Responses to consolidated clarification questions as at 28 July 2025 (final update)

Important notes to all applicants

Note: This is the final issue for clarification questions. The deadline for submitting clarification questions was 25 July 2025 at 17:00 SAST (15:00 UTC).

- 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.

Updated 21 July:

For Thematic Area 1, applicants are expressly requested NOT to contact DFFE or SALGA to obtain their support for proposed projects. DFFE and SALGA have already been engaged by UK PACT. Letters of Support for Thematic Area 1 should be obtained from relevant sub-national counterparts (provinces/ municipalities) where the projects will be implemented.

Updated 28 July:

For Metropolitan Municipalities, Letters of Support may be signed by the relevant Head of Department instead of the City Manager / Municipal Manager / Mayor.

1. Eligibility Criteria

1 - Eligibility Criteria	
Questions	**Responses**
Are entities from other African countries or other countries eligible to apply?	Eligibility is not restricted by geography. Applicants registered outside South Africa may apply, however, they must demonstrate a strong understanding of South African priorities and delivery context, as well as bringing relevant expertise required. We encourage consortia to include at least one local partner. Additional consideration will be given to consortia which include local organisations, Level 1 & 2 B-BBEE contributors, women-owned entities, youth-owned entities, and entities owned by people with disabilities. We invite all organisations with relevant experience in delivering technical assistance and capacity-building projects. This could be think-tanks, consultancies, academic institutions, community organisations, NGOs, professional associations, or any similar organisations that have the knowledge, skills and experience to deliver an eligible project. Proposals from private sector entities are welcomed, noting however that profit cannot be funded through grant funding and projects must be submitted on a not-for-profit basis. Companies are encouraged to refer to the Applicant Handbook for clarity on eligible costs. Please refer to the detailed Terms of Reference for the project you are interested in to review the eligibility criteria. Kindly note that UK PACT is active in multiple countries, including Nigeria and Kenya. Please visit www.ukpact.co.uk/country-programmes for more information about where UK PACT works.
Can a state-owned entity apply as a project lead or consortium partner? **Are Municipalities eligible to apply?**	Government agencies, departments, municipalities, and provinces are **not** eligible to receive UK PACT funding, either as a lead organisation or partners in a consortium. This includes state-owned enterprises. However, as part of this call for proposals National and Provincial Government Enterprises – i.e. ONLY public institutions listed in **PFMA schedules 3B and 3D** for 2025 – may form part of consortia **as downstream partners**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner. Government entities are however welcome to contact South Africa-UK PACT to discuss their technical assistance needs, which may be considered for future support. Please email us at southafrica@ukpact.co.uk.

1 - Eligibility Criteria	
Questions	**Responses**
Does a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in this case the Atlantis SEZ, qualify for funding or is it considered a Government department or agency?	Public institutions listed in **PFMA schedules 3B and 3D** for 2025 – may form part of consortia **as downstream partners**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner. Atlantis Special Economic Zone Company SOC Ltd falls under PFMA Schedule 3D and may form part of a consortium **as a downstream partner**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner.
Could you clarify whether for-profit organisations can apply as a lead organisation? **Do Consultancies with set rates qualify?**	Consultancies are eligible to apply for funding, however, no consortium partner may include profit in their rates; this also applies to consultancies. If consultancies' set rates include profit, your application will be ineligible. Personnel costs are described below as an example of the not-for-profit requirement: • Daily rates for personnel should be the actual cost to the business of employing the personnel (cost to company), with no overheads, profit or contingency. For internal staff or fixed term staff this might include salary remuneration and any benefits including superannuation (pension) and taxes. • For sub-contractors, the daily fee rate will be the exact total invoiced to your organisation that is chargeable to the project. • The grant makes allowance for organisational overheads, which are **costed separately**, on a separate tab in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provided (please refer to the Budget and Workplan template). The amount of overhead that can be funded by UK PACT should be an 'appropriate apportionment' and is calculated as the percentage of core costs necessary to support your organisation's ongoing business or activities. This is described in detail in the Applicant Handbook. • Due to the vast variety of types of organisations that will be applying to UK PACT, we have provided indicative ranges for personnel rates with caps on the upper limit. (This does not mean that the upper limit should be selected; organisations must indicate the cost to company of personnel in the organisation's local currency). The ranges can be found on the 'Eligible Costs' tab in the Budget and Workplan template
Can a 24-month (2-year) project ask for up to £1 million?	As part of this call for proposals, projects should not be more than 12 months in duration.
Please clarify £500 000 available per financial year? **Updated 21 July** **The guidance states that the project budget can be up to £500,000 per financial year (April–March), while also noting that projects are expected to start in October 2025 and must end no later than**	As a guide, projects should not exceed £500,000 per financial year, per project. However, we may consider projects which exceed this value within the 12-month period, provided that the project presents a compelling motivation and clearly demonstrates Value for Money. **Updated 21 July** Projects which exceed £500,000 in total over the 12-monht period will be evaluated. However, the proposal will need to present a compelling project intervention, a robust workplan and budget which details project activities

