



ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund

Term of Reference

Call for Proposals – Nature based Solutions

15 May 2025

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
1. ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF) background	3
2. The ASEAN-UK GTF Program Theory of Change	4
3. Eligibility criteria	5
4. Work packages	6
5. Application specifications	7
6. Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)	8
7. Call for Proposals timeline	8
8. Proposal scoring and weighting	9
9. Further detail	12
Annexe 1: Scope of Work of Pillar V Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation	13

1. ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF) background

The UK became a Dialogue Partner to ASEAN in 2021, developed a 5-year ASEAN-UK Plan of Action (2022-2026), and launched five flagship programmes on economic integration, women, peace and security, advancing girls' education, health security, and climate.

The ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF), with up to £40 million in funding from 2024-2029, aims to accelerate ASEAN's transition to a clean and climate-resilient economy by reducing emissions in key sectors, supporting green economic growth and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable people. It will provide technical assistance throughout the region, targeting all ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Timor-Leste. The GTF works with ASEAN institutions, such as the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Centres and Facilities, and various ASEAN Entities and Sectoral Bodies.

The GTF is managed by the UK Mission to ASEAN and delivered through the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transition (UK PACT) mechanism. The GTF is a new, bespoke funding mechanism which the UK has designed to support ASEAN and ASEAN Member States and is a key tool to enhance collaboration between the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, and the UK on climate action. It supports impactful projects through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and peer-to-peer learning. It also pilots transformational technologies and facilitates evidence-based climate mitigation actions. Climate adaptation co-benefits will also be delivered.

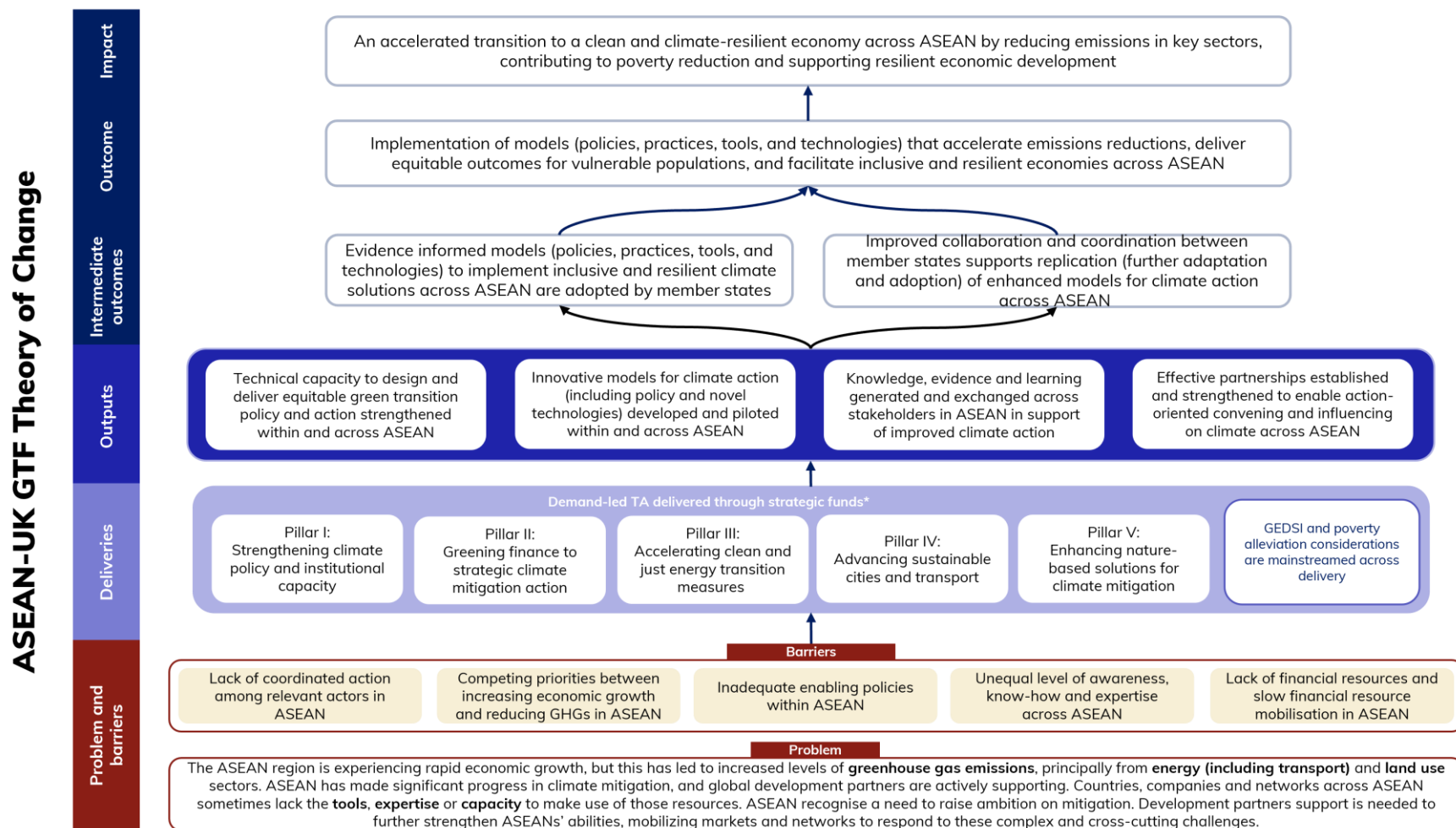
The ASEAN-UK GTF spans across five pillars:

