

Responses to consolidated clarification questions as at 24th September 2025

Important notes to all applicants

Note: This is the 3rd and last issue for clarification questions. The deadline for submitting clarification questions was 22 September 2025 at 17:00 EAT (15:00 GMT+1). Consolidated responses were updated on a weekly basis on the 8, 15 and 24 September 2025 on the [Kenya-UK PACT Call for Proposals Webpage](#).

- Kindly note that similar questions have been grouped together on the pages to follow. Some questions have been adapted or shortened. Please contact us on the email address above if you do not see your question(s) below.
- Please note that some categories and questions may fall across multiple pages.
- We understand that applicants are working with limited information and will need to make assumptions in their submissions. Kindly clarify your assumptions in your applications.

1. Eligibility Criteria

1 - Eligibility Criteria	
Questions	Responses
Can Kenyan institutions apply independently to the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals, or is partnership with UK-based organisations required?	Yes, Kenyan institutions can apply independently to the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals. While partnerships with UK-based organisations are welcome and may add value, they are not a requirement for eligibility . The programme encourages applications from organisations that are locally based and have relevant experience in commercial forestry, agroforestry, or other nature-based solutions aligned with Kenya’s climate priorities. All applicants must demonstrate strong technical capacity, alignment with the call’s objectives, and a commitment to inclusive approaches, including Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).
Can proposals address both commercial forestry and agroforestry objectives, or must they focus on only one?	Each project area under the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals has defined outputs and interventions. While Kenya–UK PACT encourages innovative approaches and welcomes proposals that expand on these interventions, each proposal must focus on only one project area —either commercial forestry or agroforestry. Applicants may submit proposals for more than one project area , but each submission will be evaluated independently . Proposals that attempt to combine multiple areas into a single application will not be considered under this call.
Is a partner affiliated with a government institution in Kenya, eligible to apply?	No, government-affiliated institutions are not eligible to receive funding under this call. Partners must be from non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, or private sector entities that meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the call for proposals.
Can global institutions participate in Kenya-UK PACT projects, either as lead implementers or partners?	Yes, institutions outside of Kenya are eligible to participate as collaborators in a proposal. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to include local partners to ensure contextual relevance and support localisation of delivery.

2. Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	Responses
Are costs such as seeds and seedlings, labour for trenching, and bioengineering infrastructure construction eligible under this Call for Proposals?	No, these types of costs are not eligible under the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals. Ineligible costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure development • Hardware purchases • Procurement of tangible assets (e.g., seeds, seedlings, tools, construction materials) Eligible costs may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy and/or staff time required to deliver project activities • Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses • Direct activity-related costs such as workshops, seminars, report production, translation, and similar outputs