1 - Eligibility Criteria

Questions	Responses
November 2026, with a maximum duration of 12 months. Could you please clarify how the financial year budget cap applies to projects that span across two financial years (e.g., October 2025 to October 2026)? Specifically, would a project running from October 2025 to October 2026 be eligible for up to £500,000 in each of the two financial years it spans, or is the total budget capped at £500,000 regardless of the financial year split?	and associated costs, demonstrate strong project management controls and provide confidence in implementation capability, and clearly articulate how Value for Money is achieved. Value for Money assessments will focus on the extent to which the project aligns with the Four Es: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. Please refer to the Applicant Handbook linked, which details eligible programme costs, value for money, and more.
Please clarify the requirement that projects must be delivered on a not-for-profit basis?	UK PACT funding is grant funding which cannot be used to fund profit. **If an entity is named as a consortium partner then they cannot make a profit**. Overheads are eligible for funding and applicants should refer to the "Overheads" tab in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template.
Are you looking for match funding as part of the assessment criteria of the projects? If a project meets the outcomes of the UK PACT call for proposals and already has some funding, can it still qualify for the balance of funding?	Co-funding or match funding is not a requirement for this call for proposals but is allowed. Applicants must demonstrate how the funding from UK PACT is additional and necessary, and not duplicative. The funding portion received from UK PACT must be for distinct activities with distinct, measurable outputs and outcomes. Applicants must also be able to separately track and report on spending against UK PACT funding. Match funding sources should align with UK PACT's safeguarding principles and guidelines.

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
Updated 28 July Do both partners need to conduct the online application?	ONLY the Lead Consortium Partner should submit an application via the application process. Consortia should submit only one application.

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2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Would a letter of support from the Head of a City of Cape Town department be sufficient or does it have to be the City Manager (the Cape Town mayor apparently does not sign this type of letter). I was informed that getting a letter of support from the city manager for a large metropolitan municipality such as Cape Town is virtually impossible in the remaining time frame.**	For Metropolitan Municipalities, Letters of Support may be signed by the relevant Head of Department instead of the City Manager / Municipal Manager / Mayor. Kindly note that for Project 1 (ECCCRS) and Project 2 (WC IRP), no Letter of Support is required. Letters of Support are only required for applications under Thematic Area 1 and 2.
Updated 28 July **Is there any restriction regarding formal letters of support or MOUs to be submitted with the application pack?**	This question was not clear. Kindly note: • MOUs are not a requirement at this stage. • Letters of Support from government counterparts are only required for applications under Thematic Area 1 and 2, from the Government counterparts your project seeks to support. • For Project 1 (ECCCRS) and Project 2 (WC IRP), no Letter of Support is required.
Can you have more than one government counterpart in one proposal?	Yes, more than one Government counterpart may be listed in your proposal. However, applicants should carefully consider and describe their approach to managing multiple counterparts.
How should academic institutions treat the calculation of overheads? The Budget Sheet provided states "If you cannot use the methodology below because you are an academic organisation or similar, please contact the UK PACT team at the email address listed in the terms of reference". Can you advise if there are alternative arrangements for academic institutions to show overheads? **For Universities that wish to participate, does UK PACT fund 100% of direct costs, but no overhead?** **Updated 21 July**	The grant makes allowance for organisational overheads, which are costed on a separate tab in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provided (please refer to the Budget and Workplan template linked under the "How to apply" section of the South Africa-UK PACT webpage; this will guide your costing). The amount of overhead that can be funded by UK PACT should be an 'appropriate apportionment' and is calculated as the percentage of core costs necessary to support your organisation's ongoing business or activities. This is described in detail in the Applicant Handbook. In general UK Universities can use the TRAC methodology, and academic organisations from outside the UK may consider using the NPAC methodology. We strongly encourage applicants to calculate their overheads in this way and this approach has been successfully utilised by many different organisation types across UK PACT's global portfolio. However, If neither of these options are suitable, then alternative methodologies may be used, provided that (1) it complies with UK PACT costs guidance, (2) this is clearly indicated in your Budget Sheet, and (3) on the understanding that if your organisation is conditionally selected, your methodology will be verified and may be revised prior to signature of an agreement.