- I. Strengthening Climate Policy and Institutional Capacity (Climate Policy)**
- II. Greening Finance to Strategic Mitigation Action (Green Finance)**
- III. Accelerating Clean and Just Energy Transition Measures (Clean and Just Energy Transition)**
- IV. Advancing Sustainable Cities and Transportation (Cities and Transportation)**
- V. Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation (Nature-based Solutions)**

This Call for Proposals (CfP) focuses on pillar V.

2. The ASEAN-UK GTF Program Theory of Change

FIGURE 1 THE ASEAN-UK GTF THEORY OF CHANGE



*Strategic funds refer to targeted resources under the Green Transition Fund (GTF) used to implement Technical assistance (TA) activities across the five pillars. These demand-led funds respond to the specific needs of ASEAN and support tailored interventions, such as policy development, pilot initiatives, partnership facilitation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange aligning with the programme's overarching outcomes and impact

3. Eligibility criteria

The UK PACT Applicant Handbook & Budget Template provides detailed information on organisational, project, and cost eligibility. We highlight the eligibility criteria below but encourage applicants to review the Applicant Handbook and proposal templates for further details. Proposals will be reviewed only if the eligibility criteria mentioned below are met.

Applicant	- Government agencies and/or departments, including the ASEAN Secretariat, are not eligible to apply either as a lead organisation or as a partner in a consortium. - International, national and local organisations are eligible to apply. - Applying organisations must form either a consortium of different organisation or a multiple country offices application. We are looking for proposals from a consortium of different organisations or multiple country offices within the same organisation that can combine insights from international experience, regional ASEAN engagement and understanding of local context. The consortium and team structure must also reflect the combination of technical expertise required to deliver the work package an applicant wishes to respond to. An organisation can only apply as a consortium/country office lead in one proposal per Work Package. - Applicants must submit a letter of intent signed by the consortium lead and member(s) to form a consortium to response to this proposal. - Consortium lead must be legally registered in one or more ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. - The applicants must have prior experience in providing technical assistance relevant to the Work Package with minimum size of GBP 500,000 in a 12-month duration. The experience of the lead and/or partners will be considered to satisfy this requirement. The application should include references which demonstrate this experience.
Project	- Proposals must align with the strategic priorities outlined in these terms of reference. - Projects are intended to provide Technical Assistance. - There is an additional 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. - The value of projects must not exceed £800,000/year tax inclusive.
Cost	- All projects must be delivered on a not-for-profit basis. Eligible costs include: - Consultancy and/or staff time required to deliver activities. - Reasonable travel and subsistence costs.

- Other costs directly related to activities and outputs (workshops, seminars, production of reports, translation, etc.).
- Taxes
- Overhead costs (see Applicant Handbook for further guidance)
- Funding for tangible assets, e.g. computers and furniture, is not permissible.
- Applicants must include a budget line for activities related to the ASEAN accreditation/formalisation process for the project with the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Applicants are encouraged to include a project coordination budget to collaborate at minimum with other projects in the GTF portfolio, projects in UK PACT Asia portfolios, and other relevant UK-funded projects.

