

ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation

Call for Proposals – Responses to clarification questions

Update as of 16 June 2025

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A. Introduction

This document compiles clarification questions and answers from the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF) call for proposals (CfP) for the Nature-based Solutions in ASEAN.

The Q&A in this document are divided into six categories: post-event communication, scope and focus of the CfP, eligibility, GEDSI, budget and finance, and others.

B. Post-event communication

1. Q. Where are the post-information session documents shared (slides and recording) and a summary and list of webinar participants?

A. You can find post-MEE information at this link: [ASEAN-UK GTF Market Engagement Webinar](#)

All information regarding the ASEAN-UK GTF Call for Proposal can be accessed at the following links: [Nature-based Solutions Call for Proposals](#) [ASEAN-UK GTF](#)

2. Q. Where can we register for this mailing list and receive updates and the launch of the Call for Proposals?

A. To register for the mailing list, visit the [Contact Us](#) feature on the website and submit the form. You have to tick “agree” to receive communications from ASEAN-UK GTF and UK PACT.

3. Q. Where should the proposal be submitted?

A. To submit proposals, applicants can go to How to Apply section in ASEAN-UK GTF Call for Proposals [webpage](#).

C. Scope and focus of the CfP

4. Q. If we were to apply for work package 5.2, do we need to do all three items or a specific item?

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

5. Q. Should a proposed project be implemented in all ASEAN countries, or can we choose 1 or 2 targeted ASEAN countries? Is it mandatory for all

components of the project to be implemented across every ASEAN member state?

A. We are looking to fund projects that target ASEAN, not a country-specific or a multi-country project. There is a clear difference between ASEAN project and multi-country project in Southeast Asia.

- 6. Q. “Target all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste” Could you kindly confirm whether this means that project implementation is required in all ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste, or if it is acceptable for the project’s benefits—such as through regional knowledge sharing, capacity building, or dissemination of outputs—to extend to these countries without direct implementation in each one? Additionally, the FAQ references that projects should not be country-specific or multi-country. Could you please clarify what this means in practice? Does this imply that the projects should be regional in nature and design, rather than focused on one or a few countries?**

A: In practice, this means projects should be regional in nature and design rather than focusing on one or a few countries only. What you are elaborating in the question above is part of our assessment of the proposal. You are welcome to propose activities on regional knowledge sharing, capacity building, or dissemination outputs, too.

- 7. Q. For work package 5.1, does the multi-stakeholder platform (2) have to focus on transboundary NbS (1) in terms of the link between the two?**

A. Ideally, yes. This is to ensure the holistic approach of the proposed project. The project will represent one work package.

- 8. Q. Definition of “transboundary” (WP 5.1): Does this term require a landscape that physically straddles an international border, or would knowledge transfer across borders (with pilots in one country) qualify?**

A: It means physically it pertains to an area across national and sub-national borders.

- 9. Q. NbS is a broad concept involving multiple different types of intervention. To achieve focus and potentially deeper progress, would you welcome a focus on one type of NbS in proposals? e.g. forest landscape restoration**

A. The concept is welcome. More details on the focus and progress are shared in the Terms of Reference.

10.Q. Is biochar considered as one of the NBS solutions which can be funded or piloted?

A. Definition of NbS is mentioned in the Terms of Reference. However, please note that due to the nature of the broad definition, some areas of interest are detailed in the Terms of Reference. The proposed project should aim to meet the expectations of each work package.

11.Q. Do you have any priority themes for the NbS under this call, e.g. agriculture or forestry?

A. Priorities and importance of certain topics are mentioned in the Terms of Reference.

12.Q. Does the proposal need to cover all work packages?

A. For this Call for Proposals, ASEAN-UK GTF seeks to award 3 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.

13. Q. Can we submit the proposal for NbS knowledge enhancing/workshop for the government stakeholders? And is it the post that will be the one submitting?

A. The proposal should follow the inquired work packages in the Terms of Reference.

14. Q. Given the size of the funding package per grant and implementation timeline, can the project target a few countries in a way that can then be scaled and replicated across the other countries?

A. Yes, this is a possible approach.

15. Q. Do we need to apply for specific sub-work packages, or can we mix and match?

A. Each proposal should fully respond to one work package and include all activity components.

16. Q. If one organisation were to submit 1 proposal under each work package, the expectation would be that each work package would integrate to work together to inform TOC?

A. For this Call for Proposals, ASEAN-UK GTF seeks to award 3 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.

17. Q. Is the project proposal to be submitted focused on one objective rather than encapsulating all three objectives?

A. Each proposal should respond to one work package in full, including all activity components. Each project should benefit all ASEAN Member States.

18. Q. Given the divergent ecological/development conditions of different ASEAN countries, will projects targeting NbS projects benefiting a majority of ASEAN member states be considered? For example, Singapore has no mountains and Laos has no coastline, so NbS in either of these contexts could not be replicated across these two ASEAN countries.

A. The country selection will be informed by the focus of ASEAN strategies, plans, priorities and agreements. More details on the focus of the ecosystem sought in the projects are detailed in the Terms of Reference.

19. Q. The previous CfP focused on cross-sectoral impact/focus. Will more specific industry focuses be encouraged with this round of proposals? i.e. agriculture/forestry?

A. The strategic documents of ASEAN that are referred to in the Terms of Reference are mainly for the forestry and agriculture sectors.

20. Q. If we only propose the project for Malaysia as a country, for example, will the proposal not be chosen?

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

21. Is it exclusive to mitigation projects? Is there openness to broader co-benefits such as biodiversity, livelihoods, and resilience?

A. With a focus on climate mitigation, ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund expects proposals that put the climate mitigation angle front and centre. Applicants can propose to integrate climate adaptation and biodiversity protection as the project's co-benefits.

22. Under package 1 - Is it understood that transboundary is where a clear border is shared between countries. What does GEF envision by the wording Transboundary?

A. Under Work Package 5.1, we are looking at transboundary ecosystem management with some regional contexts to pay special attention to the role of local traditional knowledge as a core element of landscape management. The Terms of Reference mention some examples of existing work.

23. Can I challenge the 15-month duration? Given that you want to deliver what looks like a well-thought-out and ambitious programme on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation, is it reasonable to see impact on such a timeline?

A. We understand that the time and resources may seem to be limited in implementing the work packages. However, we put forward a set of realistic deliverables. Beyond the dedicated time within the Call for Proposals, the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund has also drawn up the overall strategy to ensure a future area of support beyond the 15-month duration.

24. Should this project involve/engage a UK-based organisation in the implementation? And should the applicant engage/inform the country-wise UK Embassy during development of the proposal, or submission or implementation if awarded?

A. There is no need for an engagement from a UK-based organisation. We encourage best practices to be exchanged in the ASEAN, but it is not necessarily transferred through a UK-based organisation. Instead, the lead applicant should be based in one of the ASEAN countries. More details on eligibility are available in the Terms of Reference.

25. Would it be possible to submit a proposal with an urban or city-oriented focus?

- A. The topic is eligible. However, please consider that a reference on a specific topic in the Terms of Reference signifies its priority in the Call for Proposals. Kindly check the reference again to see if an in-depth implementation of one topic is needed.
- 26. Q. The document stated about nature-based solutions. We are not sure what the term “nature-based solutions” refers to. Are they supposed to create a prototype using natural-based products? Or using a prototype to protect the nature-based solutions? We are not quite clear?**
- A. The definition is underlined explicitly in the Terms of Reference, together with expected deliverables .
- 27. Q. Will GTF accept a pre-feasibility study specific for only 1 ASEAN country? Where the study will result in a major emission reduction**
- A. The main expected deliverables for each work package are stated explicitly in the Terms of Reference. Pre-feasibility assessment is so far not the main priority in this Call for Proposal.
- 28. Q. Are there any standard NbS solutions designed and defined that we need to follow, or can anyone come up with NbS solutions appropriate to the particular context?**
- A. The reference on the definition and contexts for the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is elaborated in the Terms of Reference.
- 29. Q: I am a policy analyst at the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration, Republic of Indonesia. I am currently one of the participants of the ASEAN Climate Leadership Programme (ACLP) Batch III, where I recently presented my Personal Change Project (PCP). My PCP focuses on promoting Nyamplung-based agroforestry as a climate-smart land use strategy to support emission reduction, land rehabilitation, and sustainable rural energy solutions. Nyamplung (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), a native tropical forest tree species, is known for its multipurpose benefits, including the production of non-fossil bioenergy (Tamanu oil), ecological restoration of degraded land, and carbon sequestration, making it a strong candidate for nature-based solutions (NbS) in rural areas. I would like to inquire how I can**

potentially align or apply my PCP with the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund's upcoming Call for Proposals.