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

Questions	Responses
As we use the TRAC methodology for costings, are we able to request our overheads as they are costed by our system at 100%? **Updated 21 July** We are a UK University developing a proposal in collaboration with a South African University. We see that the 15% overhead allowed does not cover our indirect cost as a UK university. Kindly advise on how to handle this. **Updated 28 July** According to the budget and workplan template, where more than 15% of the total budget is to be requested for overheads, the guidance states "If you cannot use the methodology below because you are an academic organisation or similar, please contact the UK PACT team at the email address listed in the terms of reference." **Updated 28 July** As a UK HEI, our overheads will not follow the expected methodology within the Alt. Overheads Calculation tab. The template suggests to contact your team if this is the case. Please can you advise how overheads should be included in the budget template in this situation? We use TRAC methodology and so would need to include the overheads as calculated internally.	Previous UK PACT funded projects involving South African universities have been able to meet the overheads calculation requirements. If your academic organisation has applied for or implemented UK PACT projects in the past, we would expect overheads to be presented in line with previous UK PACT projects. If selected, the overheads calculations can be revisited if necessary. **Updated 28 July** Kindly note that the guidance provided above addresses queries related to universities. For universities who still have questions about this, there is no need to reach out directly: You may use the TRAC methodology to calculate your overheads; you may then quote your figures as a percentage in the normal "Overheads" tab, and we will verify these if your project is selected to advance to co-creation stage.
Updated 21 July	In general UK Universities can use the TRAC methodology. Where projects are co-funded by other parties (as is the case for the specific scenario referenced in Kenya), different requirements may apply.

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

Questions	Responses
Can you please confirm that we can calculate our overheads using TRAC methodology and that this will be accepted by UK PACT. We are currently in the co-creation stage of another UK PACT project and our use of TRAC methodology to calculate our overhead is being questioned.	Under this call for proposals for South Africa, funding is purely from UK PACT (unless the consortium has secured co-funding from other sources with their own requirements).
Updated 28 July Are UK universities allowed to claim 100% full economic cost of direct cost and overheads?	The TRAC methodology is a way for universities to estimate the full economic cost of their project. UK PACT projects allow for 100% recovery as projects are not for the University's benefit.
Are UK partners allowed to include overheads and indirect costs in the budget?	All partners are expected to include overheads in their budgets – these should be listed on the "Overheads" tab in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template. Please refer to the Applicant Handbook linked, which details eligible programme costs, overhead calculations, value for money, and more.
Updated 28 July Should we make provision for local and international travel?	Applicants should budget for the reasonable costs associated with their projects, whether for local or international travel. The UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provides indicative rates. Environmental sustainability, carbon tracking, and Value for Money should be considered, but travel is not restricted.
Updated 28 July Should projects budget for workshop venues?	All project costs should be adequately budgeted for, based on market-related rates and guidance provided in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template. UK PACT cannot provide nor guarantee venues. Applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach.
Updated 28 July The indicative rates appear to be quite low. Our understanding is that these rates are indicative, and that bidders are not strictly required to use them, provided that the personnel rates submitted are determined on a not-for-profit basis and are aligned with the methodology outlined in the Application Handbook?	The UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provides indicative rates. Should organisational rates exceed these, additional motivation should be provided and should clearly demonstrate how the project intends to achieve Value for Money.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Is there a maximum to consulting / subcontracting fees linked to this grant (e.g. a percentage of the total grant or any maximum rates for a specific service)?**	This question was interpreted as referring to external service providers rather than independent consultants with specialised expertise. While there is no specific percentage, it is expected that consortium partners demonstrate their capability to deliver on their projects. If a large proportion of the project needs to be outsourced to external service providers, this may be perceived as a shortcoming in the consortium's capability. Kindly also see the guidance in this document re: the procurement of external service providers.

