

IKI Small Grants - Supporting funding institutions for local climate and biodiversity action

Our objective

Achieving the global and national targets listed in the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires the active participation of all social groups worldwide, especially on the local level. However, smaller actors often lack access to international funding, or financing mechanisms are not tailored to their specific needs. The IKI Small Grants programme is a complementary instrument within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Government of Germany and aims to support small, local organisations in implementing their climate and biodiversity projects. IKI Small Grants fosters bottom-up climate and biodiversity solutions while strengthening capacities of smaller actors to accelerate their role as agents of change. Gender-responsive and gender-transformative projects play an important role, as do promoting youth, indigenous communities and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Our ownership approach

Climate and biodiversity measures are particularly effective if they are adapted to local conditions, are based on local knowledge, involve local expertise, and offer opportunities for local participation. As part of the IKI Small Grants programme, sub-national, national and regional funding institutions are conducting their own call for proposals for local action in their respective languages and in accordance with country-specific needs and selection criteria. GIZ provides both technical and financial assistance throughout the process.

In addition to supporting smaller actors in their efforts to target climate change and biodiversity loss, the funding institutions approach also aims to further develop sustainable national financing mechanisms, so partner institutions themselves can:

- Design and successfully implement transparent and effective selection procedures in line with international quality standards.

Programme	IKI Small Grants - Capacity Building and Finance for National and Local Action on Climate and Biodiversity
Approach	Supporting funding institutions in implementing financial support measures for small actors
Target groups	Funding institutions in partner countries and small grant recipients as beneficiaries
Grant volume and duration	Up to EUR 950,000 for each funding institution and for approximately three years
Main objective	By supporting calls for proposals through various national and regional funding institutions, small-scale climate and biodiversity action that contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are implemented
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) German Federal Foreign Office (AA) German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)





- Demonstrate ownership for implementing National Determined Contribution (NDC), biodiversity action plans and other relevant policies and plans.
- Further establish themselves as reliable partners in the international climate finance system and acquire and absorb climate and biodiversity funds from national, private or international sources to increase the upscaling potential.

Selection procedure and eligibility criteria

GIZ and the commissioning parties select the funding institutions directly, based on the following criteria:

- Need to be based in an ODA-eligible country,
- Be older than three years,
- Average annual turnover no lower than EUR 500,000,
- Need internal and external control mechanisms to comply with national accounting principles,
- Experienced in working with or interested in expanding its portfolio to smaller actors in the non-profit sector,
- Experienced in managing grants and forwarding funds,
- Experience in implementing similar calls for proposals or even their own funding lines is advantageous,
- The selected institutions are expected to further develop their safeguards and gender policies and mechanisms, if necessary.

Funding, technical assistance and capacity development assistance

IKI Small Grants provides up to EUR 950,000 in funding through grant agreements with GIZ. The selected funding institutions commit to complying with GIZ regulations during the call for proposals. Own financial contributions by the funding institution and/or sub-grantees are encouraged. The funding institutions can use parts of the grant for internal, self-organised capacity development. The amount also covers reasonable administration costs.

The IKI Small Grants team in Berlin and GIZ staff in partner countries accompany each selected institution in preparing

and conducting calls for proposals. The services GIZ offers are bespoke and tailored to institutions' needs and demands. The programme offers close technical consulting for rolling out and implementing calls for proposals. Measures can include, for example, enforcing anti-corruption policies, developing funding guidelines, selection criteria and reporting systems. IKI Small Grants provides dedicated capacity development support for funding institutions in the following areas:

- Improving gender and safeguard management systems
- Designing capacity development services for sub-grantees and/ or applicants
- Identifying and implementing appropriate measures to increase upscaling potential and sustainability (including but not limited to acquiring additional funding)

GIZ also provides budgetary or legal support and assists with consolidating administrative structures.

National and regional calls for proposals

The proposed call for proposals should have a very specific theme contributing to the National Determined Contributions, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, other relevant national/ sub-national development or sector policies and plans. The call can be competitive or non-competitive based on pre-defined eligibility criteria and should provide funding for small-scale projects or small-scale measures.

The call for proposals should be advertised in all relevant languages of the specific country. The target group should be smaller, non-profit climate and biodiversity actors with a specific focus on gender, youth, indigenous groups, vulnerable groups but also local governments, small and medium enterprises and even individuals. The small grants forwarded should ideally be less than EUR 100,000 each.

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