A. Thank you for reaching out. We strongly suggest that applicants review the eligibility criteria of the proposed project as well as the scope of work in the Terms of Reference.

30. Q. What governance models or multi-level coordination mechanisms have proven successful in scaling up NbS across both urban and rural settings?

A. There are no specific governance models and multi-level coordination mechanisms that of our mandatory reference for now, specific to your question. This is because our main intervention through the work package does not focus so much on connecting urban and rural settings.

31. Q. Should the project proposal focus on all themes related to NbS and climate mitigation, such as forestry, wastewater management, food systems, etc. Or could a project proposal focus on one theme under NbS and climate mitigation, such as food systems only or only NbS for reduction of GHGs from wastewater management (urban, rural, industrial, agriculture run-off, aquaculture, livestock effluents)?

A. The project should focus on the areas where plans and priorities of ASEAN on Nature-based Solutions. The work packages are designed in a way that does not look into one specific action and negates other actions. Please refer to the Terms of Reference on the expected deliverables.

32. Q. We are currently developing a fund facility to support local SMEs, including nature-based solution (NBS) enterprises as one of the target recipients. Would this grant opportunity be open to supporting the design phase of such a fund facility? The facility also includes technical assistance (TA) components as part of its activities.

A. We already specified the expected deliverables in each work package through the Terms of Reference. Please consult the list and information provided in the document.

33. Q. For WP 5.1, how flexible are the expectations for regional-to-local linkages in policy framework development? Is there room to integrate community or youth-driven evidence into ASEAN-wide frameworks?

A. Our main targets are the attainment of all deliverables within each work package. GEDSI is expected to be tailored into the overall programme. This means there is no expectation to create specific activities only to focus on youth, but rather a strategy to include, for example, youth in the design of activities.

34. Q. Would ASEAN-UK GTF consider a proposal for a feasibility study and accompanying analysis to design and launch an ASEAN NbS Impact Fund that would be managed by a regionally based private General Partner (GP) where ASEAN (through the Secretariat or relevant bodies like AMAF or ASOF) performs a formal role within the governance framework, such as through representation on the Investment Committee, Advisory Board, or other institutional participation pathways?

A. The eligibility and reference on a specific topic, which signifies its priority in the Call for Proposals, are outlined in the Terms of Reference. Kindly check the detailed reference to see if the proposed activities are needed.

35. Q. Is a research project about CO2 absorption by using microalgae eligible for this call?

A: Please consider that a reference on a specific topic in the Terms of Reference signifies its priority in the Call for Proposals. Kindly check the reference again to see if an in-depth implementation on one particular topic is needed.

36. Q. Does the NbS model developed under work package 5.2 need to align with all three frameworks: the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management, and the IUCN Global Standard for NbS criteria? (Kindly refer to work package 5.2 activity component, page 17 of ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund, Terms of Reference)

A. We expect the proposal to refer to the relevant description of activities mentioned under each work package. This means, the design of the proposal should take into account activities to meet the vision of ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management and IUCN Global Standard for NbS criteria when designing and prioritising area of interventions.

37. Q. Are we expected to develop multiple NbS models, or is a single, comprehensive model sufficient? (Kindly refer to work package 5.2 activity component, page 17 of ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund, Terms of Reference)

A. Allow us to repeat again what has been written in the Terms of Reference” *“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.”* This being said, we are looking at ongoing works (multiple) to showcase different NbS models. The variety of models increase the chance to answer what has been written in the other lines: “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. Applicants should refer to the ASEAN mangrove ecosystem management network.
- Promote the enhancement of sinks through afforestation and reforestation”.

38. Q. Are there any limitations or preferences regarding the geographic focus of the impact (e.g. must all impact be within ASEAN)?

A. The project should benefit all ASEAN Member States & Timor Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project) and must be implemented within ASEAN.

39. Q. If we intend to bid for more than one work package, would it be preferable to submit a single consolidated proposal covering all relevant packages, or should we submit separate proposals for each? We would also appreciate clarification on whether this applies to the financial proposals as well.

A. If applicants intend to submit more than one Work Package (WP), a separate proposal must be submitted for each WP. Each WP will be treated and delivered as an individual project. This requirement also applies to the financial proposal.

40. Q. Which regional MRV frameworks have to be integrated as part of Work Package - 5.2.2 ? Do global MRV frameworks have to be integrated?

A. The regional MRV framework is what needs to be designed, consulted and established. We are open to any suggestions on any existing regional and global MRV framework that are relevant to be integrated in the design, given this will be consulted with ASEAN.

41. Q. Which ASEAN bodies are eligible to be the lead for sessions/dialogues for socialising and collecting feedback as part of Work Package - 5.2.2?

A. An assumption can be made in the proposal. However, this piece of information will be discussed with the selected project team later on.

42. Q. What does NbS for climate change implementation mean in Work Package - 5.2.1? Is it different from NbS for climate mitigation?

A. It refers to the same activities. In this Call for Proposal, we are looking at Nature-based Solutions that provides primarily climate mitigation potential.

43. Q. The scope of our proposed project for work package 5.1 covers Forest and Landscape Restoration across ASEAN + Timor Leste, including all terrestrial landscapes as well as mangrove forests. Is this scope sufficient, or should it also cover marine ecosystems?

A. Applicants are welcome to define the scope of the project, provided it aligns with the Terms of Reference. There are also references and examples provided in the footnote of the Terms of Reference.

44. Q. We are in the process of preparing our proposal for Work Package 5.3: Nature-positive financing and businesses under the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund. (i) What is the indicative budget ceiling (in GBP) expected for Work Package 5.3, and is there a preferred distribution between personnel, activity costs, and management/coordination? (ii) Are there any specific ASEAN-level stakeholders (e.g. ABAC, ACCMSME, ASEAN Working Groups) that we must consult or collaborate with as part of WP 5.3 delivery? (iii) Is there any guidance on expected outputs or deliverables under WP 5.3 for example, is development of financing models, business cases, or investment pipelines encouraged? (iv) Are demonstration activities (e.g., business accelerator events, investor roundtables, matchmaking forums) considered eligible in year one under

WP 5.3? (v) Are there recommended or capped daily fee rates for international and ASEAN-based experts?

A: (i) Budget ceilings are noted in the terms of reference, there is no preferred distribution between personnel, activity costs and management/coordination.

(ii) A range of ASEAN stakeholders are noted in the terms of reference – none of which are mandatory interlocuters – it is up to the applicants to consider which stakeholders are most appropriate.

(iii) In practice, it means projects should benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, rather than focusing on one or a few countries only. We understand that the project will pilot some activities in certain areas of certain countries, however, the results and learnings need to benefit ASEAN. What is mentioned in terms of design and activities in your question is part of our assessment of the proposal. You are welcome to propose activities on regional knowledge sharing, capacity building or dissemination of outputs too. No further guidance on expected outputs will be provided.

- 45. Q. On WP 5.3, (i) Can you please confirm that the work packages are inter-linked (e.g. projects identified under work package 5.2 will also serve for the capacity training under 5.3.)? (ii) The establishment of an incubator is mentioned in work package 5.2. and 5.3. – whose consortium is expected to lead the establishment of the incubator? (iii) Will the UK PACT ensure coordination between the two packages in the event the consortium partners are different for each package? (iv) Governance – who is the ASEAN Working Group expected to be part of the project's governance? Has UK PACT received endorsement from a ASEAN Working Group for each package or is each consortium lead expected to receive the endorsement and under which timeframe? In the latter case, can UK PACT provide support to ease and speed the matter?**

A. One of key roles for Palladium as the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund delivery partner is to make sure the portfolio are in sync. The delivery partner moderates processes for all projects, identifying potential collaboration between projects and facilitating coordination between implementing partners. On governance, that is part of proposal scoring, so we welcome the market to identify the best approach of governance with

ASEAN. We will also welcome the best idea and process to get project accreditation with ASEAN. On the latter, the potential implementing partner is welcomed to propose the required budget.

Work packages are complementary, but there is no guarantee that all work packages will be funded - this is entirely dependent on the interest and quality of the proposals from the market. Should 5.2 and 5.3 be awarded funding, the delivery partner, Palladium, will clarify actions and leads on the incubator. 5.3 reference to an incubator is noted as a longer-term potential task – and it's unlikely it would be possible to establish this in the current project timeframe.

