

# **Amazon Regional Fund**

Clean Energy (CE)
Call for Proposals Q&A

June 2025

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### 1. Introduction

This document compiles questions and answers from the Amazon Regional Fund-UK PACT Call for Proposals (CfP) on Clean Energy (June 2025). They are divided into six categories:

- Post-event communication
- Scope and focus of the CfP
- Application process
- Eligibility criteria
- Finance requirements
- Other

### 2. Post-event communication

### Q. Can you share this presentation and relevant application templates with us?

A. The presentation and recording from the Marketing Engagement Event, as well as all relevant application documents, can be found on our <u>website</u>.

### Q. Is there a sample EOI available for applicants?

A. No, there is no sample EOI available to applicants. The EOI submission is made directly in our <u>website</u> via google forms. All relevant application documents, can be found here.

### 3. Scope and focus of the CfP

### Q. Can the proposals focus on closing energy gaps in the Peruvian Amazon region?

A. That is indeed the focus of both interventions, closing the energy gaps in the Amazon, but solely by means of renewable sources. The first intervention seeks to identify a bundle of projects- in the current pipeline of different stakeholders (Ministry of Energy and Mines, regional energy distributors, multilateral organizations, private sector, etc.)- that aim to build mini grids in the Amazon and require technical assistance (e.g.: market analysis, business case development, other technical studies) to become investment ready. The second intervention seeks to structure a model and define a pilot-potentially through a Public Private Partnership or other innovative delivery vehicle utilizing blended finance - for large scale private investment in mini grids that aim to support the local bioeconomy in the Amazon.

### Q. Are the proposals targeting the whole country or only the amazon region?

A. The interventions are expected to specifically target the Amazon region in Peru or Bolivia.

## Q. Can firms propose YLB as a partner or is it necessary to engage with the suggested stakeholders prior to submitting a proposal?

A. Applicants are expected to incorporate the suggested stakeholders in their proposals but are not required or expected to engage with said stakeholders during the proposal stage. YLB, being a state-owned enterprise, is not eligible to receive funding directly and should not be a partner or consortium member in a proposal.

### Q. Has the electric vehicle company in Bolivia been selected? Can electric motorcycle companies be considered?

Electric vehicle companies in Bolivia have already been mapped. An electric motorcycle company can participate, depending on the coordination of the project implementer with YLB and the analysis of production capacities and needs.

# Q. Will projects focused on capacity development and employability in the green mobility sector targeting the general public (not only YLB) be considered?

A. Under Bolivia's current legal framework, YLB is the only entity that conducts Lithium extraction-related activities in-country, meaning that its staff should be prioritized under this project. However, YLB has agreements with several private sector, social and academic institutions, and these can be included in the capacity building activities if this contributes to the project's declared objectives.

#### Q. Can proposals focus on education and community awareness on safe and efficient energy usage?

A. Engaging local communities and raising awareness on safe and efficient energy usage should not be the main objective of the interventions. However, these are certainly important aspects that proposals can consider, especially if the proposed mini grids incorporate hybrid solutions that include storage systems (batteries).

#### Q. Can proposals targeting Peru focus on energy efficiency?

A. See above. Proposed projects can address or include components related to storage systems (batteries); however, the main objective of both interventions is to close renewable energy gaps in the Amazon by making viable the implementation of mini grids.

# Q. For the Peru interventions, is it feasible to explore projects related to carbon markets or Article 6 of the Paris agreement?

A. Proposals can address the consolidation of carbon markets; however, the main objective of both interventions is to close renewable energy gaps in the Amazon by making viable the implementation of mini grids.

### Q. Where can applicants find more information on the intervention regions and areas?

A. Detailed information on the intervention areas is included in the proposal's Terms of Reference, available here.

### Q. What is YLB's role in the lithium battery production process?

A. YLB produces batteries for micromobility and small devices. The challenge is to scale-up production to industrial levels to satisfy the demand of small electric vehicles in Bolivia.

### 4. Application process & requirements

### Q. Can past project references be related to projects executed in countries other than Bolivia / Peru?

A. Reference projects need to have a total budget greater than GBP 300,000, and a minimum duration of one year of implementation (from inception to closure). References from similar projects executed in the last five years in any of the areas of intervention for which the applicant applies will be considered valid.

### Q. Does the reference project need to be finalized upon submission of the references? If still ongoing, can activity reports related to the selected intervention area be used as evidence?

A. Applicants must submit at least one document that provides evidence of delivery, impact and completion of the reference project: final report, output/report publication, other. Projects can still be ongoing upon submission of the references, but the documentation provided must demonstrate evidence of delivery and impact.

#### Q. Can the reference project relate to water management or high impact ecosystem conservation?

A. No. Reference projects should be aligned with the technical areas covered by the CfP.

### Q. Can an NGO submit more than one proposal for the same intervention area?

A. No, organizations cannot submit more than one proposal for the same intervention area. Applicants can apply in one or more intervention areas but cannot apply more than once to the same intervention area.

# Q. Is a government-issued commitment letter required? If so, must it be submitted in stage 1 or 2 of the application process?

A. If the organisation is shortlisted to proceed to full proposal, the organisation will need to include a clear justification and engagement plan for the counterpart's participation in the complete proposal in phase 2 of the application process. A government-issued commitment letter is not required during stage 1.