- Application**
- Applications must be coherent and legible.
 - All documents must be completed and submitted. The omission of any one document will lead to disqualification. The list of documents is as follows:
 - Letter of Intent to form a consortium
 - Proof of Lead consortium office registration
 - Technical proposal, including mandatory project references
 - Project budget and work plan
 - Risk register
 - ToC slide
 - Curriculum Vitae of all proposed experts (in international best practice CV format)
 - Applications and all forms of communication with the programme must be submitted in English.

4. Work packages

For this Call for Proposals, ASEAN-UK GTF seeks to award 3 work packages (WP).

Pillar	Work Package	Link to page
Pillar V: Nature based Solutions	Transboundary policy frameworks and platforms for collective action on NbS	Annexe 1 – 5.1
	NbS models and monitoring. Financing for NbS research and development	Annexe 1 – 5.2
	Nature-positive financing and businesses	Annexe 1 – 5.3

ASEAN-UK GTF expects each work package to **be treated and delivered as one project**. Applicants **may bid for multiple work packages**. Details of the scope of each work package are listed in the Annexes. ASEAN-UK GTF will manage the work packages within each pillar as a portfolio of projects. Each project will be expected, where applicable, to collaborate and create synergies with other projects.

5. Application specifications

1. Work package budgets

We expect Applicants to submit a single proposal to address one work package. Proposals may be submitted by the same organisation/consortium for multiple work packages, provided each proposal fully addresses a work package individually. Each proposal will be assessed independently. Within the proposal narrative, Sections 3 (Work Packages) and Section 14 (Value for Money), applicants are asked to reference any separate work package proposals submitted and elaborate on the benefits and efficiencies of joint delivery. However, each work package must remain fully budgeted individually for the proposal stage.

2. Project duration

Project proposals should anticipate an implementation period of **October 2025 - December 2026 (15 months)**.

The ASEAN-UK GTF reserves the right to ask clarification questions or to ask for amendments after the initial proposals have been reviewed. In some cases, ASEAN-UK GTF might also suggest that Applicants work closely together or form consortia where projects are working to achieve similar objectives and/or where consolidation into a larger programme approach would be beneficial over a longer period. Applicants should be prepared to respond to and discuss these requests.

As ASEAN-UK GTF is a demand-led programme, we expect ongoing consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat and Sectoral Bodies. Selected organisations will need to refine their work plans and activities based on consultation with key stakeholders¹ during a three-month inception period following the grant signature. Any adjustments agreed between the parties will be reflected in the relevant delivery schedules of the grant agreement.

ASEAN-UK GTF is an adaptive programme, and we seek partners who can be flexible and adapt to deliver against changing demands. In line with the goal of the ASEAN Secretariat, various ASEAN Entities and Sectoral Bodies, the ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), and the Timor-Leste Government, we invite applicants to indicate how they may extend, expand, or build on the first 15 months of delivery—should further funding become available.

3. Application Guidance

The submission deadline is **3 July 2025 at 18:00 ICT/ 11:00 UTC**.

The following documents form your application pack and must be completed in English. Applicants must complete the online form on the Call for Proposals web page. After submitting this form, you will receive an email containing a link to upload your application template pack for Applicants to fill out. The pack consist of:

- ASEAN-UK GTF Proposal Template
- ASEAN-UK GTF Budget and Workplan Template
- ASEAN-UK GTF Project Risk & Issue Register Template
- Project Theory of Change (ToC) Application Form

¹ In particular – ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies

Please be advised that applicants are allowed to develop a letter of intent to form a consortium following their own template.

6. Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

Applicants should refer to [the UK PACT GEDSI Guidance](#) on considering and suitably integrating GEDSI principles in project design. Below are some ideas to consider:

- **Ensure accessibility:** Projects should make activities and information accessible to all, including those with disabilities. Proposals must specify how materials, meetings, and outputs will be accessible to individuals with different needs.
- **Promote safety and equity:** Outline specific measures to safeguard vulnerable groups, particularly women in the working area, against potential harms like workplace violence or harassment.
- **Enhance affordability and economic inclusion:** In transforming markets, it's essential to propose financial models that make the solutions affordable and accessible to marginalised and low-income groups, ensuring equitable energy access.
- **Broaden participation:** Clearly demonstrate strategies for including diverse community voices in decision-making processes, particularly those from indigenous and other under-represented groups. This involves active engagement and capacity-building within local communities to elevate their role in shaping project outcomes.
- **Detail inclusive project benefits:** Explain how the project will deliver benefits across different societal segments, particularly how technologies and practices developed will be accessible and beneficial to marginalised groups.
- **Inclusive decision-making:** For projects focused on policy and regulatory frameworks, describe how diverse stakeholder inputs will be incorporated into the development and implementation phases to ensure policies are responsive to the needs of all community members.
- **Implement safeguarding measures:** Describe mechanisms for protecting vulnerable community members from the unintended consequences of project activities, including specific measures to mitigate environmental, social, and economic impacts.
- **Plan for scalable and sustainable impacts:** Highlight how integrating GEDSI principles contributes to the long-term sustainability and potential scaling of project impacts, ensuring that advancements in clean energy and industrial practices benefit a broad range of stakeholders.

7. Call for Proposals timeline

Stage	Date
1. Market Engagement Event	8 May 2025
2. Call for proposals opened for applications	15 May 2025
3. Deadline for clarification questions.	16 June 2025

Consolidated clarifications will be published on the ASEAN GTF web page. Kindly note that clarification questions will not be answered by email.

Final publication of responses to clarification questions.	26 June 2025
4. Deadline for submission of applications	3 July 2025
5. Estimated Final Awards announced	August 2025
7. Due diligence, co-creation on project activities and grant signing deadline for clarification questions	August – October 2025
8. (Estimated) project start date	October 2025

8. Proposal scoring and weighting

TABLE 1 PROPOSAL CRITERIA DESCRIPTION AND WEIGHTING

Area	Criteria	Description	Weighting
Technical (70%)	Impact	The applicant provides a clear impact pathway in the Project ToC Application Form. The applicant shows how their outputs will lead to the outcomes required for transformational change. This includes: - articulating how the project will specifically help the counterpart achieve and accelerate their goal for the related sector development (political will and ambition) - identifying opportunities for replication/scaling up of activities (scalability, critical mass) - identifying clear actions to provide suggested science-based recommendations and improve leverage (evidence sharing and creating leverage) - clearly articulating how proposed activities will increase the capacity of counterparts to achieve outcomes and/or pilot/test an innovation	20
	Project description, approach, and	The applicant clearly articulates how the project will deliver one or more of the expected outputs (as stated in the ASEAN-UK GTF ToC document) and lays out a project plan	20

Area	Criteria	Description	Weighting
	mapping, and workplan	which includes the description of a technically robust project, activities, and workplan - The applicant has a strong rationale for the project's ability to deliver outcomes and a clear plan for engaging with key counterparts during delivery to ensure the uptake of project outputs and earning ASEAN accreditation/ formalisation. - Applicants detail their intended methodology to address the gaps and provide a proposed roadmap and timeline for overcoming them with counterparts. - The proposal demonstrates a strong understanding of the causal relationship between outputs/outcomes within the work package, the proposed work package, and other ongoing actions conducted by the applicant and/or other implementing partners conducting relevant activities.	
	Inclusivity	The applicant clearly describes the resources required and the technical approach to ensure inclusivity throughout various phases of project delivery, including: - During the project inception phase, to identify the GEDSI gap in the sector and sub-sector in line with activities and deliverables; develop list of all affected stakeholders, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, and finalise a plan for monitoring and reporting (e.g., development of sex-disaggregated data). - During the implementation phase, develop a plan to recognise the fundamental rights of the affected stakeholders and beneficiaries to fill the GEDSI gap. From the list of affected stakeholders, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, develop a vulnerability analysis (e.g., using multi-layered vulnerability based on gender, race, disability, poverty, and age to define the target from the most to the least vulnerable)	15