46. Q. Is this call related to NbS for floods & droughts?

A. In this Call for Proposals, we focus on Nature-based Solutions with climate mitigation potential. Kindly refer to the Terms of Reference to see the detailed scope of this call.

47. Q. on WP 5.2: WP on how to develop 1-2 pilot(s), with potential to be applied across ASEAN, Monitoring tools in partnership, Demand-informed R&D funding for NbCS. Is it obligation to tackle all three? Activity Component 5.2.1, applicants are instructed to “develop and pilot NbS’s that can be applied across ASEAN.” The activity description only refers to conducting one “NbS for climate mitigation pilot activity in ASEAN,” but then states that applicants should “generate a series of NbS models (potentially drawing from existing work)” and use the pilot “to demonstrate the impact of well-designed NbS interventions.” Could UK PACT please clarify whether applicants are expected to conduct one pilot activity, or multiple pilot activities that would align with each NbS model? Or, alternatively, could applicants model out a series of potential interventions and what they would look like, but not conduct a pilot for each one?

A. Each work package has been formulated and discussed closely with the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEAN-UK GTF expect applicants to submit a proposal that fully addresses the work package as a single project. Responding to all three items is required to fully address WP 5.2. In the Terms of Reference, we have nudged applicants to build on existing work and leverage the portfolio of consortium, considering the time and resource

limitations. We expect at least one pilot to be delivered and a series of models to be articulated/evidenced.

48. Q. Could you confirm the expected level of detail required for each activity in the proposal?

A: Detailed activities should be reflected in the financial proposal. There is no specific expectation of the depth of details provided in the technical proposal considering the word limit per section and points to respond to in each section.

49. Q. Under Section 5.2, is it expected to support MRV for carbon finance, or can the suggested output/activity be limited to prefeasibility and scoping? Considering current data limitations in ASEAN, would UK-PACT support a phased approach to MRV-readiness through capacity building?

A. The monitoring tools that are expected in the proposal are elaborated under “Description of Activity” of 5.2. We are looking at designing jointly with ASEAN monitoring tools that will act as a database for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects conducted within ASEAN that supports fundraising efforts – helping match future funders with existing/emerging NbS projects.

50. Q. For 5.2, does the implementation (and involvement of the countries) have to be in all the ASEAN countries, or can it be restricted to 2-3 ASEAN countries? Do we need to address all 3 points: 1) develop & pilot, 2) monitor and evaluate, and 3) establish a R&D funding? Or can we focus on two, for example?

A: Applicants must address all elements of the work package. A regional approach is encouraged, but it is likely that NbS options will focus on a smaller number of countries in practice, with strong pathways to influence at a regional level.

51. Q. For work package 5.2, how does UK PACT envision NbS initiatives linking to carbon markets? Are applicants expected to facilitate carbon markets as part of the mechanism towards climate mitigation, or should they include any linkages or a focus on carbon markets in project activities?

A. Applicants should propose project activities which they believe deliver against the work package. ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund does not have any mandatory instructions on inclusion or exclusion of carbon markets.

52. Q. Regarding WP 5.2, do you expect the development, piloting and monitoring of the pilot during the course of the project itself (within 15 months) or do we just have to establish the partnerships, facilitate the design of the pilot, and develop the monitoring toolkit?

A. Please see question 50.

53. Q. Is the sub-national scale considered relevant within your strategic focus (with the idea of replication/scaling-up), or would you advise prioritising regional or national levels? Especially considering the piloting activity in the context of WP 5.2.

A. Pilots at the sub-national level are likely. However, applicants should have strong pathways to influence at the regional ASEAN level.

54. Q. Regarding WP 5.2: We have an innovative plan to develop a project proposal on NbS for cooling to tackle extreme heat in ASEAN cities (1-pager concept note attached). Would this project idea be acceptable for this call for proposal? Based on our experience, we see this as a significant opportunity and would like to understand whether this proposal would be eligible for consideration—particularly as the Terms of Reference for WP 5.2 seem to emphasise mangroves and the enhancement of carbon sinks.

A: Urban NbS is not excluded, and you are welcome to submit your proposal that answers the Terms of Reference.

55. Q. For the purposes of the project, does climate mitigation as part of an NbS-oriented approach refer specifically to carbon sinks and carbon sequestration? Or are there other areas of climate mitigation that applicants are expected to focus on?

A. All options of using NbS for climate mitigation are in scope.

56. Q. Engagement with Green Finance Actors (Section 5.3.2); Regarding the engagement with “green finance actors” referenced in 5.3.2, given

that the market for “nature credits” and “biodiversity offsets [and credits]” is still emerging (in the case of biodiversity and other credits) and/or governed by specific mitigation regulation (biodiversity offsets), we would like to propose a more expanded engagement with green finance actors which include providers of more traditional forms of financing to MSME as well (debt, equity, etc.). Confirming this is allowable.

A. It is allowed. We welcome a variety of proposals coming from different candidates on achieving the description of activity reflected in the theory of change.

D. Eligibility

57. Q. I believe that during previous ASEAN-GTF calls, it was acceptable for one of the consortium members to be registered, but not necessarily the lead. Would this be acceptable this time?

A. The lead organisation in this Call for Proposals must be legally registered in one or more ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. Kindly check the detailed eligibility criteria mentioned in the Terms of Reference.

58. Q. Would the UN be eligible to apply? Can the government and UN institutions be part of the consortium?

A. Yes, UN agencies are eligible to receive funding through this Call for Proposals as a lead or member of a consortium. However, the government is ineligible to apply.

59.Q. Is it compulsory/preferable to form a consortium? Can one organisation apply alone?

A. Please refer to the updated eligibility criteria in the published Terms of Reference. Organisations must form a consortium or submit a multiple-country offices application to be eligible for a grant award.

60. Q. Is an international organisation that operates and works in Indonesia eligible to apply?

A. Yes. As long as the project targets and benefits all ASEAN Member States & Timor Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project).

61. Q. Would a non-UK or non-ASEAN academic institute be eligible to apply?

A. Yes, non-UK or non-ASEAN academic institutions are eligible to apply. 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 also welcome.

62. Q. Will for-profit organisations be eligible to apply? Do we need to partner with a non-profit?

A. Yes, both for-profit and not-for-profit organisations are eligible to be the lead Implementing Partner of a proposal/consortium as long as the project is delivered at cost with no element of profit included

63. Q. Is it possible to submit a single-country proposal, or must the project be implemented in multiple ASEAN countries?

A. We are looking to fund projects that target and benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project).

64. Q. If a company is currently developing NBS, would they be suitable as a consortium partner?

A. Yes, private companies are eligible to apply. The proposal needs to directly respond to the scope requested in the Terms of Reference.

65. Q. Would a Provincial Government under the ASEAN Region apply for a pre-feasibility study apply for a transportation project which will reduce emission?

A. Government agencies and/or departments are not eligible to apply as a lead organisation or partner in a consortium for this call.

66. Q. Is an international organisation that operates and works in Indonesia eligible to apply?

A: Yes. The consortium lead's legal registration must be based in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste, including Indonesia. Please refer to the updated eligibility criteria mentioned in the Terms of Reference.

67. Q. Can a company apply for the fund?

A. Yes, a company can apply for the Fund.

68. Q. Will a Big-4 company be eligible to apply, representing the government, for providing a pre-feasibility study for a project which reduces emissions?

A. Yes, a Big 4 company is welcome to apply

69. Q. Can the private sector apply for the fund? Are the private sectors not able to include any element of profit in our rates? Does this apply to the lead implementing partner only?

A. This call for proposals will fund grant projects, and while private sectors are eligible to be the lead organisation or consortium partner in a proposal, they must deliver the project at cost with no element of profit included.

70. Q. Are Indian consulting firms allowed to participate?

A. Yes, as long as the project targets and benefits all ASEAN Member States & Timor Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project).

71. Q. As a conservation NGO, do we have to partner with ASEAN country governments to develop and submit the proposal jointly?

A. No, there is no need for a conservation NGO to specifically develop and submit a proposal jointly with the national government of an ASEAN Member State.

72. Q. Can an organisation or consortia with current UK GTF funding be eligible to apply?

A. Yes, they are eligible to apply.

73. Q. Is a non-profit organisation headquartered in the U.S., with country offices in some ASEAN countries, eligible to apply?

A. Yes, you are eligible to apply

74. Q. Are UN Agencies with extensive experience in ASEAN countries eligible?

A. Yes, UN agencies are eligible to apply

75. Q. Are government research institutes considered as government agencies?

A. Eligibility for research institutes is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach out to aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further guidance

76. Q. Should a lead applicant have the extensive technical experience, capacity and capability in the sector outlined in this specific call?