# Q. For stage 1 of the application process, is the demonstrable experience requirement applicable to all consortium members, or only the consortium lead?

A. Demonstrable experience requirements apply to the consortium as a whole, meaning that the required experience per intervention area can come from any member of the consortium, not just the lead.

### Q. Is there a page limit for the EOI and does it need to be submitted in English?

A. The EOI must be submitted in English. EOIs must be submitted through UK PACT's online application form linked via the Call for Proposals web page, meaning that there is no specific page limit. Instead, length will be constrained by character or word limits in each section of the application form.

### Q. How many proposals will be selected in total?

A. UK PACT expects to select 1 or 2 proposals per intervention. That being said, it is possible that proposals that adequately cover multiple intervention areas are selected.

#### Q. When will shortlisted applicants be notified of their preselection?

A. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of their pre-selection by July 9, 2025. The complete application timeline can be found here.

#### Q. How long will shortlisted applicants have to submit the full proposal under phase 2?

A. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of their pre-selection by 9 July 2025 and are expected to submit their full proposals by 23 July 2025. Applicants will be notified of the selection status of their proposals by 29 August 2025. The complete application timeline can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

### 5. Eligibility

Q. My firm is based outside the target countries and is interested in working with Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (YLB) for a specific technical area under this CfP. Are we a good fit? Can we provide a project overview prior to the EOI submission to check our eligibility?

A. UK PACT is unable to pre-asses any firm's eligibility prior to an EOI submission. All firms that wish to be considered need to submit an EOI following the standard application process. A detailed breakdown of the eligibility criteria for this CfP is included in the proposal's Terms of Reference, available here.

### Q. What type of organization is eligible to submit an EOI/proposal?

A. Profit and non-profit organisations can apply. If applying as a consortium, the consortium lead can either be a non-profit or a for-profit organisation. While for-profit organisatios are eligible, profit is not an eligible cost. Government agencies and state-owned enterprises are not eligible. Detailed information on the eligibility criteria for interested organizations is included in the proposal's Terms of Reference, available <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

### Q. Can UN agencies or multilateral institutions like the IADB participate in this CfP?

A. Yes. Profit and non-profit organisations can apply. If applying as a consortium, the consortium lead can either be a non-profit or a for-profit organisation. While all non-governmental organisations/firms are eligible, profit is not an eligible cost.

### Q. Do eligible organizations have to be based in the target countries?

A. No. Applicants do not have to be based in the target countries; however, all consortia need to include at least one local partner. A local partner is defined as an organization that operates in the target countries under a National Registry of Legal Entities. It can be a local organization, a civil society group, a community / indigenous association, among others. The local partner does not have to be the consortium leader.

# Q. Can organizations based outside Peru / Bolivia participate as consortium members in an application?

A. Yes, applicants can be based outside the targeted countries, but all consortia must include at least one local partner. Detailed information on the eligibility criteria for interested organizations is included in the proposal's Terms of Reference, available <a href="here">here</a>.

### **6. Finance Requirements**

## Q. Is financing executed exclusively through cost reimbursable agreements? Can milestone payments be considered?

A. Our standard grant agreements are cost reimbursables, paid quarterly. On an exceptional basis, advance payments can be approved as a result of the due diligence process prior to grant signing.

### Q. How is the fund disbursement process structured?

A. Our standard grant agreements are cost reimbursables, paid quarterly.

#### Q. What are the allowable indirect costs?

A. Allowable costs, including indirect costs (or overhead) are presented in detail in the Applicant Handbook (section 3.7). Where proposed indirect costs are more than 15% of the proposed direct project costs, supporting justification will be required – normally from annual financial statements over the past three years. This review would take place during due diligence following successful selection but prior to grant signing. Budgets must not include capital expenditure or tangible assets, and profit cannot be included as an eligible cost. Applicants should ensure that any budgeted direct costs are reasonable and clearly linked to the project's activities and outcomes; and be aligned with value for money principles including economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity.

### Q. What costs are included in the £500,000 budget? Is travelling, accommodation, etc included or excluded?

A. Direct costs proposed in project budgets are expected to be clearly linked to activities and outputs, with appropriate allocation of time and resources, and costs that appear reasonable for the activities proposed, including sufficient allocation for project management, reporting and data collection. In this sense, reasonable operational costs such as travel, accommodation, per diems, and logistics can be allowable, provided they are clearly linked to project activities and outputs, represent good value for money, and are not capital expenditures (e.g., purchasing vehicles or technical equipment).

# Q. Can specialized equipment and technical assets used for pilots / feasibility assessments be purchased using project funds?

A. No. Project funds cannot be used to purchase assets. Budgets must not include capital expenditure or tangible assets.

### 7. Other

### Q. If selected, who is the signing counterpart for the grant agreement?

A. The signing counterpart is Palladium International Ltd.

# Q. Are selected firms required to hire independent entities to monitor or audit the allocation and utilization of awarded funds?

A. The monitoring of project delivery is led by UK PACT staff in collaboration with the selected organisations. As part of the Grant Agreement, the organisation commits to have an independent entity prepare an annual financial assurance report, the cost of which is an eligible direct cost.