

Thailand UK PACT

Sustainable Transport & Green Finance

Call for Proposals – Responses to clarification questions

Introduction

This document compiles questions and answers from the Thailand-UK PACT Call for Proposals (CfPs) on both Sustainable Transport and Green Finance (August 2024).

They are divided in 3 categories:

- Post event communication
- Scope
- Application process and requirements

Post event communication

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

A. The slides and recording of the Market Engagement webinar can be found in:

- [Thailand-UK PACT Market Engagement Webinar transport sector](#)
- [Thailand-UK PACT Market Engagement Webinar green finance and carbon markets](#)

Scope

Q. We are interested in submitting a proposal, can request a meeting to discuss our offer?

A. We have endeavoured to elaborate the scope of work that Thailand UK PACT intends to support in Sustainable Transport and Green Finance in the relevant Terms of Reference, as well as during the Market Engagement Events. UK PACT cannot meet with individual applicants prior to the application window closing and we would expect applicants to make their own assessment of their suitability for the opportunities presented.

Sustainable Transport

Q. For the EV sector, is the focus on any particular segment of transport? Buses, freight, para transit etc.

A. The focus is more on passenger public transport. This should be seen coherently as a network, which in some cases entails looking at paratransit.

Q. In the Sustainable Transport CfP, when referring to Bangkok do you mean Bangkok metropolitan area or only the municipal limit of Bangkok?

A. Bangkok metropolitan area.

Q. In the Sustainable Transport CfP, are there any national priorities in terms of project locations/ cities?

A. This is a demand-led programme. We are not prescribing specific sites but we would expect applicants to have an understanding on the government projects and be aware of their priorities areas and their transport policies.

Q. In the Sustainable Transport CfP, I understand there is an intention to shared/replicated lessons from these projects in other cities, however Bangkok is quite a unique case in Thailand (size and complexity of transport network), how do you envision the potential for replication/lessons sharing in this context?

A. Best practices would need to be tailored to Bangkok. We would expect participants to review existing conditions, identify gaps and then look for best practices overseas to cover those gaps and explore how they can be adopted and operationalised in Thailand and specifically in Bangkok

Q. Do we need to engage with Ministry of Transport and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration pre-bid and provide evidence of their support as part of the proposal submission?

A. We encourage you to engage with key counterparts before submitting a proposal, but evidence of support is not a requirement.

Green Finance

Q. Would research and gap analysis for IPMVP be a favourable project?

A. The scope of the current CfP on green finance is driven more towards the greening of finance and less on financing green investments.

Q. In the Green Finance CfP, would pitching a pilot design (particularly one using a nature-based solution), qualify under green finance?

A. Pilot designs that strongly correlates with the scope outlined will qualify.

Q. In the Green Finance CfP, Sub-Sovereign entities, are state-owned banks/companies included in this definition?

A. 'Sub-sovereign' focuses on subnational government entities. The third intervention will focus more on product development and offerings by financial institutions (incl. commercial banks and state-owned banks)

Q. Is it mandatory to show interest from beneficiaries in the application?

A. We encourage you to engage with key counterparts before submitting a proposal, but evidence of support is not a requirement.

Application process and requirements

Q. The stated duration of projects is said to be 24 – 25 months with potential extension and there is indication of designing for 3-year projects. Should applicants already design Y3 in the proposal or will there be another round of call for proposals?

A. We invite applicants to indicate how they could extend, expand or build on the first and second year of projects over an extended timeframe but we accept that information on year 3 of

projects may be less detailed at this stage. Multi-year proposals must demonstrate how they would achieve impact within one year, in the scenario that they are not extended into a second or third year. We will build in an annual review mechanism as part of the consideration for project extension.

Q. Are UN agencies eligible for this call for proposals?

A. Yes

Q. Is an international organization who registered outside of Thailand, like in Europe eligible to apply?

A. Yes

Q. Does an NGO need to be registered in Thailand in order to be a lead organization? are international NGOs allowed to apply?

A. An NGO does not need to be registered in Thailand to be a lead organisation. However, we expect there to be partners in the consortium with a presence in Thailand.

Q. Please confirm that these opportunities are for private sector consultancies as well (and not just non-profit entities)

A. Private sector consultancies are welcome to apply, funding is not limited to non-profit entities.

Q. Are standard UK academic institution overheads eligible?

A. Yes, UK PACT accepts TRAC overheads from UK Universities. Please indicate the % in the overheads tab of the budget and indicate in that tab that your organisation is applying TRAC. Should your proposal be accepted, we will verify the rate prior to grant signing.