A. There is a list of eligibility criteria in the Terms of Reference that you can refer to. We encourage all of the members of the consortium to have technical expertise as required in the work package to ensure the technical aspect, project management and value for money are well covered. Consortium lead and/or member should have prior experience of delivering one technical assistance with a minimum size of GBP 500,000 in a 12-month duration

77. Q. Do academic institutions fall under the category of government agencies, and are they eligible to participate as partners in a consortium?

A. Eligibility for research institutes is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further information.

78. Q. Are Government Research Institutes from ASEAN countries eligible to apply for the grants?

A. Eligibility for research institutes is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further information.

79. Q. Can a social enterprise apply?

A. Yes, a social enterprise can apply.

80. Q. Which countries are eligible to apply?

A. Please check the institution and project eligibility, which are available in the Terms of Reference. We do not see the country of origin as one of the

eligibility criteria. However, the lead organisation must be based in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste.

81. Q. Is the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) eligible?

A. Eligibility for research institutes is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach out to aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further guidance

82. Q. Are intergovernmental organisations allowed to participate in the fund?

A. Yes, intergovernmental organisations are eligible to apply

83. Q. Can researchers from ASEAN government research institutions apply for this grant?

A. Eligibility for research institutes is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach out to aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further guidance.

84. Q. Does UK PACT have selection criteria for the type of NbS project or initiatives proposed in the call? Is there any specific requirement for the NbS portfolio (ticket size for NbS investment, sector-specific, etc.) that is eligible for this call? Thank you

A. ASEAN-UK GTF has no specific requirement on NbS proposed project size, so long it meets the deliverables in the Terms of Reference. Our consideration is mainly on the value for money. Another consideration is that the expected projects implementation are up to 15 months (estimated project start in October 2025 and end in December 2026), with up to £800,000 per project per year as the dedicated budget to execute the project.

85. Q. May I know if one entity/organisation is allowed to submit multiple proposals?

A. Applicants can submit multiple proposals, with each proposal addressing a different work package, whether as lead organisations or partners in a

consortium. However, a lead organisation can only submit one proposal for each work package.

86. Q. Is there a minimum turnover of the company/lead organisation that interest to apply the grants?

A. There is no specific turnover requirement. However, lead applicants must have sufficient scale and experience to operate across all ASEAN member states

87. Q. Would having a UK-based organisation as a partner/consortium member be an advantage?

A. Any 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 also welcome.

88. Q. Can an organisation that has applied for or received previous UK GTF funds apply?

A. Yes, an organisation that has received previous ASEAN-UK GTF fund is welcome to apply

89. Q. Are government agencies not eligible to apply for the ASEAN-UK GTF?

A. Government agencies and/or departments are not eligible to apply as a lead organisation or partner in a consortium for this call.

90. Q. Are subnational stakeholders, such as local and regional governments, eligible to apply as well?

A. Governments are not eligible to be project implementation partners of the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund.

91. Q. How does ASEAN-UK GTF plan to ensure that local and subnational governments are meaningfully involved in the development and implementation of nature-based solutions?

A. We mandate consortium building or multi country office application to ensure holistic approach. One that can ensure regional ASEAN stakeholder engagement, at the same time, inclusive approach on-the-ground.

92. Q. Can a public university under the government apply for the funding or not?

A. Yes, they can. Please follow the guidelines on the eligibility criteria provided in the Terms of Reference.

93. Q. Are universities eligible to apply for this funding? The wording in the guidance says you are funding 'technical assistance and capacity building' - can this funding fund research as part of projects if they also encompass tech assistance and capacity building? What does 'technical assistance' mean?

A. Yes, they are eligible. Please consult the full guidelines on the proposed institution and project eligibility in the Terms of Reference. Technical assistance is a shorthand term for the provision of additional skilled human resources to counterparts; this can take many forms, such as embedded local or international staff. Research projects are not the kind of project the Fund seeks for. We are looking for a proposed project that meets the expected deliverables set out in the work package.

94. Q. What are the rules around consortium eligibility? Is there a maximum/minimum number of entities? Are there any rules around the type of entities that must be included in consortia? Are there any rules around the number of countries included, etc.?

A. There is no maximum or minimum number of entities in a consortium. There is also no rule on the number of countries covered. Kindly consult with the guidelines on eligibility provided in the Terms of Reference.

95. Q. Are there specific eligible cost criteria? Is the audit required to be budgeted? Is overhead allowed, and what is the percentage?

A. Eligible cost criteria are outlined in the Applicant Handbook (sect 3.8.5). Overheads are allowed up to 15%.

96. Q. We note that not-for-profit and for-profit firms are eligible to apply, but it was not clear if profit could be charged in implementation or not for this opportunity. Please could you clarify this?

A. ASEAN-UK GTF is an official development assistance programme, and it is a strict requirement that our grants do not include any element of profit.

97. Q. If a private company sends a proposal, can we attach it to our portfolio? Or should we attach UKPACT's name or state that the project is under UKPACT?

A. It can serve as the portfolio of the selected implementing partner with an acknowledgement of funding source, as well as the overall portfolio of the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund.

98. Q. Are companies based outside ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste eligible to apply, and can the proposed project be implemented within this region?

A. Companies based outside ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste can join as consortium partners, but the lead consortium must be legally registered in one or more ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. The project should target and benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project) and must be implemented within ASEAN.

99. Q. Is it acceptable for a project to initially focus on a subset of ASEAN countries (e.g., those where the applicant has existing presence and partnerships), provided that there is a clear plan for regional scaling and replication? What level of detail or commitment is expected in the proposal regarding activities in countries where the applicant does not currently operate? How will proposals be assessed in terms of their geographic scope—will a strong multi-country approach with scalable elements be viewed as competitive as a proposal that attempts to directly implement in all ASEAN countries from the outset? How should we demonstrate that an activity or output is applicable across all ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste?

A. The project should target and benefit all ASEAN Member States & Timor Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project) and must be implemented within ASEAN. It is acceptable for a project on a subset of ASEAN countries as long as the scale is approved by ASEAN Member States via the ASEAN mechanism.

100. Q. Please clarify the minimum demonstration footprint expected (e.g., must pilots operate in > 3 ASEAN Member States, or is there an expected minimum number of demonstration countries or hectares for NbS pilots?

A. Please refer to answer no 99.

101. Q. If UK universities are planning to form a consortium with Universities based in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste, will the universities in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste be an acceptable partner in the consortium?

A: The lead organisation must be legally registered in one or more ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. Therefore, a university based in these countries should be the lead organisation.

102. Q. How many countries are considered multiple countries? Is it two or three? Or more?

A. We expect the projects to target and benefit all ASEAN Member States.

103. Q. An organisation can only apply as a consortium/country office lead in one proposal per Work Package. For organisations such as us with federated country offices in multiple countries in the region, is each country office viewed as a separate organisation? For example, could our Vietnamese office lead a consortium focusing on NbS in Vietnam, whilst our Indonesian office leads a consortium on NbS in Indonesia, both submitting in the same work package?

A: We are encouraging the applicants to propose a project that targets and benefits all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. In this regard, federated country offices in multiple countries like yours should submit a multi-country office proposal. However, in the above-mentioned case, each country office can be viewed as a separate organisation.

104. Q. BLU status grants public institutions certain financial and operational flexibilities, including the authority to generate and manage non-tax revenue, form partnerships, and conduct research and consultancy independently. However, BLUs remain under the formal administrative umbrella of the government. Is a BLU-designated institution like Politeknik Negeri Malang eligible to apply?

A. Eligibility for BLU is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further information.

105. Q. *"Does your consortium lead and/or member have prior experience of delivering technical assistance with a minimum size of GBP 500,000 in a 12-month duration?"* Could you please confirm whether this requirement can be met by aggregating the experience of all consortium members, or if it applies solely to the lead organisation?

A. The minimum size of GBP 500,000 in 12-month duration refers to the individual organisation's experience, whether as consortium lead or partner, not the combined experience of all consortium members, and not aggregated projects in a 12-month period.

106. Q. *"The applicants must have prior experience in providing technical assistance relevant to the Work Package with a 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."* Could you please clarify on technical assistance, 12-month duration and references?