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	Responses
	While UK PACT funding cannot be used for tangible assets or infrastructure, applicants may use match funding to cover these types of expenses, provided there is clear differentiation in budgeting and reporting between UK PACT-funded activities and those supported by other sources.
Are education-focused activities on climate change eligible under the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals?	<p>No, education-focused activities are not eligible under this specific Call for Proposals. The interventions for this call are clearly defined and limited to two project areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Forestry • Agroforestry <p>While education and awareness are important components of climate action, this call is focused on practical, implementation-oriented projects that directly contribute to nature-based solutions through forestry and agroforestry interventions. Proposals must align with the defined outputs and activities within these areas to be considered for funding.</p>
Is funding under the Kenya–UK PACT Nature-Based Solutions Call for Proposals multi-annual, and how much can each project request?	<p>Funding under this Call for Proposals is designed for a 12-month implementation period, starting January 2026. However, the funding is distributed across two financial years, with annual ceilings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to £150,000 for activities delivered between January 2026 and March 2026 (FY2025/26) • Up to £500,000 for activities delivered between April 2026 and December 2026 (FY2026/27) <p>Each project can request a total budget between £400,000 and £650,000, within these annual limits. In exceptional cases, higher budgets may be considered based on the strength of the proposal and demonstrated value for money.</p>
Is the current UK PACT Nature-based Solutions Call part of an annual cycle, or is it a one-off opportunity?	This is not an annual call, and there is no guarantee of project funding beyond the stated implementation period. While future opportunities may arise under the UK PACT programme, applicants are encouraged to treat this call as a standalone funding round and plan accordingly.
Can you clarify what UK PACT considers to be tangible assets?	<p>UK PACT generally aligns with standard financial and accounting definitions when it comes to tangible assets. These are typically defined as physical items of value that are owned by a project or organization and are used in operations over a period longer than one year.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure development • Hardware purchases • Procurement of tangible assets (e.g., seeds, seedlings, tools, construction materials) <p>While UK PACT funding cannot be used for tangible assets or infrastructure, applicants may use match funding to cover these types of expenses, provided there is clear differentiation in budgeting and reporting between UK PACT-funded activities and those supported by other sources.</p>
Can you kindly clarify whether the awarded project, within the budget range of £400,000 to £650,000, is expected to cover all five counties referenced in the Terms of Reference? If not, are multiple awards anticipated to ensure coverage across the counties?	Yes, the awarded project is expected to cover all five counties referenced in the Terms of Reference within the stated budget range of £400,000 to £650,000. Multiple awards are not anticipated under this Call, and therefore, applicants are advised to submit a single proposal that addresses the full geographic scope.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
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	Each project can request a total budget between £400,000 and £650,000 , within these annual limits. In exceptional cases , higher budgets may be considered based on the strength of the proposal and demonstrated value for money.
Can you kindly clarify the intended geographic scope of the Call for Proposals? The Terms of Reference references five counties, but these are not explicitly named.	Please note that while the number of counties indicated in the expected outputs must be maintained, applicants have the discretion and liberty to determine which specific counties to target, based on strategic relevance and alignment with project objectives.
How should long-term results be presented or measured in the proposal?	Applicants should show how their project's outputs will contribute to sustained, long-term outcomes beyond the implementation period. This includes linking short-term deliverables to systemic change, policy impact, or community benefits, and ensuring that outcomes are inclusive and equitable. Long-term results should demonstrate how gains will be sustained for women, youth, marginalised groups, and other priority stakeholders , in line with UK PACT's GEDSI principles. Where possible, frame these results in measurable terms (e.g., adoption rates, capacity built, policies influenced) and support them with clear assumptions on sustainability.
Is it permissible for the proposal to target implementation in only one county?	No. As outlined in the Terms of Reference, proposals must be designed to deliver the intended activities and outputs of the specific project, which are defined at a multi-county level. While applicants may choose to focus on particular geographies or thematic strengths, proposals must demonstrate how they will contribute to the broader outcomes of the project, which are not limited to a single county. Applicants are encouraged to ensure their proposals reflect the scale and ambition of the intervention as described in the call documentation.
Could you provide more guidance on how to properly fill the IP risk register?	Applicants are advised to refer to the Applicant Handbook (Section 6: Risk Management) , which provides detailed guidance on how to complete the Implementing Partner (IP) risk register. The handbook sets out the categories of risk to consider, such as operational, financial, safeguarding, reputational, and political risks—and explains the level of detail expected for identifying risks, assessing likelihood and impact, and describing mitigation measures. Please review this section carefully to ensure your submission aligns with the requirements.
For a one-year project running January–December 2026, how should we complete the FY25/26 and FY26/27 columns in the performance indicators table?	Since UK PACT's financial year runs from April to March, your project will span two financial years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January–March 2026 falls under FY25/26, • April–December 2026 falls under FY26/27. You should therefore split your performance indicators across the two columns to reflect this timing. For example, any outputs or milestones expected in the first quarter of 2026 should be listed under YR25/26, while those planned from April onwards should be captured under YR26/27. Please refer to Section 4.3.2 – Performance Indicators in the Applicant Handbook for detailed guidance on completing this table.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	Responses
What is expected to be delivered within a one-year project, and what kind of evidence is required?	<p>Each project has clearly defined activities, outputs, and outcomes as outlined in the Terms of Reference. Within a one-year implementation period, applicants are expected to deliver meaningful progress against these outputs, which may include technical deliverables, policy inputs, capacity-building activities, and stakeholder engagement processes.</p> <p>In terms of evidence, applicants should refer to the Applicant Handbook, Section 4.3.3 – Evidence of Results, which outlines UK PACT’s requirements. Evidence may include deliverables such as reports, training materials, policy drafts, or other documentation that clearly demonstrates achievement against the stated indicators and milestones. The evidence should be credible, relevant, and sufficient to verify progress toward the intended outcomes.</p>
How will government steering and alignment be ensured during project preparation and delivery?	<p>Government steering and alignment are central to UK PACT’s approach. During project preparation, applicants are expected to demonstrate how their proposals align with Kenya’s national and county-level priorities, policies, and strategies. This should be reflected in the design of activities, choice of partners, and engagement plans.</p> <p>During delivery, UK PACT will continue to ensure alignment through its governance structures and regular engagement with relevant government counterparts. Implementing Partners are also expected to maintain ongoing consultation with the appropriate government institutions to ensure activities remain responsive to national and county priorities.</p> <p>Please also refer to the Applicant Handbook, Section 2.2 – Alignment with Government Priorities for further guidance</p>
In the overhead calculation, only consortium members need to be listed. Does this mean that subcontractor personnel costs should already include overheads, while consortium member costs can be presented separately?	<p>Yes, that’s correct. As outlined in the Applicant Handbook, Section 4.4 – Budget Guidance, overheads should only be calculated and presented for consortium members. Subcontractor costs — including personnel — should be presented as fully loaded rates, meaning any overheads or indirect costs associated with subcontractors must be included within their quoted fees. Consortium members, on the other hand, may present their personnel costs and overheads separately, using the standard UK PACT overhead calculation method.</p> <p>This approach ensures transparency and consistency in budgeting across different types of delivery partners.</p>
Can fuel, repair, and maintenance costs for vehicles and motorbikes be included as direct costs in the proposal?	<p>Yes, these costs can be included as direct costs if they are clearly linked to project delivery. As outlined in the Applicant Handbook, Section 4.4 – Budget Guidance, direct costs must be necessary, reasonable, and attributable to the implementation of project activities. This includes operational expenses such as fuel, vehicle or motorbike maintenance, and repairs, provided they support fieldwork, stakeholder engagement, or other project-related activities.</p>

