

ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation

Call for Proposals – Responses to clarification questions

Updated 4 June 2025

Contents

A. Introduction	3
B. Post-event communication	3
C. Scope and focus of the CfP	3
D. Eligibility	10
E. GEDSI	19
F. Budget and Finance	19
G. Others.....	21

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 UK PACT.

C. Scope and focus of the CfP

3. 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.

4. Q. Should a proposed project be implemented in all ASEAN countries, or can we choose 1 or 2 targeted ASEAN countries?

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Is it exclusive to mitigation projects? What about adaptation and resilience?

A. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 the overall strategy to ensure a future area of support.

21. 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 the eligibility are available in the Terms of Reference.
- 22. 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 on one particular topic is needed.
- 23. 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 together with clear expected deliverables in the Terms of Reference.
- 24. 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 is so far not the main priority in this Call for Proposal.
- 25. 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.
- 26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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, aquiculture, 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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

D. Eligibility

33. 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.

34. Q. Would the UN be eligible to apply?

A: Yes, UN agencies are eligible to receive funding through this call for proposals.

35.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.

36. 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).

37. 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.

38. 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

39. 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).

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

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

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

44. 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

45. 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.

- 46. 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).
- 47. 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.
- 48. Q. Can an organisation or consortia with current UK GTF funding be eligible to apply?**
A. Yes, they are eligible to apply.
- 49. 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
- 50. Q. Are UN Agencies with extensive experience in ASEAN countries eligible?**
A. Yes, UN agencies are eligible to apply
- 51. 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
- 52. 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

technical assistance with a minimum size of GBP 500,000 in a 12-month duration

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. Q. Can a social enterprise apply?

A. Yes, a social enterprise can apply.

56. 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.

57. 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

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

A. Yes, intergovernmental organisations are eligible to apply

59. 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.

60. 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. There is 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.

61. Q. May I know if 1 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.

62. 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

63. 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.

64. 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

65. 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.

66. 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.

67. 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.

68. 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.

69. 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.

70. 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.

71. 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%.

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

73. 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.

74. 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.

75. 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?

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.

76. 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.

77. 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.

78. 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 market 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.

79. 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

80. 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 refers to the individual organisation's experience, whether as consortium lead or partner, not the combined experience of all consortium members

81. 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.

E. GEDSI

82. 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.

F. Budget and Finance

83. 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.

84. 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.
- 85. 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.
- 86. Q. How do you verify that no profit is included in budgeted rates? What kind of proof is required from the bidders?**
- A. This involves creating a detailed budget, regularly comparing it to 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.
- 87. Q. Is 800,000 GBP the cost to cover all ASEAN countries?**
- A. The 800,000 GBP is the maximum budget per year, and the project should benefit all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste
- 88. 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.
- 89. 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.
- 90. 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.

- 91. 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 UK PACT Country Funds budget template and workplan must be completed. This will then be verified by the UK PACT team based on the financial audit reports you will be required to submit as part of the due diligence process.

G. Others

- 92. 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

- 93. 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?**

A. We do not expect all of the pilots to be conducted in all ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. There is some information in the Terms of Reference that can be used to argue further on the selected countries e.g. ecological and political lenses. A multi-country approach would be ideal, instead a single country approach to the implementation.

- 94. 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).

- 95. 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.

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

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

97. 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.

98. 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

99. 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's past and current portfolios on our website <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/>

100. 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.

101. 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.

102. 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.

103. 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.

104. 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.

105. 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.

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

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

107. Q. Could you please clarify what it means to seek ASEAN formalisation/accreditation?

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.

108. 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 salary and indirect costs like overheads. However, we cannot pay daily rates that include a profit margin. You must ensure that all costs are broken down within the budget and that none of them consists of a profit margin.

109. 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.

110. 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.

111. 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.

112. 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.

113. 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.

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

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

115. 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.

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

A. The timeline of the CfP process is provided in the ASEAN-UK GTF CfP page and Terms of Reference.

117. 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 resource stands ready to safeguard the process in the first few months while starting with some initial intervention set out in the agreed workplan.

118. 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.

119. 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.

120. 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.

121. 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.

122. 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.