Area	Criteria	Description	Weighting
		○ Developing empowerment activities, poverty alleviation for the affected stakeholders, beneficiaries, and other parties. GEDSI-specific activities and outputs (e.g., empowering the voice of coal workers in coal phase-out studies) developed. ○ Propose a GEDSI well-balanced team structure	
	Knowledge, skills, experience, and team structure	• The proposed project team has relevant knowledge and experience in the subject area and the skills to deliver the project. The team is well-structured and available to mobilise quickly. Applicants must submit CVs with the proposal. The applicant demonstrates prior experience with similar activities and can articulate efficient start-up and delivery based on their experience. The applicant demonstrates experience and knowledge on ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry. • The consortium must be able to demonstrate combined prior experience of working in a regional context of ASEAN. It can be represented through prior experiences of working in multiple countries of ASEAN Member States and Timor Leste, or close coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, or technical assistance to ASEAN centres, committees, task forces and sectoral bodies. The experience of the lead and partners of one of the above will be considered to satisfy this requirement. Experience in all of the above is preferred. The application should include references which demonstrate this experience. • To ensure effective knowledge transfer and capacity building, applicants must demonstrate a strong understanding of stakeholders and the context of delivery and bring the relevant expertise required to achieve impact. Given the in-person activities outlined in the project, proposals are expected to have at least part of their teams based	15

Area	Criteria	Description	Weighting
		locally to key stakeholders involved in proposed activities.	
Project management (20%)	Project management	The proposal outlines a clear plan for mobilising the project quickly and effectively. The proposal describes a robust project management mechanism to ensure activities stay on track and on budget and deliver project results. This must include collating and submitting evidence of activities and outputs and reporting project progress to ASEAN-UK GTF. The applicant provides a clear plan for managing consortia where applicable.	15
	Risk management	The applicant has clearly outlined the key risks associated with delivery, with straightforward plans for mitigating these and an understanding of the likelihood and impact of each risk. This includes risks associated with impacts on marginalised groups and changing political contexts.	5
Financial (10%)	Budget and Value for Money	The budget is clearly linked to the activities and outputs outlined, with appropriate allocation of time, resources and costs that appear reasonable for the activities proposed. This includes sufficient allocation for project management, reporting, and data collection to allow for close coordination with ASEAN-UK GTF. The application provides confidence that the project will represent good value for money, including FCDO's Four Es (economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity) and excluding all non-eligible costs, such as profit. The Four Es are detailed in the Applicant Handbook.	10

9. Further detail

Applicants should read this Terms of Reference together with the Applicant Handbook and other guidance documents for all further details.

Clarification questions should be sent to aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk and will be accepted until 18:00 ICT/ 11:00 UTC) on 16 June 2025. Answers will be published on the ASEAN-UK GTF Call for Proposals page.



Annexe 1: Scope of Work of Pillar V Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation

Why are we looking for proposals related to Nature-based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems that effectively and adaptively address social, economic, and environmental challenges while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefit. Via ASEAN-UK GTF, we are interested in how to unleash NbS potential for climate mitigation in ASEAN.

NbS are based on the premise of sustainable deployment of natural capital (the stock of resources and ecosystem) and ASEAN has an abundance of natural capital. It is also highly dependent on natural capital – with one study estimating that 30% of the wealth of the region comes from natural capital.

Most ASEAN Member States (with the exception of Philippines and Thailand) have noted the significance of NbS in the national climate adaptation strategies. All Member States note the role of NbS in their mitigation strategies. Internationally - the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the UNFCCC COP28 calls upon countries to improve adaptation and reduce vulnerability by implementing NbS and ecosystem-based approaches. Work is ongoing to integrate NbS into the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (2025-2030) with live work on creating a draft regional NbS framework to mainstream NbS, piloting national NbS hubs and an NbS toolkit.²

The ASEAN-United Kingdom Dialogue Partnership (2022-2026) guides the implementation of the goals and objectives of the ASEAN-UK Dialogue Partnership. The Partnership document specifically references the potential for collaboration on NbS in relation to:

- **Agriculture, Forestry and Environment and Climate Change** (Build capacity to promote NbS, ecosystem-based approaches, and investment in natural capital which will provide entry points to resilient livelihoods and sustainable adaptation)

Critical **ASEAN stakeholders** on NbS include:

- ASEAN Secretariat (main counterpart)
- ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (AMAF)
- ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) together with its thematic working groups cooperation on natural landscape.
 - ASEAN Working group on Social Forestry
 - ASEAN Working group on Forest Management
 - ASEAN Working Group on Forest and Climate Change
 - ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
 - ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
- ABAC (ASEAN Business Advisory Council) (ABAC) and ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCMSME)

² [Further details here](#)

With strong political interest on NbS, UK-PACT has prioritised the following actions which will enhance ASEAN policy, technical skills and action on NbS for climate mitigation:

- **Transboundary policy frameworks and platforms for collective action on NbS**
- **NbS models and monitoring. Financing for NbS research and development**
- **Nature-positive financing and businesses**

