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ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund

Climate Policy, Green Finance, and Clean and Just Energy Transition

Call for Proposals – Responses to clarification questions

Updated December 2024

Contents

- A. Introduction..... 3
- B. Post-event communication..... 3
- C. Scope and focus of the CfP 3
- D. Eligibility 11
- E. Others 14

A. Introduction

This document compiles clarification questions and answers from the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF) call for proposals for the Climate Policy, Green Finance, and Clean and Just Energy Transition in ASEAN.

The questions are divided into four categories: post-event communication, scope and focus of the CfP, eligibility, and others.

B. Post-event communication

1. Q. Will the slides and recording be shared with the participants?

A. The slides and recording of the Market Engagement webinar can be found at the following links:

[ASEAN-UK GTF Market Engagement Webinar Climate Policy, Green Finance, and Clean and Just Energy Transition in ASEAN](#)

C. Scope and focus of the CfP

2. Q. Can international NGOs develop and submit the proposal along with companies for multiple ASEAN countries?

A. Yes, this is acceptable.

3. Q. Should the proposed project benefit some ASEAN Member States or all 10 AMS + Timor Leste?

A. The proposed project should benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste.

4. Q. What is the quantum of resources allocated for this proposal call? Will there be future calls with different focal areas?

A. There will be another future call for different pillars of ASEAN-UK GTF on advancing sustainable cities & transport and enhancing nature-based solutions for climate mitigation in early 2025.

5. Q. The GTF is primarily focused on Timor Leste. How much geographical balance within the ASEAN territory will be ensured?

A. GTF is primarily centred on supporting ASEAN as an institution. The geographical balance will be ensured through co-development with ASEAN, addressing priorities across all member states, including Timor-Leste (as part of the support for its ASEAN accession process), which is manifested in the ASEAN strategy document.

6. Q. How many projects will be awarded for this call for proposals?

A. For this first Call for Proposals, ASEAN-UK GTF seeks to award ten work packages (WP). Each WP will be treated and delivered as one project. Applicants may submit multiple WPs, provided each proposal fully addresses each WP individually.

7. Q. Does our proposed project need to focus on all ASEAN Member States, or can it focus on just one ASEAN Member State?

A. The project should focus on all ASEAN Member States, not only one ASEAN Member States.

8. Q. Why was the approach (previous ASEAN GTP) changed for this tender to be not for profit?

A. FCDO decided to deliver the ASEAN-UK GTF using the UK PACT mechanism. All grant projects delivered and implemented via the UK PACT mechanism must be under not-for-profit operation. This policy is under the FCDO Program Operating Framework's mandate to implement accountable grants.

9. Q. Have the work priorities within the ASEAN-UK PACT been endorsed by ASEAN bodies, or does the grant applicant need to secure project approval from the lead sectoral bodies?

A. The work priorities of the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund have been consulted with ASEAN. In addition to this, each selected project is expected to secure approval from the main ASEAN sectoral body.

10. Q. Pillar 1, work package 1.2: Can we submit a proposal for a project in only one ASEAN country, or should it include at least two countries?

A. We would like to encourage projects to benefit the region beyond one ASEAN Member State.

11. Q. In each pillar, is the proposal required to address all work packages, or can it address only one or more (but not all) of them?

A. For this first Call for Proposals, ASEAN-UK GTF seeks to award ten work packages (WP). We expect Applicants to submit a single proposal addressing one WP. Proposals may be submitted by the same organisation/consortium for multiple WPs, provided each proposal fully addresses a WP individually.

12. Q. Is collaboration with a UK institution mandatory?

A. No, it's not mandatory to collaborate with a UK institution.

13. Q. Does each proposal submitted need to address all of the sub-elements of each work package or only some of them?

A. We expect each proposal to respond fully to one work package and include all the activity components.

14. Q. Does WP1 focus only on national government support, or does it include local governments in ASEAN?

A. The ASEAN cooperation framework is through Member States' focal points from national governments. We expect ASEAN-UK GTF support to be delivered using the same approach.

15. Q. What do you mean by 'work package'? Does it also include a cross-pillar?

A. ASEAN-UK GTF expects each work package to be treated and delivered as one project. One work package will consist of several interlinked elements/activities. Some work packages have defined the elements/activities using a cross-pillar lens. The scope of each work package will be further elaborated in the Term of Reference when this Call for Proposals is open for submission.

16. Q. For Pillar 1 - Work Package 1.2: What level of engagement or collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat is expected during the project implementation?