(1) In the policy work government may fund a part of the project as policy study funded by the government or donor agencies can fund several lots of technical assistance projects. Together, the value will exceed the threshold of GBP 500,000, but individually, the value will be less than GBP 500,000. (a) We suggest defining technical assistance to be both types – policy studies funded by the government and technical assistance by donor agencies. (b) We suggest allowing for an aggregate of multiple engagements/technical assistance to be considered for the threshold of GBP 500,000. (2) The policy studies typically span more than 12 months due to the nature of components – feasibility, options, stakeholder engagement, policy, regulation, etc. 12 months for policy work in this region appears to be less than the typical coverage of policy work. We suggest making it 12-36 months. (3) What will be considered as references?

A: Thank you for your suggestion. However, we cannot accept it as the eligibility criteria have been set out. We only consider a project providing technical assistance (policy advocacy and studies, capacity building, regulatory review, etc.) with a minimum size of GBP 500,000 with a 12-month duration.

107. Q. We understand that government agencies are not eligible to be project partners. Would government-linked universities be considered part of the academic sector rather than government agencies, and thus eligible to participate?

A. Public universities are eligible to apply. However, eligibility for government-linked entities can also be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the governance of the institute and the project they're proposing to implement. Please reach aseangtf@ukpact.co.uk for further information.

108. Q. Our organisation is headquartered in Japan, with Country Offices including in Bangkok, where we work closely with ASEAN Member States to drive sustainable development through strategic and innovative research, capacity building and evidence-based policy engagement. Our key focus areas include climate change and energy, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and sustainable consumption and production, including global health security. We noted from the website that the lead applicant must be legally registered in an ASEAN Member State or Timor-Leste. In this context, we would be grateful if you could kindly confirm whether our organisation would be considered eligible to submit the proposal under this call. Alternatively, we are also exploring the possibility of partnering with an ASEAN-based centre, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), as the lead applicant.

A. Companies based outside ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste are eligible to join as consortium partners, but the lead consortium must be legally registered in one or more ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. In this case, your organisation can apply as consortium partner.

109. Q. Regarding the Transboundary Policy Frameworks and Platforms for Collective Action on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) under the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (Pillar V), I would like to know if the company can be registered only in Malaysia.

A. As outlined in the eligibility requirement, applicants must apply as a consortium with the consortium lead having legal registration based in ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, Malaysia is included.

110. Q. Would a UK-registered organisation with extensive experience in the region be eligible to join the consortium as a partner, provided the consortium lead meets the registration requirements?

A. UK-registered organisations can join the consortium, but not as the lead since it is not legally registered in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste. The organisation should partner with ASEAN or Timor-Leste-based organisation to apply.

111. Q. We would be grateful if you could elaborate on the rationale behind the requirement for consortium-based applications. Given KPMG's extensive regional and global capabilities, we would like to understand whether a submission from a single organisation, where all required expertise and experience are available in-house, would be considered eligible.

A. Organisations operating on a global scale may submit a multi-country office proposal to be eligible for a grant award. Each country office, such as office in Indonesia and Malaysia, can be considered a separate entity.

112. Q. Do the consortium members' highest value project experiences combine toward the GBP 500,000 minimum requirement, or do you need at least one individual entity to have a GBP 500,000 project experience? For example, if we are 2 entities in a consortium, each with a 12-month, GBP 250,000 project experience, does this fulfil the GBP 500,000 requirement? Does the required experience of £500,000 per year apply individually to each work package, or can cumulative experience from a single project be considered relevant across all packages? Would it be acceptable if an applicant can demonstrate experience of having delivered TA on more than one project, adding up to £500,000 over 1 year

A. The minimum size of GBP 500,000 in a 12-month duration refers to the individual entity's experience, not the combined experience of all entities in the consortium.

113. Q. Is WWF-UK eligible as the lead applicant for this call, given that we have local WWF network offices registered in ASEAN and participating in the project?

A. Since your organisation has local network offices within ASEAN, you can submit a multi-country office proposal. The lead of consortium, however,

needs to be based legally in ASEAN region. Please refer to the full eligibility criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference for further information.

114. Q. Can a consortium member without prior experience of GBP 500,000 projects still contribute to the technical aspects of the work package? What documentation or evidence is required to prove prior experience in delivering technical assistance projects of GBP 500,000 or more?

A. A consortium member without prior experience of GBP 5000,000 can still contribute as long as the consortium lead or another consortium member has. You can include your prior experience under the 13.2 Mandatory and relevant company experience section in the project proposal template. We will request further evidence or documentation once the proposal has been selected.

115. Q. Can an organisation be part of two consortia bidding for the same work package, or whether this would count against us and/or the consortia in the consideration of proposals?

A. Applicants can submit multiple proposals, with each proposal addressing a different work package, whether as lead organisations or partners in a consortium. However, a lead organisation can only submit one proposal for each work package.

116. Q. If an international not-for-profit with a registered office in Asia is applying, can the grant be disbursed through its HQ (in Europe), as the transfer of funds to locally registered entity can only happen through HQ?

A. The eligibility criteria stated that the consortium lead must be a registered entity in one of the ASEAN Member States or Timor-Leste. For the matter of the grant disbursement actual scheme, it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis following the context of the implementation partner arrangement. However, please refer to the Applicant Handbook manual on what will be checked during project implementation.

117. Q. We understand that one legal entity must sign the grant. In a Viet Nam–Indonesia consortium, may the other country partner (i) appear as “co implementer” on public materials and (ii) receive funds directly from UK PACT under a tri partite agreement, or must all funds flow via the designated lead?

A. We welcome a consortium approach. The consortium partner can appear in public materials. Regarding the flow of funds, please refer to question 116.

118. Q. Our lead organisation is registered in one of the ASEAN Countries, with proof of registration; however, its headquarters is outside of the ASEAN. For the fund transfer, should the bank account that will be used be an account within the ASEAN or it can be downloaded to the head office and disbursed by the head office?

A. Please refer to question 116 for a detailed answer.

119. Q. Can IDH Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia apply with multi country interventions with IDH Indonesia being lead, as it is a registered entity in Indonesia.

A. Yes, the organisation can submit a multiple-country office application with the lead consortium that is legally registered in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste.

120. Q. Can the main applicant be IDH Netherlands for the distribution of funds to IDH Vietnam, IDH Malaysia and IDH Indonesia for subsequent program interventions in respective countries?

A: The eligibility criteria state that the consortium lead must be a registered entity in one of the ASEAN Member States or Timor Leste. Palladium will not oversee the actual distribution of the fund mechanism between consortium members. It would be up to the internal governance of the consortium lead to manage the distribution of funds. However, please refer to the implementation partner manual on what will be checked during project implementation.

121. Q. Can consortium members deliver project activities in non-ASEAN countries (e.g. South Asia) if the lead organisation is registered in an ASEAN country, and the work aligns with the objectives of the call?

A. The project should target and benefit all ASEAN Member States & Timor-Leste (not a country-specific or multi-country project) and must be implemented within ASEAN.

122. Q. “Proof of Lead consortium office registration”. Question: Our organisation is a country office of an International entity organisation

registered and headquartered in the US. Our legal status in the Country (Indonesia) is an operating permit since 1973 under the host ministry. Are we eligible to apply as Lead applicant?

A. As your organisation has a legal status in Indonesia, you can apply by submitting multi-country office applications. Requirements regarding eligibility are outlined in the Terms of Reference.

123. Q. “Applicants must submit a letter of intent signed by the consortium lead and member(s) to form a consortium to response to this proposal” and must be one of the documents of the application package.

Question: When must the applicant submit the Lol to form the consortium? Is there any date before the final application package submission on July 3rd, and where should it be submitted? OR it should be included in the final application package submission?

A. Letter of Intent should be included in the application package along with other documents that are required to be submitted. You must upload the Lol together with the proposal package to the link you received after submitting the form.

124. Q. On core consortium members, we have identified implementing partners in other ASEAN countries. Should we also include letters of support from these implementing partners in our document submission to demonstrate their commitment and alignment with our consortium?

A: Yes, applicants must submit a letter of intent signed by the consortium lead and members, together with other required documents.

125. Q. My organisation is a legally registered entity in Europe, with regional offices across key ASEAN member states. We are in the process of confirming an ASEAN-based legally registered consortium partner to serve as lead, but am wondering if we ourselves are eligible to take on this role.

A: Yes, your organisation can apply as a consortium member, as long as the lead organisation is registered in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste.

126. Q. Can we build a consortium in Cambodia with providing international expertise in ASEAN or other for technical implementation in the proposal?

A: You can build a consortium and apply to this call as long as the lead organisation is registered in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor-Leste.