Ensuring alignment with ASEAN key strategies

The following ASEAN policy and strategies informed GTF Pillar V for all Work Packages:

- ASEAN Green Initiative (AGI)
- The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint
- ASEAN's Vision and Strategic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Forestry/FAF (2016–2025)
- Multi-Sectoral Framework for Climate Change, Agriculture and Forestry towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievement of SDGs
- ASEAN joint statement on climate change at COP
- ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)
- ASEAN Green Recovery Platform
- ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality

Prospective applicants are advised to review the [Study on NbS in ASEAN adopted by AMAF in 2022](#) and the developing initiatives, such as [ASEAN Heritage Park program by ASEAN Center for Biodiversity](#); [Mangrove for the Future initiative](#), ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management order to leverage existing efforts on NbS.

We strongly encourage prospective applicants to review relevant ASEAN strategies as they prepare their proposals, ensuring that these strategies are deeply integrated into their project plans. Proposals should reflect a profound understanding of ASEAN's strategic priorities and demonstrate alignment with ASEAN's broader regional objectives rather than merely aggregating country-specific initiatives. This approach underscores the importance of adopting a comprehensive ASEAN perspective—a fundamental criterion for endorsement and support under the ASEAN-UK GTF. By focusing on a unified regional framework, proposals will distinctively contribute to a cohesive and integrated ASEAN agenda, setting them apart from projects that are predominantly national in scope.

The current funding window closes in December 2026. Bidders should consider how their projects could be extended beyond December 2026 should additional funding become available. The key elements of the work packages below reflect projected actions out to December 2026.

The following tables provides detailed information and expectations for the work package on Nature based Solutions pillars. We are actively seeking proposals for these themes, which include the scope of work for applicants to respond to. Applicants must respond to these activities in their proposals. ASEAN stakeholders are expected to either lead, work with, or consult within these work packages.

Work Package 5.1: Transboundary policy frameworks and platforms for collective action on NbS

This work package is expected to support existing and future ASEAN work on transboundary issues – paying special attention to the role of local traditional knowledge as a core element of landscape management.

TABLE 2: WORK PACKAGE 5.1 ACTIVITY COMPONENT

No	Activity	Description of Activity
5.1.1	Prepare and agree via ASEAN, core policy text on transboundary frameworks for NbS implementation - addressing climate mitigation and aligning to international commitments.	- Leverage existing examples of transboundary ecosystem management³ to generate practical tools, guidelines and actions to support a transboundary framework for NbS implementation across ASEAN. This could include: - Generate and negotiate potential NbS-transboundary ecosystem management policy text with lead ASEAN stakeholders. - Extract and synthesise existing tools for NbS implementation from current transboundary interventions. - Synthesise best practice on what worked for existing transboundary complexes which adopt NbS practice with a view to setting out 'critical factors and technical skillsets' for future sites.
5.1.2	Establish at least one national multi-stakeholder collaboration between governments, private sector, and CSOs to enhance and	- Shortlist and select at least one existing transboundary complex with a strong narrative on NbS. Establish (or refresh/strengthen) a national or subnational multistakeholder collaboration bringing Government, private sector and CSOs together to enhance and integrate NbS into policies and action plans. - Work with the ASEAN Working Group on Forest and Climate Change to share knowledge and experience on multistakeholder

3. Several terrestrial and marine transboundary complexes exist in the ASEAN region:

Coral Triangle: This marine area encompasses parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, and is critical for the sustainability of migratory and transboundary marine turtle populations.

Mekong River Basin: This transboundary river system affects multiple ASEAN countries, with dams causing irregularities in river flow and impacting countries in the lower basin.

ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme: This network includes marine protected areas across ASEAN member countries, promoting transboundary cooperation for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation.

See also - examples of cross-sector collaborations for NbS interventions in carbon sinks of Southeast Asia and the border relations that shape their transboundary governance: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13280-023-01961-x/tables/2>. Source: Miller, M.A., Taylor, D. A transboundary agenda for nature-based solutions across sectors, scales and disciplines: Insights from carbon projects in Southeast Asia. *Ambio* 53, 534–551 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01961-x>

Bidders should also review ongoing work via the [Southeast Asia Climate and Nature-based Solutions \(SCeNe\) Coalition](#).