Updated 21 July
Please can you confirm whether 'time of staff' within overheads refers only to basic salary and not on-costs (NI, pension, apprenticeship levy)? Or whether these should be grouped together in the daily rate for personnel costs?
	The question does not seem to reference specific terminology in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template. Please refer to the UK PACT template and the guidance below:
	• Daily rates for personnel should be the actual cost to the business of employing the personnel (cost to company), with no overheads, profit or contingency. For internal staff or fixed term staff **this might include salary remuneration and any benefits including superannuation (pension) and taxes**. i.e. The personnel rate should include the full cost of employment, including benefits. Organisations must indicate the cost to company of personnel **in the organisation's local currency**. Rate ranges can be found on the 'Eligible Costs' tab in the Budget and Workplan template.
	• Overheads are **costed separately**, on a separate tab in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provided (please refer to the Budget and Workplan template). Two Overhead calculation options are provided for in the template – **only one should be completed:**
	    ○ In the 'Overheads calculation' tab, the amount of overhead that can be funded by UK PACT should be an "appropriate apportionment" and is calculated as the percentage of core costs necessary to support your organisation's ongoing business or activities.
	    ○ In the 'Alt. Overheads calculation' tab, overheads are built up from annual financial statements. Here, the total cost for "Support staff" costs (i.e. staff required for organisation's ongoing business or activities, and not specifically for the project) may be included as part of Overheads, assuming that these staff members are not allocated to the project.
	• Please refer to the Applicant Handbook linked, for further guidance.

Is there is defined ratio of budget allocation between South Africa and UK?	No, there is no defined budget allocation ratio for entities from different geographies.
Updated 21 July **Are pieces of equipment (around £50k in value) eligible as direct costs? Equipment only seems to be listed in overheads.**	The purchase of equipment is **not** an eligible cost under UK PACT. We do not fund infrastructure projects or pay for tangible assets. For example, we cannot fund the installation of solar infrastructure or other off-grid technology even if this is part of a pilot.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Is any CAPEX related to a pilot (temporary set-up, not continued during commercial use) potentially eligible?**	
Please clarify £500 000 available per financial year? **Updated 21 July** **The guidance states that the project budget can be up to £500,000 per financial year (April–March), while also noting that projects are expected to start in October 2025 and must end no later than November 2026, with a maximum duration of 12 months.** **Could you please clarify how the financial year budget cap applies to projects that span across two financial years (e.g., October 2025 to October 2026)? Specifically, would a project running from October 2025 to October 2026 be eligible for up to £500,000 in each of the two financial years it spans, or is the total budget capped at £500,000 regardless of the financial year split?**	As a guide, projects should not exceed £500,000 per financial year, per project. However, we may consider projects which exceed this value within the 12-month period, provided that the project presents a compelling motivation and clearly demonstrates Value for Money. **Updated 21 July** Projects which exceed £500,000 in total over the 12-monht period will be evaluated. However, the proposal will need to present a compelling project intervention, a robust workplan and budget which details project activities and associated costs, demonstrate strong project management controls and provide confidence in implementation capability, and clearly articulate how Value for Money is achieved. Value for Money assessments will focus on the extent to which the project aligns with the Four Es: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. Please refer to the [Applicant Handbook](#) linked, which details eligible programme costs, value for money, and more.
Updated 28 July **How specific should the application be on our experience and relationships in the field, and successful collaboration with the stakeholders?** **Should we send supplementary documents to support the proposal with such information in more detail?**	Project applications will be strengthened by descriptions of experience and successful collaborations with key stakeholders and proposed counterparts. Additional supporting documentation (such as CVs of key staff) can be uploaded with your application.