127. Q. Please confirm that the lead organisation is allowed to engage the ‘consortium members’ named in our proposal as subcontractors (instead of via a “consortium agreement”).

A: It is allowed to have subcontractors. However, applicants must apply as a consortium or submit a multiple-country office application for this Call for Proposals. We understand that in some cases, forming a consortium or submitting a multiple-country office would not be able to cover the expertise needed. This is where subcontracting can be done. The subcontracting process can be done during project implementation, via a competitive bidding process to ensure value for money, following the FCDO procurement rules.

128. Q. We, as the lead organisation, intend to enter into subcontracting-type arrangements on an individual basis with each third party identified in our proposal (and not a “consortium agreement among all parties named in our proposal”). Please confirm that, for the purpose of satisfying item [“Letter of Intent to form a consortium”] of the RFP, the submission of letters from each proposed subcontractor addressed to the lead organization is acceptable, each such letter confirming (1) the intention to work together for the purpose of the submission; and (2) the intention to enter into a subcontract if shortlisted

A. Please see answer 127.

E. GEDSI

129. Q. For WP 5.3, what types of financing models (e.g., blended finance, revolving funds, social impact investment) are eligible under this work package, and is there scope for incubation of youth- and women-led NbS enterprises?

A. Our main targets are the attainment of all deliverables within each work package. GEDSI is expected to be embedded into the overall programme.

130. Q. Beyond narrative requirements, does UK PACT apply any minimum numeric targets (e.g., % women-led MSMEs supported, % of training participants from marginalised groups) that will influence scoring?

A: The proposed ideas will be scored, though there is no minimum threshold for the criteria. Proposals demonstrating a more ambitious yet realistic commitment will have a higher score.

F. Budget and Finance

131. Q. Is combining UK PACT funding with other programs allowed?

A. Yes, it is allowed. However, the funding from the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund will be held accountable quarterly, avoiding any double-counting. It should be disclosed transparently from the beginning.

132. Q. How much budget is allocated to each of the WP/projects? If a bidder wants to apply for a proposal covering 2 work packages, would that mean the maximum amount is GBP 1,600,000, and 3 work packages mean GBP 2,400,000? With a project with a duration of more than 12 months (given 15 months), the applicant may propose more than 800k GBP?

A. A single proposal per work package must not exceed £800,000 per year, tax inclusive. With an estimated duration of 15 months, the maximum estimated budget for a project that lasts for 15 months is £1,000,000.

133. Q. Is the total amount £800,000 for one year, plus an additional £200,000 for the remaining three months?

A. The selected project will receive grants of up to £800,000 per project per financial year, with an estimated duration of 15 months. The maximum estimated budget for a project that lasts for 15 months is £1,000,000.

134. Q. How do you verify that no profit is included in budgeted rates? What kind of proof is required from the bidders?

A. The assessment is based on the provided detailed financial proposal. In practice, we are also regularly comparing it to the actual performance, and reviewing variances to identify areas where expenses might be higher than

projected. We do ask for invoices and proof of payments when reporting to ensure no element of profit is included in the budgeted rates.

135. Q. Is 800,000 GBP the cost to cover all ASEAN countries?

A. The 800,000 GBP is the maximum budget per year (12 months), and the project should benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. Kindly check again the expected project lifetime.

136. Q. As said that "during implementation, projects may have the opportunity to access funding that can support climate-smart technology innovations, blended finance...", does it mean additional funding?

A. Yes, there's a possibility of additional funding to purchase capital and assets during project implementation under a certain mechanism and consideration.

137. Q. Is there a co-finance requirement, or can the grant cover the full project budget (within the constraints indicated)?

A. No, there is no co-finance requirement.

138. Q. Is the grant for 01 million USD for 11 countries? How can this budget be distributed across 11 countries?

A. The budget is never targeted to be disbursed per country. The budget is granted per work package.

139. Q. Regarding overheads, as an academic institution, Full economic costing is used. So our overhead percentage will be higher than 15%, as you indicated. Is this OK?

A. Where organisations are not able to accept an overhead rate of 15% or less because their indirect costs are higher, the 'alternative overhead' tab in the ASEAN-UK GTF budget template and workplan must be completed. This will then be verified by the ASEAN-UK GTF team based on the financial audit reports you will be required to submit as part of the due diligence process.

140. Q. What sort of activities and budget ranges are expected for the project's part in the ASEAN accreditation process? Could you please

confirm whether this allocation applies only to the lead applicant or to all consortium members?

A. We expect applicants to prepare the necessary resources for consultation with ASEAN for an accreditation process and some conduct of supporting activities to achieve the expected outputs mentioned in your proposed Theory of Change. Further details regarding the accreditation process will be provided once the proposal has been selected for little adjustment. The accreditation applies for each project. This means, the process can be supported by lead applicant and/or consortium members.

141. Q. To substantiate the overhead rate calculation, in lieu of annual financial statements and completing the alternate overhead calculations, would UK-PACT accept an indirect rate agreement approved by a U.S. Government agency?

A. The ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund accepts indirect rate agreement, up to 15% only.

142. Q. Could you please confirm what payment mechanism is used for this fund? Specifically, we would like to know whether payments are made in arrears after each three-month financial reporting cycle, or upon reporting on the completion of milestones or results throughout the project.

A. Payments will be made in arrears after the quarter financial reporting cycle of the UK fiscal year. Once awarded, the implementing partner will develop a disbursement schedule where quarterly payments are made in arrears of agreed deliverables and output for that quarter. The UK Fiscal Year starts on April 1st and ends on May 31st of the following year.

143. Q. Can UK PACT provide any pre-financing for the initial period of the project, to help bridge the financial gap until the first reporting period?

A: On a case-by-case basis, there is a possibility for the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund to provide an advance payment to the project. However, the case must be built with a strong justification, and it is for Palladium and FCDO approval to get an advance payment.

144. Q. Is the £800,000 “per project per year” cap based on calendar year or can it be interpreted as a rolling 12-month project year (e.g. Oct 2025– Sep 2026; and Oct - Dec 2026)?

A: It is interpreted as a 12-month project year, starting October 2025. Please see question 133 to see the allocated budget for each project.

145. Q. Is there a total budget ceiling per project?

A: The total budget of each project is GBP 800,000 per financial year (12 months). With estimated duration of 15 months the budget ceiling is GBP 1,000,000.

146. Q. We would like to better understand how ASEAN UK GTF Committee ensures the quality and completeness of submitted deliverables. Specifically: (i) What quality assurance mechanisms are in place to assess whether deliverables meet the expected standards? (ii) In cases where deliverables are deemed unsatisfactory or only partially achieved, will UK PACT implement a partial disbursement approach (e.g. proportional payment based on the level of achievement)? (iii) Is there an opportunity for revision and resubmission of deliverables before disbursement decisions are finalised?

A: ASEAN-UK GTF Fund Management Team will be responsible for ensuring the quality assurance of the deliverables. Palladium has previous deep experience in reviewing quality delivery, and when it is deemed necessary, Palladium could appoint independent sectoral experts to do the quality assurance. If the deliverables are unsatisfactory, we will provide feedback to the implementing partners to review the deliverables until they meet satisfactory requirements, before payments for the next quarter. There’s an opportunity to revise the deliverables schedule should a target not be met on the expected date.

147. Q. Capital expenditure (CapEx): The ToR states that CapEx is only available in FY 26/27, yet the project duration is October 2025 – December 2026 (15 months). If a 15-month project starts in Oct 2025, will any CapEx actually be reimbursable within that window? If yes, please clarify timing and cash flow treatment.

A: Please refer to the Applicant Handbook available on the Call for Proposals webpage. You can find the detailed information under the cost

eligibility criteria, where for this procurement, capital expenditure is not eligible. However, there is an additional capital expenditure in FY 26/27 where selected implementing partners could propose during the project implementation (in this case, between 1st of April 2026 – December 2026). Palladium and FCDO will provide more information on the process of this additional capital expenditure budget once the information is ready to be shared with the selected implementing partner. It would be welcomed if bidders could provide “an early” proposed concept to absorb the additional capital expenditure.

- 148. Q. Can the project issue sub grants (\leq GBP 30 k each) to local universities/think tanks for country specific policy studies and considered an eligible budget line? If so, how should management costs and audit requirements or reporting standards apply?**

A: Applicants are allowed to do subcontracts instead of subgrants. Please refer to Questions 199 for a more detailed answer regarding subgrants.