ASEAN Secretariat is keen to integrate mangrove ecosystem management in relevant areas where carbon rich emission reduction can take place alongside ongoing community activities. Bidders should include opportunities where possible and refer to [ASEAN mangrove ecosystem management network](#).

No	Activity	Description of Activity
	integrate NbS measures directly and indirectly into their national policies, strategies and action plans.	collaborations on NbS in transboundary settings. Create guidelines and training modules to support further uptake.

Work Package 5.2: Nature based Solutions models and monitoring. Financing for Nature based Solutions research and development

This work package is expected to support ASEAN in developing NbS model projects, practical monitoring tools, and funding support for research and development. Integrating evidence-based research and traditional knowledge is important, as well as a consideration for scalability across ASEAN member states.

TABLE 3 WORK PACKAGE 5.2 ACTIVITY COMPONENT

No	Activity	Description of Activity
5.2.1	Develop and pilot NbS's that can be applied across ASEAN, integrating evidence-based research and local traditional knowledge. Ensure these are led by ASEAN stakeholders.	- Conduct an NbS for climate mitigation pilot activity in ASEAN, which supports the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management and aligns with the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions criteria.⁴ Bidders should generate a series of NbS models (potentially drawing from existing work) and generate evidence of impact using the IUCN standard – highlighting the role of local traditional knowledge. The aim of the pilot should be to demonstrate the impact of well-designed NbS interventions which integrate local traditional knowledge. If possible, at least one model should reflect NbS in: - Mangroves. Bidders should refer to the ASEAN mangrove ecosystem management network.

⁴ (1) NbS effectively address societal challenges, (2) Design of NbS is informed by scale, (3) NbS result in a net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, (4) NbS are economically viable, (5) NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes, (6) NbS equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits, (7) NbS are managed adaptively, based on evidence, (8) NbS are sustainable and mainstreamed within an appropriate jurisdictional context.

No	Activity	Description of Activity
		- Promote the enhancement of sinks through afforestation and reforestation • Foster innovation by creating an online knowledge-sharing platform for NbS researchers and practitioners across AMS. • Conduct capacity-building programmes to equip AMS with the necessary skills and tools for effective NbS for climate change implementation. Training should include core messages on how best to integrate local traditional knowledge (e.g. agroforestry, social forestry).
5.2.2	Establish and deploy a set of monitoring tools tailored to track and evaluate NbS, incorporating criteria that are appropriate for ASEAN to foster regional ownership through partnerships with relevant partners.	• Working closely with an ASEAN stakeholder, design, pilot and socialize NbS monitoring tools which support 'proof of concept' for NbS across a range of themes and geographies. Where possible integrate with the regional MRV (measurement, reporting, and verification) framework. In addition to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS, the tools could also refer to existing NbS global frameworks such as the European Commission NbS Impact Assessment Framework and the UN Framework for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), where appropriate for ASEAN context. Review and utilise where appropriate existing NbS tools. Ultimately this intervention should help AMS make the economic case for investing in NbS. • Establish or further developing an NbS incubator/tool to identify, develop, and pilot NbS model projects based on the above IUCN NbS criteria and other global frameworks in ASEAN. This tool will act as a database for NbS projects conducted within the AMS and will support fundraising efforts – helping match future funders with existing/emerging NbS projects. Review existing tools and incubators. • Establish standardised NbS protocols for data collection, analysis, and reporting to ensure consistency and comparability across ASEAN. • Host a series of dialogues with a lead ASEAN stakeholder to socialise and get feedback on the monitoring tools. All ASEAN NbS practitioners and stakeholders should be included and the dialogues should highlight credible evidence on the benefits of

No	Activity	Description of Activity
		using the tools (monitoring tools and NbS incubator) e.g. increasing project visibility and funding, knowledge sharing between ASEAN countries, etc. • Conduct capacity-building programmes and/or events on how to use the monitoring tools with diverse ASEAN stakeholders.
5.2.3	Establish ASEAN demand informed R&D funding for NbS initiatives for climate mitigation.	• Establish a public-private partnership platform or cooperation frameworks to leverage funding resources for R&D NbS model projects for climate mitigation in ASEAN and test new approaches in real-world settings with the following activities: • Develop guidelines on funding R&D NbS projects for climate mitigation in ASEAN. • Deliver a series of workshops on R&D funding based on the guidelines. Workshops should include: ○ identifying funders, ○ writing strong proposals, ○ forming strong and equitable partnerships, ○ managing research, ○ linking with MRV systems • Identify potential NbS funders, including private sector actors. • Facilitate partnership agreements, legal support, and pilot collaborations between the implementor(s) and funder(s) for NbS projects. • Work should align with Strategy 5 of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality - “Credible & common standards” where appropriate.