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2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **In Section 8 of the proposal template, can we add rows to the table of "additional supportive stakeholders"?**	Yes. Additional rows can be added as needed to all tables in Section 8. ("Additional supportive stakeholders" in Section 8 should be numbered 8.2.).
Updated 28 July **To what extent should the proposed Theory of Change and MEL framework cover both the project development (i.e. the period of the Grant) and the project's implementation (e.g. constructing new infrastructure)?**	The Theory of Change should be developed only for the grant-funded period of the project (i.e. for the applicant's activities). We recognise that Intermediate Outcomes, Outcomes, and Impact may only realise after project timeframe; project Activities and Outputs should be designed to enable these, and applicants should think carefully about the intended and likely Intermediate Outcomes, Outcomes, and Impact of the work.
Updated 28 July **Should the within-project MEL indicators for UK PACT and JETP be incorporated into our proposed MEL framework?**	The JETP indicators do not need to be included at application stage. The JETP reporting template will be provided during the inception phase, should your project be selected, at which point the project's MEL framework and indicators will be revisited with support from the UK PACT MEL team.
Updated 28 July **What is expected for the case study?**	UK PACT will provide a case study template and guidance if your project is selected to proceed to the co-creation stage, at which point the successful applicant will have an opportunity to revise their MEL resource allocation. The case study is narrative, typically unpacking stories of change, learning on key drivers/mechanisms of success (and failure), and serving as a contribution to the programme-level results framework reporting.
Are there examples from South Africa or other UK PACT projects that we can look at as examples of 'best practice' in terms of delivery and outputs?	Please refer to the UK PACT website for examples of previously funded projects.
Are timesheets expected as evidence of staff time?	Timesheets should be kept as a record of staff time spent on the project.
Is a project audit required, and should this be included in the budget?	Yes, applicants should budget for an annual audit, as well as a project close-out audit. Where the annual audit and project close-out audit are estimated to be in the same quarter, only one need be allowed for.
Updated 28 July **Is it only the lead applicant that should undertake the annual audit or does that apply to all partners?**	**Updated 28 July** For a 12-month project, only a project close-out audit will be required. Kindly note that this is not an audit on the organisations but on the project.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	**Responses**
Is there a preferred format for the Bio for key personnel?	No.
I filled out an online form and instead of taking me to the application form, it is prompting me to save a file. **I filled out an online form and received an email asking me to upload documents.**	Please refer to the application process explained during the South Africa-UK PACT Market Engagement Event for step-by-step guidance on the application process. You will need to download the application templates from the "How to apply" heading of the project / thematic area you are interested in. There are 4 templates that you must download and complete, which can be found on the South Africa-UK PACT webpage. All 4 templates are required for your application to be eligible; these are: 1. Project proposal template 2. Budget and workplan template 3. Project Theory of Change form 4. Project risk and issue register template **After filling in the templates**, you will click on "Apply here" and then submit the online form linked. After submitting the form, you will receive an email containing a link to upload your application pack (the 4 application templates). You will upload your documents to Applications for Thematic Area 1 and Thematic Area 2 will also be required to upload a Letter of Support from their selected Government counterpart(s), in addition to the 4 application templates.
Updated 21 July **Regarding Step 4 of the application process, could you please confirm what specific information and documentation are required to be submitted through the online application form at this stage? I notice there are 19 pages attributed to the [Microsoft Form]; understanding the level of detail expected will help us plan and allocate the necessary resources effectively.**	The 19-page Microsoft Form merely requests organisational information and **does not ask for your application or for detailed project information. After filling this in, you will receive an email containing a link – this link will allow you to upload your application documents to a Sharepoint folder.** **Please refer to the application process explained during the South Africa-UK PACT Market Engagement Event for step-by-step guidance on the application process.** Your application / submission will require you to upload 4 application templates. **All 4 templates are required for your application to be eligible**; these are: 1. Project proposal template – this is a 25-page document with specific fields to complete, most of which indicate a maximum word count.