A. We expect a collaborative approach with the ASEAN Secretariat during the project implementation as necessary.

17. Q. My organisation only works with city governments across some ASEAN countries. Can we access the fund to work with local governments?

A. As ASEAN-UK GTF is a demand-led programme, we expect any multi-year projects to be designed based on demand and consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat and bodies. A project implementer may be able to work with city governments upon request from the Secretariat and relevant bodies/working groups.

18. Q. Do you have a timeline for sharing the full call guidelines and the deadline for submitting applications? Will it be a one or two-stage application proposal?

A. The CfP will be announced on 19 December 2024, with the submission deadline in February 2025. It will be a one-stage, open, and competitive CfP. The Term of Reference provides detailed timelines when this Call for Proposals is open for submission.

19. Q. The term ‘work package’ is clear in the current presentation. However, we are also expected to include cross-pillar work. If so, how do we incorporate this in the work packages that are being presented?

A. Some of the work packages have been designed with a cross-pillar lens. We expect each proposal to address one single work package. We do not expect applicants to apply a cross-pillar approach by combining multiple work packages in one proposal.

20. Q. Can we utilise current projects that are already ongoing if they are related?

A. We expect some additionalities built on the ongoing project despite some similarities.

21. Q. Does this call require a consortium?

A. It does not have to.

22. Q. If submitting a proposal which covers more than one country, does each country need to focus on the same work package?

A. The submitted proposal should cover multiple countries in Southeast Asia and use the ASEAN lens in its implementation, outputs, and outcomes.

23. Q. Kindly confirm that a) country-specific, b) multi-country, AND c) ASEAN+LE-wide projects are invited.

A. We confirm that we look forward to funding projects targeting ASEAN and Timor Leste (not country-specific or multi-country projects).

24. Q. Does the capacity-building component involve a specific process, including developing training materials and coursework packets, or in-person training?

A. We expect an elaborate work plan in the submitted proposal covering processes from training materials development to in-person training implementation.

25. Q. Will GTF fund hardware installations (e.g. hydrogen electrolyzers) as part of a work package?

A. There is a capital expense allocation for projects to support initiatives such as piloting climate-smart technology innovations, blended financing, investment transaction facilitation, and general climate mitigation project preparations. However, please note that this type of allocation will only be available in the second fiscal year (FY 26/27). Therefore, budgets for the first year should not include capital expenses or tangible assets.

26. Q. UK PACT allows for the delivery of activities through a) grant funding and b) expert deployment. Are both of these delivery mechanisms available for the GTF?

A. While both of these delivery mechanisms will be used to fund GTF projects, the opportunity this CfP relates to is only for grant funding.

27. Q. Is UK PACT open to other manufacturing sectors and possible solutions besides green hydrogen and CCS?

A. Yes. We are open to sustainable technology solutions under industry decarbonisation measures as long as they align with ASEAN Strategies and address the gap in the Term of Reference.

28. Q. Kindly confirm that EACH proposal is supposed to target one WP ONLY. Noting the inter-connected nature of these WPs, what institutional coordination/knowledge sharing/synergising actions does the ASEAN-UK GTF intend to support? Or should each proposal identify synergies to develop independently between WP actions?

A. ASEAN-UK GTF has a delivery partner where monitoring, learning, and evaluation are systematically closely managed throughout the programme implementation. Identified synergies between work packages are planned and will be informed and facilitated by the delivery partner.

29. Q. What is the envisioned budget per project?

A. Projects will be selected through a one-stage, open and competitive call for proposals and will receive grants of up to £800,000 per project per financial year, with an estimated duration of 19 months.

30. Q. Our main concern around applying relates to the tight timelines, mainly as the materials are published close to the holiday season, when it's hard to engage with some partners and staff members are away. As it's a one-stage application process, we aren't yet sure how feasible it is to prepare everything.

A. This is understandable. Hence, the deadline for the submission is mid-February 2025.

31. Q. Do you have training on climate finance?

A. The capacity development and learning exchanges on climate finance will be offered by the selected implementing partner.

32. Q. Can you support in forging collaboration for the project submission?

A. Forging collaboration during the Call for Proposals is beyond our responsibility. The incoming proposal should address all activities under the respective work package, including the consortium members and other

implementation modalities. In some cases, GTF might suggest that applicants work closely to form consortia where projects are working to achieve similar objectives and/or where consolidation into a more extensive programme approach would be beneficial over a more extended period. Such information will only be given at the final stage of the awarding process.

33. Q. For clarification, do you anticipate around ten grants, each covering one work package in entire and multiple member states?