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
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	Applicants should ensure these costs are well-justified in the budget narrative and aligned with the proposed work plan. All expenditures must comply with UK PACT’s value-for-money principles and financial accountability standards.

3. UK PACT Applicant Portal

3 – UK PACT Applicant Portal	
Questions	Responses
I am unable to access the application portal. What should I do?	Please refer to our guidelines on creating an account and submitting your application through the portal. These step-by-step instructions will help you navigate the setup and application process. myUKPACT Applicant Guide v1.pdf
Can you kindly clarify whether this Call for Proposals follows a two-stage process—comprising a pre-qualification phase followed by submission of a full proposal—or a one-stage process involving submission of a full proposal only?	This is a one-stage Call for Proposals. As such, there is no pre-qualification phase, and applicants are ONLY required to submit a full proposal using the provided application templates and on the application portal.

4. Consortia and consortium-building

General note: Applicants should evaluate whether Government entities being considered in their projects are Counterparts or Stakeholders. Section 8 of the [UK PACT Proposal Template](#) clarifies the difference between Counterparts and Stakeholders:

- **Counterparts:** refer to partner government organisations that are normally the primary recipients of TA outputs. Counterparts play a critical role in project implementation, often serving as local champions who bring essential context, insights, and connections. They work alongside the project teams to achieve shared goals, such as policy development, capacity building, skills enhanced, etc. ensuring that projects are effectively adapted to local conditions and needs. Government counterparts should be named under Section 8.1.1. of the UK PACT Proposal Template as the “primary government counterpart”.

- **Stakeholders:** are individuals, groups, or organizations that have an interest in or are affected by the project. They can include those who are directly involved, those who can influence the outputs and outcomes, and those who are impacted by the results of the project. Effective stakeholder engagement involves identifying, prioritizing, and engaging with these groups to ensure that their views are considered in decision-making processes. Stakeholders should be listed named under Section 8.1.2. of the UK PACT Proposal Template.

