On behalf of:

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

of the Federal Republic of Germany

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IKI Small Grants

International Calls

Funding Information

8th call for proposals 2027

1. Objective

The IKI Small Grants programme is an instrument within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) that aims at supporting small, local organisations in the implementation of their climate and biodiversity projects. The programme is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN).

IKI Small Grants targets small national and local organisations in ODA-eligible countries (see details below). It provides **project funding** to strengthen active civil society engagement and support effective, locally adapted approaches to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. One of the main objectives of IKI Small Grants is to support small implementing organisations in further developing their capacities and strengthening their professional networks by customized **capacity development** measures. This aims to foster them as local agents of change for climate and biodiversity action.

The following sections explain the eligibility criteria for applicant organisations, the type of projects eligible for funding, the thematic funding priorities and the selection criteria. Finally, the selection process will be explained.

Please find further information in the application guidelines and on the IKI Small Grants website.

2. Eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Which organisations can submit project proposals?

- In general, applicants should be **not-for-profit** organisations. In this call, we are also particularly interested in private companies if they pursue non-profit objectives as part of their proposed 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 meet the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA)** as defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)[1]. Organisations must be financially and legally independent and branches of organisations based in a non-eligible country cannot be funded.
- The applicant organisation must have been **operative for at least three years** (36 months by the time of the submission deadline).
- Over the last three years the applicant organisation must have generated an **average annual revenue of at least EUR 60,000 and no more than EUR 500,000**.
- The applicant organisation must have **dedicated accounting staff** and have accounting principles that ensure **internal as well as external control mechanisms**. It must also employ a **software-based accounting system** that complies with respective national standards.
- The applicant organisations must implement the projects themselves. **Consortia are not eligible** and **forwarding funds to other implementing organisations is not permitted**.

2.2 Which projects are funded?

The thematic focus of this call for proposals is **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**. NbS refers to an integrated approach that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines as **"actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or**

[1] DAC list of ODA recipients: DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients.pdf (oecd.org)

modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits".[2]

NbS is an umbrella concept covering approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based mitigation, restoration and other ecosystem-based approaches. Examples include protecting and restoring mangrove forests and coral reefs to reduce coastal risks or creating green urban spaces to help cities cope with heat and extreme rainfall.

Within this context, project proposals must also clearly focus on at least one of the following four IKI funding areas:

(1) Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions
(2) Adapting to the impacts of climate change
(3) Preserving and restoring carbon sinks
(4) Conserving biological diversity

Countries of implementation

Projects must be implemented in countries that fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) with the same exemptions for applying organisations mentioned under 2.1.

Geographic scope of the projects

Projects must be implemented on a local, sub-national or national level. No multi-country projects can be funded.

Requested funding volume

IKI Small Grants selects project proposals with a total funding volume between **EUR 60,000 and EUR 200,000**. No proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will be considered. Furthermore, the requested funding volume must **not exceed the average annual revenue of the implementing organisation over the past three years**.

[2] Please refer to the IUCN website for more information on nature-based solutions: https://iucn.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions

Project duration

Projects must have a duration of at least **twelve months and no more than two years**. In exceptional cases, durations of up to three years can be acceptable if justified appropriately. The project start should be planned for the **second quarter of 2028 or later**.

2.3 What are the selection criteria?

The assessment of the submitted project proposal covers the following aspects:

- **Relevance and level of ambition of the proposed project:** Projects must demonstrate a substantive NbS intervention and clearly defined measurable benefits linked to at least one IKI funding area. Possible contributions to national or sub-national climate and biodiversity targets and strategies should be considered where relevant. The project should aim to empower and engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC)[3], including through positive contributions to their livelihoods, where relevant. Contributions to youth and/or gender justice are welcomed. NbS interventions relating to sustainable climate- and biodiversity-friendly urban and peri-urban development are encouraged.
- Private sector engagement**: Applications from private sector organisations and projects proposing private sector solutions are welcome**, provided that the suggested project is non-profit in nature and contributes to the objectives of the IKI Small Grants programme. Projects may apply innovative, entrepreneurial, or market-based approaches that deliver measurable climate and/or biodiversity benefits. Proposals should also show how economic value can translate into tangible benefits for local communities, including through sustainable management and benefit sharing.
- **Quality of the project concept:** a clear coherent approach, well defined and realistic expected results, appropriate methods, feasibility regarding the project duration, consideration of gender aspects (see IKI Gender Strategy) and clear comprehensible budget
- Involvement of **relevant stakeholders**, like government agencies or other competent organisations in the field of the project activities
- **Qualifications of implementing organisation**: professional expertise and experience, networking with relevant stakeholders, general accordance with the IKI Small Grants target group, clear accounting guidelines

[3] Please refer to IKI Monitoring Guidelines for definition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities: GUIDELINES ON PROJECT PLANNING AND MONITORING

- **Quality of assessment of relevant risks and safeguards** and appropriate mitigating measures to minimize likelihood of jeopardizing the project implementation or provoking unintended negative impacts
- **Sustainability of proposed project impacts**: continuation of activities after the project end, embedding in national or sub-national development strategies, replicability in other contexts; and / or **potential for upscaling**.

3. Application and selection process

Interested organisations in participating in the 8th Call for Proposal of IKI Small Grants must first pass an eligibility check. In this first stage, applicants are asked to provide information on their organisations and submit the following supporting documents:

- Registration certificates
- Financial statements covering the last three available years, including relevant information on the applicant's revenue

  Note: The most recent financial statements must cover a period ending no earlier than June 2025.
- Completed revenue template
- Accounting & procurement guidelines

Interested organisations must submit this information and these documents via the application platform by **January 08, 2027.**

Qualified organisations will subsequently be invited to submit their project proposals and budget until **March 16, 2027**, through the same platform.

The submitted proposals then undergo a selection process, and applicant organisations will be informed in due time. This can take several months. Please refrain from inquiring about the status of the proposal.

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 is 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 organisation and GIZ, will follow the final selection for funding. Final adjustments to the

project proposal and budget may still be necessary to meet all existing standards and requirements of IKI Small Grants.

Consultation sessions will be offered during the application period. Please check for details on the IKI Small Grants Website.

4. Additional information

4.1. Capacity development approach

Upon selection, the selected organisation defines jointly with IKI Small Grants specific capacity development measures and goals based on needs assessment. Successful implementation in the IKI Small Grants programme includes participation in capacity development curriculum.

4.2. Compliance and Complaints Mechanisms

To ensure and continuously improve the programme's high quality, its implementation is based on the principles of fairness and transparency, conformity to rules and compliance with the law. These principles are directed externally to applicants and project implementing organisations and internally to the management of IKI Small Grants.

Please find information on the available complaints mechanisms here.