A. Yes, we anticipate ten grant projects, each responding to one work package in full and including all activity components. Each project should benefit all ASEAN Member States.

34. Q. ASEAN has various discrepancies in terms of economics and background. Has UK PACT identified which industries for each country, or shall we do the assessment first? For the green financing - carbon pricing, is it a regional mechanism or a country-wise mechanism? Has UK PACT identified to what extent the industries or sectors to be covered due to the extensive areas on this? For the smart grid design, is it necessary to take this into account while the ASEAN Power Grid are mostly in pipeline and the existing one is still ok and requires no smart grid? What smart grid level are you referring to?

A. We suggest that the potential implementing partner review ASEAN's priority on industrial decarbonisation. Potential implementing partners are welcome to plan assessment activities if required. The scope of Carbon Pricing work will be explained in more detail in the Term of Reference.

35. Q. How many successful proposals will be awarded per work package?

A. There will be one successful proposal per work package.

36. Q. What is the maximum budget per project for the whole implementation period (June 2025 to Dec 2026)?

A. The proposed project's maximum budget is up to £800,000 per project per financial year, and its estimated duration is 19 months.

37. Q. Who is expected to cover the costs during the 'dedicated resource and time to seek for ASEAN accreditation/formalisation during the inception phase'? Should this be written as part of the project (i.e., will it be within the awarded period)?

A. The cost of dedicated resources and time to seek ASEAN accreditation should be included in the proposal.

38. Q. Can an organisation or consortium win more than one grant if applying to two or more work packages? Or is there a cap?

A. There is no ceiling on the number of proposals that can be submitted. The same organisation/consortium may submit proposals for multiple work packages, provided each proposal fully addresses a work package individually.

39. Q. When you say engage with ASEAN and Timor Leste, do you mean with focal point countries in ASEAN and Timor Leste?

A. Yes, but only during the implementation of the selected project proposal. The engagement will be through the ASEAN Secretariat.

40. Q. When you say 800,000 per project per year, is a 'project' what you have presented as a "work package"?

A. Yes. The selected implementing partner receives support up to £800,000 per project per year for each work package they are selected to implement.

41. Q. If a proposal action is cross-cutting two or more work packages, does this require more than one proposal, or can it be combined but counted as two projects in the financials?

A. We do not encourage mixing the work packages and their respective activity components. We expect each proposal to respond fully to one work package and include all the activity components.

42. Q. Questions regarding WP3.2's:

- i. **Focus on green H2 production technology: Could FCDO share its reasoning behind focusing work package 3.2 on only green hydrogen instead of other low-emissions hydrogen types (e.g., blue, waste-source H2)?**
- ii. **H2 End-Use Application Preferences: Does FCDO have priorities/preferences around the end-use applications of hydrogen to be studied? (e.g. Steel, Power, Transport, Ammonia)**
- iii. **WP 3.2 Pilot: Will the FCDO funding for WP 3.2 support the strategy study and the pilot costs?**

A. Please refer to the Term of Reference Annex 3 Work Package 3.2

43. Q. If we present a multi-country proposal, is the budget 800,000 for each country or the overall proposal?

A. We encourage a proposal viewed through the lens of ASEAN. This means that it should be multi-country in design and follow the ASEAN cooperation

- framework. The estimated budget is for the proposal to respond to one work package.
- 44. Q. When you mention up to £800k per project, are you referring to per pillar? Is that for the entire pillar?**
- A. We expect each proposal to respond to one work package, not a pillar, and to include all the activity components.
- 45. Q. For the brokerage and private sector investment matchmaking: to what certain level of USD are we targeting in this project? To what level of project development is it accounted as our matchmaking achievements? Are these targeted to be executed for all 10 AMS+1 Timor Leste or just selected AMS? Due to the extensive efforts of all countries, where each country has different interests or potential for investment. For policy 1.4, developing the science-based sector (modelling), are we only supporting the existing modelling in ASEAN, like AEO8 or others? What kind of assistance is required?**
- A. Please refer to the Term of Reference Annex 1 Work Package 1.4 and Annex 2 Work Package 2.1
- 46. Q. In our proposals, should all outputs, intermediate outcomes and outcomes be those from the ToC you showed before?**
- A. All proposals must develop their own Theory of Change (ToC) and demonstrate how they contribute to the different levels of GTF ToC.
- 47. Q. Can you explain more about the ASEAN Accreditation?**
- A. Project accreditation or formalisation must be obtained for any project to be formally acknowledged for supporting ASEAN sectoral plans and strategies for cooperation. The accreditation process with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Body is facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat.
- 48. Q. Is bidding as a 'consortium' better than a lone organisation?**
- A. There is no preference for consortium or single organisation when submitting and implementing the proposed project.
- 49. Q. Does this call include the pillars of sustainable cities and transportation and nature-based solutions?**
- A. No, this CfP is for three pillars (Climate policy, Green finance, and Clean & just energy transition). We will launch another CfP for sustainable cities and transportation as well as nature-based solutions in 2025.
- 50. Q. Is there a requirement for the applicant(s) to secure the supporting letter from the British Embassy to be submitted along with the application?**

