjusted together with GIZ.

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf>

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

7. General information

Regarding the project application

The project start should be planned for the first quarter of 2024 onwards.

The project proposal must be submitted in English. Please keep in mind that all communication after the submission of the application will be in English, too. IKI Small Grants works with organisations from many countries with a wide range of languages. Perfect English language skills are not required, however, a good working level in English from at least one person in the project team is essential for effective cooperation.

Preparing an IKI Small Grants application requires a considerable amount of time and effort. Applicants need to submit an operational plan including indicators and a detailed budget plan. To avoid exclusion of the proposal in early selection stages, please make sure that:

- the project proposal and the applicant meet all the requirements described in this funding information and in the application guidelines,
- the application is submitted completely which means that it contains all the required attachments (e.g. requested financial statements including relevant information on the applicant's revenue) and that the application form is filled in completely and in sufficient detail (e.g. the description of activities),
- the correct templates (budget and Gantt chart) provided on the IKI Small Grants website are used,
- the budget template is filled in correctly and completely, including the revenue tab.

Regarding the selection procedure

After the call for proposals is closed, the submitted proposals will undergo a selection process and the applicant organisations will be informed in due time. This might take several months. Please do refrain from inquiries about the status of the 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.

Please note that a review phase including close exchange between the applicant and GIZ will follow the final selection for funding. Final adjustments to the proposal and budget may still be necessary to meet all existing standards and requirements of IKI Small Grants.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

Regarding the project implementation

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.