4 - Consortia and consortium-building	
Questions	Responses
What type of organisations can apply?	<p>We invite applications from organisations with relevant experience in delivering technical assistance and capacity-building projects in nature-based solutions, including areas such as climate policy, governance, sustainable land use, and ecosystem restoration. This includes think tanks, consultancies, academic institutions, community organisations, NGOs, professional associations, and other similar entities with the expertise required to implement eligible projects.</p> <p>Government agencies, government departments, and state-owned enterprises are not eligible to receive UK PACT funding, either as lead applicants or consortium partners.</p> <p>In line with UK PACT's commitment to localisation and inclusive delivery, additional consideration will be given to consortia that include local organisations, women-owned entities, youth-owned entities, and entities owned by persons with disabilities</p>
Is having a physical office in Kenya a requirement for proposal submission under Kenya-UK PACT?	<p>No, having a physical office in Kenya is not a requirement for proposal submission. However, consortiums are strongly encouraged to work with local partners to ensure contextual relevance and effective localisation of delivery.</p> <p>To reflect FCDO's commitment to localisation, additional consideration will be given to consortia that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local organisations, • Women-owned entities, and • Entities owned by people with disabilities.
Can institutions outside of Kenya, such as universities or research organisations, be included as partner in a proposal?	Yes, institutions outside of Kenya are eligible to participate as collaborators in a proposal. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to include local partners to ensure contextual relevance and support localisation of delivery
As a public university, are we eligible to apply for this funding window under the UK PACT programme?	Yes, public universities are eligible to apply for funding under the UK PACT programme, provided they meet the general eligibility criteria outlined in the UK PACT Applicant Handbook.
Can two or more Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) apply as a consortium, and is it permissible for the same organization to appear in multiple applications—once as a lead applicant and in other instances as a co-applicant in different consortia?	Yes. UK PACT encourages consortium applications, especially where collaboration enhances technical expertise, local knowledge, and delivery capacity. CBOs can form or join consortia as long as the consortium collectively meets the eligibility and capacity requirements.
Is it necessary to include a UK-based or UK-affiliated institution or researcher in the consortium for Kenya-UK PACT projects?	While partnerships with UK-based organisations are welcome and may add value, they are not a requirement for eligibility. The programme encourages applications from organisations that are locally based and have relevant experience in commercial forestry, agroforestry, or other nature-based solutions aligned with Kenya's climate priorities. All applicants must demonstrate strong technical capacity, alignment with the call's objectives, and a commitment to inclusive approaches, including Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).
Can an applicant submit more than one proposal under the same project area, each focusing on different counties or groups of counties?	Applicants may only submit one proposal as lead applicant per project area. Submitting multiple proposals as the lead for the same project area will result in automatic disqualification. However, applicants are permitted to participate in other proposals as

4 - Consortia and consortium-building	
Questions	Responses
	downstream or consortium partners. It is also acceptable to submit proposals across different project areas , provided that each consortium applies only once to any given project.
Can the lead organisation be a fiscally sponsored organisation?	Yes, a fiscally sponsored organisation can serve as the lead applicant, provided that the sponsoring entity meets UK PACT's eligibility criteria and is able to enter into a grant agreement, manage funds, and comply with UK PACT's financial and reporting requirements. As outlined in the Applicant Handbook , the lead organisation must have the legal and financial capacity to take responsibility for project delivery and oversight. Applicants should clearly explain the fiscal sponsorship arrangement in their proposal and ensure that roles and responsibilities are well defined
Will proposals that include subcontractor arrangements be evaluated differently from those structured as a consortium?	No. Proposals will be assessed based on the quality and strength of the overall approach, delivery capacity, and value for money, regardless of whether the delivery model is through subcontracting or a consortium. Applicants should choose the structure that best supports effective delivery and aligns with the guidance in the <i>Applicant Handbook, Section 3.1 – Eligibility and Consortium Arrangements</i> .
The ToR specifies that organisations should not engage with government counterparts during the bidding process. Does this restriction also apply during project implementation, or will engagement with government stakeholders be permitted once projects are underway?	As stated in the ToRs, applicants must not engage government counterparts during the bidding process. However, once projects have been contracted, engagement with relevant government stakeholders will not only be permissible but is also expected. UK PACT projects are designed to align closely with government priorities, and implementing partners will be required to work collaboratively with both national and county-level institutions during delivery.

5. Timelines, communication and contacts

5 - Timelines, communication and contacts	
Questions	Responses
How long is the application open for, and is there a possibility of extension?	The application is currently open until 26th September . No extensions have been granted at this time.
Will there be other Calls for Proposals under Kenya–UK PACT in the coming months, and can you share the expected focus areas?	At this time, no additional Calls for Proposals are planned under the Kenya–UK PACT programme. Should this change, any future calls will be publicly announced and will focus on areas agreed in consultation with the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (MECCF) , which serves as the programme's counterpart. We encourage interested organisations to stay informed via the UK PACT website and official communication channels for any updates or new opportunities.
Can UK PACT funding be used as part of a longer-term project (e.g., 5–10 years), or spread across multiple years?	UK PACT funding is designed for a 12-month implementation period , running from January 2026 to December 2026 . All UK PACT-funded activities must be implemented and reported within this timeframe , in line with the programme's funding and reporting requirements. However, UK PACT welcomes proposals that form part of a longer-term intervention , such as a 5–10 year strategy, provided that : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK PACT-funded component is clearly defined and fits within the 12-month window.