A. No, there is no requirement to secure a supporting letter along with the application.

51. Q. Can a project cover more than one work package or pillar?

A. No. One project is to respond to one work package at each Pillar.

52. Q. Is there any budget ceiling or guideline for reference when preparing for the project costing/budget?

A. The proposed budget can be up to £800,000 per project per financial year, with an estimated duration of 19 months. The Budget Template's eligible cost guidance tab and the UK PACT Applicant Handbook provide detailed guidance on eligible and ineligible costs.

53. Q. As long as the work package benefits all the ASEAN countries, can pilot projects to test hypotheses and strategies be conducted only in some of the ASEAN countries, or should pilot projects be conducted in each ASEAN country?

A. Pilot projects in only a few ASEAN Member States are allowed as long as the project outputs benefit all ASEAN Member States.

54. Q. Some activities mentioned in the work package might not be relevant for all 10 AMS + TL. For example, the coal repurposing study might be relevant to some of AMS. How do you see that in connection with the project? Should it benefit all 10 AMS + TL?

A. All of the ASEAN-UK GTF Work Package activities are based on an in-depth review of ASEAN Priorities. We encourage applicants to elaborate on their benefit-sharing explanation in the proposal's project methodology and stakeholder engagement sections.

55. Q. How long will the contracting take after the endorsement by the ASEAN Body in June 2025? How many months for implementation?

A. We expect a 19-month implementation period from June 2025 to December 2026. The contract is expected to be signed by May 2025 at the latest.

D. Eligibility

56. Q. I am participating in this webinar from the Pacific region. Are we eligible to apply for this funding?

A. Yes, you are eligible to apply as long as your organisation can comply with UK PACT funding guidelines and the project outputs can benefit all ASEAN Member States.

57. Q. Can commercial consultancy & engineering companies apply, including standard fees, rather than just a cost-based approach?

A. This call for proposals will fund grant projects, and while commercial consultancy and engineering companies are eligible to be the lead partner in a proposal, they must deliver the project at cost with no element of profit included.

58. Q. We have expertise across several of these areas. Can we submit more than one proposal?

A. Yes, organisations can submit multiple proposals. Each proposal must address one work package set out in the Term of Reference.

59. Q. Are UN agencies eligible to receive funding? If so, can this funding cover staff time and consultants?

A. Yes, UN agencies are eligible to receive funding through this call for proposals. The funding can cover both staff time and consultants.

60. Q. Would an organisation not based in ASEAN (but operating and working to build the capacity of ASEAN actors) be eligible for this call?

A. Organisations with direct experience working with ASEAN in the region are encouraged to apply. Consortia of international and national organisations with extensive experience in Southeast Asia are welcome.

61. Q. Can commercial consultancy & engineering companies act as sub-consultants to other applicants, and which cost rules will apply then?

A. Awarded projects can include the procurement of external services delivered at market rates. If such subcontracting is required, the supplier cannot be named in the proposal, and the lead grantee must conduct a competitive procurement after the grant has started.

62. Q. We have found it difficult to know whether our business is correctly 'registered' with UK-PACT as a provider. Is there someone we can contact to get help with this?

A. Organisations need not be registered with UK PACT to submit a proposal. This call for proposals is open to all organisations that meet the eligibility criteria

63. Q. We are a consulting / advisory company. Can we partner with locally based corporate companies to, for example, test our hypothesis or undertake a demonstration pilot?

A. Yes, you can partner with locally based companies. This arrangement is acceptable.

64. Q. Does the project need to be based in the UK?

A. No, there is no need for a project to be based in the UK.

65. Q. Is CGIAR institution eligible to apply?

A. Yes, CGIAR institution is eligible to apply for the Call for Proposal.

66. Q. Is a private sector firm eligible? Does it only apply to consultancies under the private sector firm category?

A. Yes, the private sector firm is eligible to apply for the Call for Proposals.

67. Q. Can you please clarify what 'government agencies are not eligible to apply' means? I represent the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, an international organisation with 38 nation-state members. I see that UN agencies are eligible to apply. Would this mean that the OECD is also eligible?