- 149. Q. Payment schedule & cash flow: Could you share the indicative tranche structure (e.g., % on contract signature, quarterly milestones, retention at completion) to inform our internal cash flow planning?**

A: All disbursements to the Grantee shall be made on a reimbursable quarterly basis (in arrears) upon satisfactory completion of the related Deliverables listed in the Grant Agreement. Reimbursement shall only be for actual and eligible project costs incurred, and only when those costs are supported by corresponding evidence (e.g. receipts, invoices etc.). Upon completion of the related Deliverables, reimbursement may be sought for any actual and eligible project cost that has been incurred by the Grantee and that has not already been reimbursed.

- 150. Q. On the Staff List in the Budget and Workplan, is it allowed to have a general qualifications and a standard fee, in case a specific person has not been identified by the consortium or hiring will start once the proposal was accepted? A schedule of fees based on the Lead Organization's scheme will be included in the proposal.**

A: Yes, under FCDO and Palladium regulations, it is acceptable to include general qualifications and a standard fee in the Staff List if specific individuals have not yet been identified, especially when recruitment will

begin after proposal approval. The proposed fees should align with the Lead Organisation's salary scheme and be reasonable. A schedule of fees can be included in the annexe. Once staff are hired, CVs and actual rates may need to be submitted for review to ensure consistency and alignment with benchmark standards.

151. Q. According to the clarification provided in the Q&A, UN entities are eligible to apply. Hence, I would appreciate your guidance on how to reflect UNDP's General Management Support (GMS) fee of 8% within the budget template: (I) Is it permissible to modify the budget Excel file to include the GMS? (II) If not, should the GMS be incorporated under the "Alternative Overheads" section? (III) Would the combined total of GMS and overhead costs need to remain below 15%, or is the 15% limit applicable solely to overhead? Additionally, could you please confirm if annual financial audit reports are required as part of the proposal submission?

A. (I) UN entities are not required to modify our standard budget Excel template to reflect the General Management Support (GMS) fee. Since we are not entering agreement directly with any UN entities but rather through a pre-existing framework agreement with FCDO, they are not obligated to present budget information in our specific format, nor to provide line-by-line breakdowns. (II) There is no need to categorise GMS under "Alternative Overheads" or any specific section in our template. The financial structure of the agreement with UN entities is governed by the terms of their framework with FCDO, which takes precedence. (III) The standard 15% overhead cap does not apply to UN entities. These are considered accepted under the framework in place. However, additional supporting documents will be needed as a justification. UN entities are not required to submit annual financial audit reports as part of their proposal. Audit requirements are addressed through the existing FCDO framework.

G. Others

152. Q. How many projects in total will you select for funding?

A. There are 3 projects, only one for each work package, that are going to be awarded in this round of the Call for Proposals on Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation

153. Q. Would a pilot project in 1 ASEAN country, but with the activities included for scaling and replication across all countries, be eligible, as it seems a bit ambitious to target all ASEAN countries at once? Could you kindly explain more, can we propose the project be implemented in 2-3 countries (where our country offices are located) or not?

A. What we are looking for is an ASEAN project that needs to benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. However, there is some information in the Terms of Reference that can be used to argue further about potential selected countries for pilot activities in multiple countries, e.g. ecological and political lenses. A proposal that involves a deep dive in 2-3 countries, as long as the project would benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. The final decision on however should be consulted and approved by ASEAN.

154. Q. Are there any countries with priority within ASEAN for this call? Is Indonesia one of them? If yes, any specific priority province or area?

A. We are looking to funding projects that are targeting all ASEAN Member States & Timor Leste (not a country-specific project or a multi-country project).

155. Q. Do proposals submitted need to address the three components of policy, R&D and finance? Or will addressing one of the components be sufficient?

A. Proposal responding to the scope of establishing ASEAN demand informed R&D funding for NbS initiatives needs to strategically combine and compose those elements into one meaningful set of activities. They are all under one work package, which means one selected project.

156. Q. Can we propose community-level initiatives?

A. Yes, you can. The main consideration is whether the initiative can answer to all of deliverables expected in the work packages. They are elaborated in the Terms of Reference.

157. Q. Will it be possible to submit a proposal with the field work in one ASEAN country with its policy implications across all the countries including Temor Leste?

A. Yes, it is possible, as long as it can answer the expected deliverables under a specific work package. For your consideration, we are going to grant one project per work package. Under this round of Call for Proposals, there will be only three work packages.

158. Q. Would it be possible to share the documents on NbS on forestry sector, produced with FAO, mentioned by Dr Pham Quang Minh?

A. The documents are still being developed. These will be available in October for the public following adoption by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

159. Q. Can you please show the UK PACT's previous portfolio that was successfully funded by UK PACT?

A. You are welcome to explore UK PACT and ASEAN-UK GTF's past and current portfolios on our website <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/> and [LinkedIn](#)

160. Q. Would you be able to facilitate collaborations for this proposal submission? I am looking to join a team.

A. Facilitating collaboration during the Call for Proposals is beyond our responsibility. However, we have sought consent from webinar registrants to share their contact details during registration. If you have provided your consent, you will receive a list of consenting participants' contact details.

161. Q. Will it be possible to see a list of organisations registered for this webinar so that we can find partner organisations to work with and to support the consortia-making process??

A. We have sought consent from webinar registrants to share their contact details during registration. If you have provided your consent, you will receive a list of consenting participants' contact details.

162. Q. Is it possible to integrate with climate adaptation, in terms of how to make more social and economic resilience?

A. Yes, it is possible. However, please note that ASEAN-UK GTF is delivered using UK PACT (Partnering in Accelerated Climate Transitions) as a mechanism under the UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) portfolio. As a climate mitigation programme, ASEAN-UK GTF expects proposals that

put the climate mitigation angle front and centre. Applicants can propose to integrate climate adaptation as a co-benefit.

163. Q. Does the guideline include Value for money guidance which provides guidance on rates and per diem etc.? Or do we refer to UN rates?

A. Yes, the guidelines are available in our Applicant Handbook that is available in the Call for Proposals webpage.

164. Q. Kindly make sure that the audience understands what is clearly fungible vs what's not in the proposals. Time and costs of developing those are high for some of us, especially when working on pilots with remote communities and/or indigenous groups. Applicability and replication towards all of ASEAN countries can be vague in that context.

A. We understand that the regional ASEAN approach and logic are different from that of bilateral project proposal development. Hence, all of the information that will be provided in the Terms of Reference is going to be sufficient for those who are fluent in the regional ASEAN approach. We also understand that time and costs are high for project proposal development. Therefore, working in the consortium is very much recommended from our side.

165. Q. Where can I find an overview of existing partners/collaborators of the ASEAN secretariat who we could consider teaming up with for a joint application?

A. The list of existing partners and collaborators of ASEAN is not something that we can provide. The information provided by registrants for the Market Engagement Event is bound by the consent given to us. There is only information on key counterparts that is going to be elaborated in the Terms of Reference.

166. Q. Is Nigeria part of ASEAN member state?

A. No, Nigeria is not part of ASEAN member state.

167. Q. Could you please clarify what it means to seek ASEAN formalisation/accreditation? Is ASEAN accreditation for the successful applicant also required for consortium partners, or only for the lead

applicant? And will UK PACT facilitate engagement with ASEAN bodies during inception, or is this fully led by the consortium?

A. ASEAN formalisation and/or accreditation is a formal process where we seek all ASEAN Member States to acknowledge cooperation between ASEAN and the UK through the project. The process needs to be conducted by the selected project team. It can be done by the lead or members of the consortium.

168. Q. 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. Do we need to identify specific individuals/offices/locations & in the strategic engagement plan throughout the fund development process, or is it enough to identify the type of counterparts we would engage with?

A: We expect applicants to only identify the type of counterparts they would engage with and why. A prior engagement with ASEAN, shown in previous project experience, would be preferred.

169. Q. What does "no element of profit" mean? How can you encourage for-profit but not allow profit to be included?

A. For-profit organisations would need to work on a non-profit basis. We can still pay for all actual costs, for example, staff salaries 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. Please refer to the Project Applicant guidelines.

170. Q. Can private sector consultancies make any profit on their rates?

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

171. Q. Will there be similar events for the other pillars of the ASEAN-UK GTF?

A. We already conducted Call for Proposals for Climate Policy, Green Finance and Clean and Just Energy Transition. We are aiming to conduct another CfP for Transport pillar in the coming months.

172. Q. Is there assurance that the long-term funding is secure, given the recent cuts from the UK government?

A. The UK government remains fully committed to the UK playing a globally significant role in development, and climate change remains the top priority. The reduction in the UK's overall ODA budget and how that impacts specific programmes is currently being thought through, and we are committed to sharing and updating the outcome of these discussions with our partners at the soonest.