5 - Timelines, communication and contacts	
Questions	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities, outputs, and timelines are clearly differentiated from those supported by other funding sources. There is clear attribution to each funder, with transparent budgeting and reporting. <p>Match funding that supports the continuation or expansion of the project beyond the UK PACT period is considered a positive complementarity, especially where it enhances sustainability and long-term impact.</p>

6. Questions specific to Thematic Area 1 “Strengthening commercial forestry on all land categories in Kenya”

8 - Thematic Area 1 “Commercial Forestry”	
Questions	Responses
In the ToR, one of the identified NbS opportunities is “strengthening action on conservation of degraded riparian reserves & wetlands.” Should this be understood as focusing solely on conservation outcomes, or does it also extend to the commercial forestry and agroforestry objectives mentioned elsewhere in the call?	<p>The reference to conservation of degraded riparian reserves and wetlands primarily highlights the ecological restoration and protection aspects of Nature-based Solutions (NbS). However, this does not exclude complementary activities that support sustainable land use and livelihoods, such as agroforestry or commercial forestry, where appropriate. Applicants are encouraged to interpret the opportunity in line with the broader objectives of the call, which include enhancing ecosystem services, reducing emissions, and promoting inclusive economic benefits. Any proposed interventions should demonstrate clear alignment with the project’s intended outcomes and ensure that commercial or productive activities are ecologically appropriate and contribute to long-term restoration goals.</p> <p>Please refer to the Terms of Reference and the Applicant Handbook for further guidance on eligible activities and expected outputs</p>
The ToR (Page 7) specifies the production of at least 1.2 metric tons of high-quality improved commercial forestry seeds and 15 million improved commercial forestry seedlings through private and community nurseries in 5 counties. Given that only two projects will be approved and community nurseries are expected to be involved, should applicants understand the target of 15 million seedlings as applying within the 12-month project period, or is this a broader program-level objective?	<p>The target of 15 million improved commercial forestry seedlings, as outlined in the ToR, reflects a broader programme-level objective across the five counties. It is not expected that each individual project will deliver the full volume within the 12-month implementation period. Instead, applicants should demonstrate how their proposed activities will contribute meaningfully toward this overall target, in line with the scope, scale, and resources of their project. Proposals should clearly outline realistic outputs and milestones, and show how they align with the programme’s intended outcomes, including support for private and community nurseries</p>
For the production of seedlings, the ToR mentions that these have to be produced in 5 counties. Does this mean that the project must also cover at least 5 counties in terms of tree planting, education, stakeholder engagement etc.?	<p>Yes, proposals should reflect engagement across the five target counties, but not necessarily in equal proportion. The requirement for seedling production to be based in five counties is intended to ensure wide geographic coverage and diversity of production, which is critical for ecological suitability and equitable access.</p> <p>This does not mean that every project must implement its full range of activities — such as tree planting, education, or stakeholder engagement — uniformly across all five counties. Applicants may propose focused interventions in specific counties, provided they clearly demonstrate how their approach contributes to the broader programme-level objectives and targets. The proposal should show how activities in selected counties support overall delivery, coordination, and impact across the five-county scope.</p>

7. Questions specific to Thematic Area 2 “Scaling up smallholder agroforestry production and nature-based enterprises”

9 - Thematic Area 2 “Agroforestry”	
Questions	Responses
Are the figures under Key Outputs mandatory or indicative?	The figures provided under <i>Key Outputs</i> are intended to clarify the scale and ambition of the programme. They should be considered as minimum requirements , unless otherwise stated in the Terms of Reference. Applicants are expected to design projects that directly address these targets, while also demonstrating feasibility, sustainability, and alignment with the broader objectives of the call.
Does the agroforestry call exclude projects that involve tree-growing for logging or lumber?	Yes. The agroforestry call focuses on models that promote permanent, multi-benefit trees which generate returns without logging . Therefore, projects centred on timber production or tree harvesting for lumber are not eligible under this project. However, such projects may be eligible under the commercial forestry call , which is designed to support sustainable timber and wood-based value chains.
Are proposals focusing on Nature-based Solutions in the coastal and marine space, such as nature-based aquaculture or mangrove restoration, eligible under this Call for Proposals, or is the focus limited to terrestrial agriculture?	Yes, proposals that focus on coastal and marine Nature-based Solutions (NbS) —such as mangrove restoration, nature-based aquaculture, or blue carbon initiatives —are eligible under this Call for Proposals. While the call places emphasis on terrestrial agriculture, it also welcomes innovative NbS approaches in coastal ecosystems , provided they align with the programme’s objectives of climate mitigation, resilience, and inclusive economic benefits .