Work Package 5.3: Nature-positive financing and businesses

This work package is expected to accelerate investment in NbS across ASEAN from diverse funding sources. ASEAN and its Member States (AMS) have various public, private, and philanthropic funding that could potentially be managed in a more strategic way. Many green finance initiatives have also been piloted throughout ASEAN, learning from these initiatives could inform future NbS funding mechanisms. There is strong potential to invest further in NbS enterprises, especially the micro, medium, and small enterprises (MSME) that have integrate NbS into their business models.

The following table provides detailed information and expectations for the work package on NbS pillars. We are actively seeking proposals for these themes. Applicants must respond to these activities in their proposals.

TABLE 4 WORK PACKAGE 5.3 ACTIVITY COMPONENT

No	Activity	Description of Activity
5.3.1	Prepare the ground for an NbS impact fund that combines public, private, and philanthropic funding and encourages blended finance approaches for NbS, which reduce risks associated with climate change.	- Review existing green finance/nature funding mechanisms available to ASEAN. Engage with key actors from private and philanthropic green finance sectors and provide tailored technical advice to ASEAN on timelines and critical actions leading up to the creation and activation of a dedicated ASEAN NbS impact fund. The fund would ideally be led by ASEAN AMAF or ASOF. The fund design should include a dedicated window for high-potential MSMEs which are already demonstrating nature-positive outcomes.⁵ If those interventions are funded, the fund design should respond to the outputs from Work Package 5.2 (monitoring and reporting framework). - Bidders should ensure that the fund design is informed by relevant ASEAN bodies that are likely to lead future action (e.g., the Food Agriculture and Forestry working groups, the Environment Divisions on climate change). Clear recommendations and agreements in principle should be sought on ASEAN oversight/governance/advisory committee roles.
5.3.2	Develop access-to-finance advice for MSMEs. Offer targeted NbS technical for MSMEs to support the growth of nature positive businesses in ASEAN. Work with existing green finance actors (covering e.g. nature credits, carbon credits, biodiversity offsets, etc) to link them with MSME's in ASEAN.	- Bidders should ensure they build in time to work collaboratively with any other green finance intervention funded by GTF. - Establish a mechanism which identifies NbS MSME's⁶ and offers tailored capacity building and technical advice to increase their access to green finance. Build relationships with existing green finance providers and link MSME's with relevant funders. The mechanism could become an NbS incubator over time.

⁵ ASEAN are particularly interested in options which include agroforestry and support relevant MSME's.

⁶ E.g. funding for trading nature credits or biodiversity offsets to incentivize climate mitigation efforts, based on existing successful NbS projects that can generate financial returns while delivering positive environmental and social impacts (e.g. agroforestry, sustainable forestry & reforestation, mangrove restoration & blue carbon projects).

No	Activity	Description of Activity
	Strengthen MSMEs and venture/enterprise NbS capacity through technical assistance to help them scale, commercialise, become profitable, and attract investment for sustainable businesses – promoting their role as future suppliers of NbS.	• Develop guidelines and linked technical assessment for MSME's on the suite of green finance products available in ASEAN e.g. green bonds, carbon credits, impact investing etc. • Develop a series of cross-sector capacity-building courses and programmes to equip MSMEs and ventures owners in adopting and scaling NbS practices and outcomes that utilise practical insights into integrating nature-positive/NbS strategies into their operations, enhance profitability, and position themselves to attract further investment. • Work with ASEAN AMAF/ASOF to support coordination with ABAC (ASEAN Business Advisory Council) (ABAC) and/or ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCMSME) to establish specialised platforms that can act as an innovation hub and support centre for sustainable and NbS practices. This platform will have a role to facilitate access to markets, offer comprehensive technical assistance and hold regular networking events. • Support multi-stakeholder and cross-sector NbS events, investor meetups, and trade fairs to enable NbS businesses and social enterprises (especially MSME's) to build partnerships and scale their operations.