A. When we refer to government agencies, we mean national government institutions. Multilateral organisations are eligible to apply for the Call for Proposals.

68. Q. Government agencies are not eligible, but is it possible to collaborate with government officials (state university professors) as part of the project team's expertise?

A. It is possible to have state university professors as part of the project team's expertise. Public universities are welcome to be part of the consortium. If an expert involved in a project is linked to the counterpart receiving technical assistance, then there is the potential for conflicts of interest. If a project is selected for award, these potential conflicts of interest must be declared during the due diligence stage and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

69. Q. The slide for project eligibility mentions that projects may have opportunities to access funding that can support piloting during implementation. This was not explained by the presenter. Can this be clarified? Where would the access to funding be from?

A. This means there will be a specific requirement to conduct pilot projects in certain work packages. The fund referred to is the ASEAN-UK GTF fund, with the same estimated amount of £800,000 per project per financial year.

70. Q. Should the project be located in multiple countries?

A. The project does not need to be located in multiple countries as long as its output benefits all ASEAN Member States.

71. Q. Is an International Organisation (INGO) with country offices working in the target focus ASEAN countries (e.g., Indonesia) eligible to apply as the lead applicant?

- A. Yes, INGOs with offices in one of the ASEAN countries are eligible to apply for the Fund as long as they comply with UK PACT funding guidelines.
- 72. Q. What kind of documents should be provided to prove the not-for-profit basis of the proposal?**
- A. UK PACT can fund both for-profit and non-profit organisations. However, UK PACT cannot fund profit. For-profit organisations would need to work on a non-profit basis. We can still pay for all actual costs, for example, staff salary and indirect costs like overheads. However, we cannot pay daily rates that include a profit margin. You must ensure that all costs are broken down within the budget and that none of them consists of a profit margin. During quarterly financial reporting, we will ask you to provide evidence of actual spending that quarter.
- 73. Q. Can an INGO based in two ASEAN countries apply to this call?**
- A. Yes, it can, as long as the project outputs benefit all ASEAN Member States.

E. Others

- 74. Q. Is the template for the call or the link to the platform already available?**
- A. The Call for Proposals will be launched on 19 December 2024 on the ASEAN-UK GTF webpage, including the related templates and documents.
- 75. Q. Could you refer us to the ASEAN strategy document that will be used as the basis for the project?**
- A. You can refer to the Term of Reference on the ASEAN-UK GTF Call for Proposal page to see a list of relevant ASEAN plans, priorities and strategies for specific work packages. In addition, you can access The ASEAN-UK dialogue partnership here: [Plan of action to implement the ASEAN-United Kingdom Dialogue Partnership \(2022 to 2026\) - GOV.UK](#).
- 76. Q. Are there any defined caps for indirect costs/overheads an organisation can apply for this ASEAN GTF CfP?**
- A. The UK PACT Applicant Handbook details indirect costs/overheads for organisations. This Handbook will be provided on the CfP page when you apply.
- 77. Q. Does this call require match funds?**
- A. No, it is not required. We encourage applicants to submit proposals that leverage other secured support or work that applicants have done or are doing in parallel; however, this is not part of the scoring criteria.

78. Q. Regarding the budget, do we have to include all the travel, accommodation, etc. costs for capacity-building workshops? What about per diem for the participants?

A. Yes, you must include all the costs for travel, accommodation, etc for workshops. UK PACT's policy is not to provide per diem but to pay expenses based on actuals.

79. Q. Can I be notified when the call for proposals for pillars 4 and 5 goes out?

A. Yes, it will be announced on the ASEAN-UK GTF website. We will also conduct a Market Engagement Event webinar before the CfP launch. If you are registered to MEE and consent to receive email from UK PACT, you will receive the email notification for the following CfP.

80. Q. Will we be shared with a sample proposal for reference to understand the extent of coverage of the proposal while submitting?

A. No, there will be no sample proposal to be shared. However, we provide a description or instruction in each question to help you complete the proposal template.

81. Q. When would the Call for Proposals for Pillar 4 & 5 come out? You suggested 2025, but which month roughly?

A. The Call for Proposals for Pillar 4 & 5 is estimated to be launched in March 2025.

82. Q. Could you tell us about overhead costs?

A. Details of overhead costs are available within the UK PACT Applicant Handbook. It will be included in the CfP page when you apply.

83. Q. Do you have a proposal template that we can follow?

A. All relevant documents and templates, including proposal templates, will be included in the CfP page when you apply.