

IKI Small Grants

- International Calls -

Funding Information

(objectives, conditions and criteria)

Call 2020/2021

Submission Deadline: February 9 of 2021

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 future 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 the proposed projects but will also receive support through accompanying measures for capacity development of their organisations. Furthermore, organisations will be aided where possible and necessary by GIZ 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 include 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 or nature conservation. 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 include the empowerment of women 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.

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.

4. Conditions for funding

The IKI Small Grants scheme will generally select project proposals with a total funding volume between EUR 60,000 and EUR 100,000 but with the following exceptions:

Projects in the area of mitigation of climate change can submit proposals with a total funding volume of up to EUR 200,000, in case construction of specific mitigation facilities is an integral part of the project concept (like solar panels or wind energy turbines), which requires a higher financial input. Through this, IKI Small Grants aims for a better balance between the building of facilities and capacity development measures.

In specific and very well-founded cases, projects in the field of adaptation to climate change can also apply for funding of up to EUR 200,000 with the same justification as above (e.g. irrigation systems).

Proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will not be considered.

Project funding will only 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-woman/man organisations and government organisations are not eligible for funding. Also excluded are branches of organisations based in a non-ODA-country.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>

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

- Only organisations which have existed 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),
- The funding volume shall not exceed the average annual revenue of the last three years,
- 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 building

As mentioned above this funding programme is aimed at strengthening the capacities of small local, national or regional organisations in ODA countries through accompanying capacity development measures. Well-designed capacity development measures for applying non-profit organisations will play an important role in the evaluation of project proposals.

For-profit organisations that propose a project which pursues strictly non-profit objectives are eligible for funding but will not receive those accompanying measures.

For details regarding capacity building 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),
- 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,
- 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,



- 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 six months and a maximum of two years. Longer durations may be acceptable if justified appropriately,
- Additional own funds 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 2021 onwards,
- We expect a high number of project proposals. Please note that only a limited number of project proposals can be chosen during each of the upcoming calls for proposals (approximately 20-35 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.