Q. Are there day rate caps for experts? Does UK PACT have pre-defined person-day rates, and where can we access those, given that no profit margins are allowed?

A. Yes, please refer to the information provided in the budget template.

Q. Once the projects are selected for support, will there be a new call to integrate additional experts into the pool that will deliver the technical assistance?

A. UK PACT plans to support projects that will be delivering technical assistance. We encourage applicants to identify as much as possible their team composition before submitting their proposals. In cases where more time is needed to identify specific partners or expertise, please indicate that within the proposal. There is certain degree of flexibility during the project development and implementation to bring additional experts needed.

Q. May I confirm that one proposal should only one priority area (out of the three)? When you mentioned to focus one area, if I plan to submit for theme 2 and 3, is it not advisory?

A. Please submit individual proposals for each theme/ priority area. There is no limit for how many proposals an organisation can submit.

Q. Is a consortium required or recommended? Are consortia submissions preferred over single organisations even if an organisation can handle the entire scope alone?

A. UK PACT does not have a preference for proposals from consortia over individual organisations. We expect any applicants to have an understanding of the local context, existing relationships with key counterparts for the proposal and the ability to obtain information as needed to achieve the proposed outputs and outcomes.

Q. Is there access to the list of consortia already working in Thailand projects?

A. Information on existing UK PACT projects – including implementing organisations - in Thailand is available on our website.

Q. Is there a recommendation on whether the lead entity in a consortium should be a British entity or a Thailand-registered entity?

A. There is no recommendation or preference regarding the lead entity of a consortium. We expect consortium partners to have an understanding of the local context, existing relationships with key counterparts for the proposal and the ability to obtain information as needed to achieve the proposed outputs and outcomes.

Q. Is it imperative for a UK based agency to be a part of the consortium?

A. No, this is not a requirement

Q. Would "endorsement letter/partnership agreement" to be expected as part of proposal submission?

A. An endorsement letter is not required but it is beneficial, as it indicates that you have engaged with the partner and discussed their needs and priorities on the selected theme.

Partnership agreements between consortium partners are not required at application stage.

Q. Will you be providing partnering events to help build consortia and create expert multi partner delivery teams?

A. We encourage partnerships and consortiums to apply. However, partnering events will not be provided.

Q. Is the "generation of new knowledge" a key assessment criteria?

A. The focus is on technical assistance with the intention of supporting policy development to the key counterparts, therefore generation of new knowledge (as in novelty in research) is not a key assessment criteria. Ultimately, we would like the technical knowledge in sustainable transport to be applicable and contextualised in the Bangkok metropolitan area. The assessment criteria are included in the Terms of Reference.

Q. I represent a private sector consultancy. Can you please clarify the statement that there is to be no profit-margin for a PACT engagement. Does this mean that for private sector consultancies, we are not allowed a profit margin when we propose our fees as part of the RFP?

A. UK PACT is an official development assistance programme and it is a strict requirement that our grants do not include any element of profit, regardless of the nature of the entity receiving the grant funds.

Q. Are there any page limits to the proposal?

A. No, but there is a word limit per segments in the proposal template.

Q. Is 25 months fixed or are we able to propose a different timeline?

A. 25 months is the maximum possible delivery period for a project funded as part of these call for proposals, and while we will not accept projects that go beyond this – we welcome proposals for projects that will be completed in less time. There might be opportunities to extend projects if the initial implementation period is successful.

Q. Would match-funding be required in this call?

A. No, it is not required. We encourage applicants to submit proposals that leverage in other secured support or other work that applicants have done or are doing in parallel, however this is not part of the scoring criteria.

Q. Are firms required to be empanelled with UK PACT to submit a proposal?

A. No

Q. Can the same firm partner with different entities for different themes and proposals?

A. Yes

Q. Please define "co-create together"

A. Applicants' proposals on how to respond to the thematic areas may need refining, and this shall be done collaboratively during the one-month period. The refinements may be related to the output plan, workplan or budget proposed, among other aspects.

Q. Is it an option to "grant out" a portion of the project budget to an implementing partner, e.g., to an academic institution, to deliver selected outputs under the overall project?

A. There is the option to sub-grant a portion of the project if you find suitable consortium partners to do so, ideally this would be detailed in your project proposal. This option could also be discussed during project implementation, if the context changes significantly enough to warrant such a course of action.