173. Q. If the project should be implemented throughout ASEAN countries, does it mean we should work with ASEAN in delivering the project instead of working with the governments of ASEAN countries directly?

A. Working with ASEAN means referring to the plans and priorities of ASEAN with close consultation with them. This does not necessarily mean working with all ASEAN Member States' national government.

174. Q. I don't believe I have seen the CfP for pillar 4 (Sustainable Cities and Transformation) of the ASEAN-UK GTF. Is there a date yet for the market engagement webinar for this pillar?

A. Pillar 4 is specific to sustainable cities and transportation. The call for proposals has not yet gone out. We will have a separate timeline focusing on the theme of sustainable cities and transportation.

175. Q. Is it a one-stage (full proposal) application process?

A. Yes, it is a one-stage Call for Proposals process.

176. Q. What is the procedure for submitting a proposal?

A. The Call for Proposal launches on 15 May. The details procedure to submit a proposal is provided on our Call for Proposal page.

177. Q. How long would it take for funds to be approved and released to approved projects?

A. The timeline beyond the selection process is going to be provided directly to the selected project teams.

178. Q. ASEAN accreditation can take significant time and if the project cannot be more than 15 months, can you explain how to determine a feasible timeline?

A. Timeline starts when grant agreement is signed. We work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the process. This being said, the selected project needs to ensure human resources stand ready to safeguard the process in the first few months while starting with some initial intervention set out in the agreed workplan.

179. Q. How long is the inception phase and co-creation stage normally?

A. The total period for both the inception phase and the co-creation stage is about 2-4 months.

180. Q. Will the proposal templates be the same templates issued for the UK-GTF former call for Pillar I, II, and III?

A. There are some templates that have been updated for this Call for Proposals. Please make sure to download the recent templates from the Call for Proposal Nature-based Solutions webpage.

181. Q. Please can we have more details on the mechanism for communicating with others on the call to build a consortium?

A. Facilitating collaboration during the Call for Proposals is beyond our responsibility. However, we have sought consent from webinar registrants to share their contact details during registration. If you have provided your consent, you will receive a list of consenting participants' contact details.

182. Q. Is engagement with the ASEAN Secretary mandatory or could it be of plus value?

A. It is not an additional value during the current stage. The engagement should take place once the project is granted.

183. Q. Can the applicant propose a project with a duration of less than or up to 12 months and focus only on one component of the chosen work package? (eg, under WP.5.2, focus on piloting the Nbs project.)

A. Each project proposal is responsible for the entire set of expected deliverables within the work package. We accept proposals that have less duration than the maximum duration mentioned in the Terms of Reference.

184. Q. Our technology contributes to environmental pollution mitigation using sustainable processes derived from natural resources, it is not technically classified as a Nature-based Solution. Its primary focus is technological, and it does not directly involve the use of natural ecosystems to address an environmental or social challenge. We would appreciate any comments or clarifications you may have regarding this interpretation.

A. The scope of Nature-based Solutions is detailed in the Terms of Reference. Please refer to the document to ensure your proposal aligns with the outlined expectations.

185. Q. During the project, will you facilitate engagements with the ASEAN apparatus, e.g. ASEAN AMAF/ASOF, ABAC, ACCMSME? If not, will you recommend engagement partners or will the applicants be expected to establish connection themselves?

A. We will facilitate formal engagement in the beginning. However, each project team should provide a resource to conduct the ASEAN stakeholder engagement that is reflected in the financial proposal.

186. Q. For project coordination with other UK Pact and GTF portfolios, will you facilitate introductions between selected candidates and the other projects?

A. We will support the initial introduction of the selected project with others. Following this, the project team will take the lead in coordinating with other UK PACT and ASEAN-UK GTF portfolios during the implementation.

187. Q. How does the Terms of Reference define "value for money" in the context of the consortium's responsibilities

A. Definition of Value for Money (VfM) is outlined in the [Applicant Handbook](#) available on the Call for Proposals webpage. Kindly refer to the document to see the detailed explanation about VfM.

188. Q. We would like to seek your clarification whether there are additional documents required at this stage—specifically, those related to eligibility verification, such as: legal registration documents, financial statements, and consortium agreement (if applying as a consortium). Could you

please advise whether these supporting documents should be submitted together with the initial application package or if they will be requested at a later stage in the review process?

A. The supporting documents mentioned – legal registration documents, financial statements, and consortium agreements must be submitted together with the initial application package. Please note that this is part of the eligibility requirements.

189. Q. Regarding Question 184, financial statements and consortium agreements are not listed under the eligibility criteria (TOR p. 6). Please clarify whether there are additional documents required to be submitted beyond the 7 documents listed on p. 6.

A. Besides the application pack that applicants can access on the webpage, we expect applicants to submit the Letter of Intent for forming a consortium and proof of the entity's legal registration in ASEAN Member States and/or Timor Leste and completed CVs of the proposed experts.

190. Q. Could UK PACT share the minimum content you expect (signatories, mandated language, page limit), or confirm there is no prescribed template?

A. There is no prescribed template for the Letter of Intent. However, we expect the document to be written in English or translated into English by a sworn translator if a prior consortium agreement was made in a different language.

191. Q. Would UK-PACT accept proposed activities that build on existing work, such as SCeNe's NbS Tool and NbS Incubator? (i) If yes, given that the SCeNe NbS Tool has been developed with support from other donors, would UK-PACT be open to co-branding outputs with these partners? (ii) how does UK-PACT approach intellectual property rights when proposed work builds on previously funded initiatives?

A. ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund encourages applicants to build on the portfolio and existing work. This being said, ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund will ensure that the work under the grant agreement does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party. At the same time, the selected project needs to also hold the Fund, client and counterparts harmless against all liability, loss, damage, costs and expenses (including

legal cost) which it may incur as a result of any claim of alleged or actual infringement of a third party's intellectual property rights because of the negligent implementation of the Grant. There is a specific clause on intellectual property rights under the grant agreement covering intellectual property rights.

192. Q. Can we submit job descriptions for key staff roles that are not currently filled instead of CVs?

A: As outlined in the project proposal, CVs are required and must be submitted along with the other required documents. CVs can be included as an annexe in the proposal or submitted in a separate file from the proposal.

193. Q. The CfP requests CVs for Team members/experts in international best practice CV format. Can you clarify what this format entails or signpost a place where we can access a template?

A: No specific CV template is required. We would welcome an international best practice standard CV template.

194. Q. The project duration is expected to be 15 months (Oct 2025 - Dec 2026). However, you are expecting the submission to include 19 months of delivery, indicating an extension of this project by 4 months. Please could you help clarify this (referring to the last line of 2. Project Duration).

A. Thank you for your sharp reading. The duration of the proposed project is 15 months. We confirm that the mention of '19' in the text was a typographical error. The TOR will be revised accordingly.

195. Q. Will the three-month inception period be included in the 15-month project timeline, or is the inception period prior to the signing of the grant?

A. A three-month inception period will be included in the 15-month project timeline.

196. Q. The GTF timeline suggests contracting in October 2025. If administrative processes slip, will projects be allowed to start later yet still run the full 15 months?

A. We are committed to maintaining smooth administrative processes and ensuring the project runs for the full 15 months, concluding in December 2026.

197. Q. What minimum level of government endorsement is required by project end (e.g., ministerial letter of support, inclusion on ASEAN working group agenda, or formal adoption by AMS)?

A. We are not looking to get government endorsement during the proposal stage. However, please be advised that all approved projects should pursue the ASEAN accreditation/formalisation process once they are selected as winners.

198. Q. Will the UK PACT provide a standard indicator set for measuring improved coordination (e.g., number of bilateral MoUs, joint action plans), or may we propose tailored indicators in our proposal?

A: As requested in the technical proposals, applicants would need to propose indicators to monitor and measure progress against the output, intermediate outcome, outcome, and impact results, including the improved coordination. It is beneficial to have a defined measure for each indicator. However, all of the indicators must still be in line with the ASEAN-UK GTF Theory of Change.

199. Q. Are applicants permitted to re-grant or sub-grant funds to external entities (ie. outside of the Coalition) to implement specific activities?

A. Due to the limited implementation period, we strongly encourage the market to provide the fastest implementation route. Re-granting and sub-granting will create an additional process that might result in slower implementation. In such a case where there's a need for re-granting, we strongly suggest that the targeted re-grant and subgrant entity be one of the consortium members.