2 - Application guidance: proposal, workplan, budget, theory of change, and risk register	
Questions	Responses
Note: This question refers to the Microsoft Form which pops up once you click "Apply Now" – this is not your application, but merely allows you to receive a link to upload your full application.	2. Budget and workplan template – all tabs should be completed with as much detail as possible. The 'Budget Summary' will auto-populate. 3. Project Theory of Change form – should be completed with as much detail as possible. 4. Project risk and issue register template – should be completed with as much relevant detail as possible. These can be found on the South Africa-UK PACT webpage under the "How to apply" heading of the project / thematic area you are interested in. Each template should be filled in with sufficient detail to support project evaluation. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. Additional documentation may be submitted along with your application – for example, you may wish to include CVs of key staff.

3.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.

Updated 21 July:

- **For Thematic Area 1, applicants are expressly requested NOT to contact DFFE or SALGA to obtain their support for proposed projects. DFFE and SALGA have already been engaged by UK PACT. Letters of Support for Thematic Area 1 should be obtained from relevant sub-national counterparts (provinces/ municipalities) where the projects will be implemented.**

3 - Consortia and consortium-building	
Questions	**Responses**
Can we be added to or receive the consortium-building list? **Is there a networking opportunity for consortium building? Is there a tool available to find partners? Can you assist with finding a local partner in South Africa?**	A Market Engagement survey was sent to all those who registered for the SA-UK PACT Market Engagement Webinar. As part of this survey, organisations had an opportunity to indicate their interest in consortium-building and a contact list was shared with those who confirmed their interest. Unfortunately, this survey closed on 7 July 2025 and the consortium-building list will not be updated again during this call for proposals.
How many partners can we have on each side (South Africa/UK)? Do they have to be equal number?	The number of local organisations included in a consortium is not prescribed by UK PACT. There are also no eligibility constraints regarding the nationality of applicant organisations. The total number of partners in a consortium is not restricted, but larger teams should carefully consider the lead Implementing Partner's capacity to manage partners and demonstrate strong management and governance controls. We do recommend, however, that applicants are able to demonstrate a strong understanding of South African priorities and delivery context, as well as bringing relevant expertise required. Additional consideration will be given to consortia which include local organisations, Level 1 & 2 B-BBEE contributors, women-owned entities, youth-owned entities, and entities owned by people with disabilities.
Please clarify whether a government agency - for instance, the Western Cape Provincial Treasury - can be part of the consortium and receive a share of the project funding? **Is a Provincial Department in Gauteng is eligible to form a part of the consortium as counterpart considering that they are not listed under the PFMA Schedules 3B and 3D for 2025?** **Updated 28 July** **Are applicants permitted to include provincial departments as implementation collaborators (non-lead)?**	Government entities (this includes Government departments, agencies, provinces, municipalities, etc.) should NOT be included as part of project consortia. UK PACT cannot fund government directly and thus Government entities should NOT form part of project consortia and should NOT receive a share of the project budget. UK PACT funding supports government by funding technical assistance in the form of projects, for example. The only exception to the above is the case of National and Provincial Government Enterprises listed in [PFMA schedules 3B and 3D](#) for 2025. I.e. **ONLY public institutions listed in [PFMA schedules 3B and 3D](#) for 2025 may form part of consortia** as downstream partners, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner. These entities are eligible to be project implementors and are not considered to be Government counterparts. **Updated 28 July**

3 - Consortia and consortium-building	
Questions	**Responses**
	Kindly note that government departments and agencies can be Counterparts or Stakeholders, but CANNOT be consortium partners in any capacity.
Would Atlantis SEZ be considered a key stakeholder or is it considered a counterpart?	**Please see the response above to evaluate this in in light of your specific project.**
Does a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in this case the Atlantis SEZ, qualify for funding or is it considered a Government department or agency?	Public institutions listed in **PFMA schedules 3B and 3D** for 2025 – may form part of consortia **as downstream partners**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner. Atlantis Special Economic Zone Company SOC Ltd falls under PFMA Schedule 3D and may form part of a consortium **as a downstream partner**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner.
For Thematic Area 1 and Thematic Area 2, the ToR states that sub-partners are allowed to apply as part of multiple consortia. Are lead applicants also allowed to apply as part of multiple consortia? **If so, are they allowed to apply as a lead applicant twice or would they need to be a sub-partner on the second application?** **Is an entity allowed to apply twice under one thematic area (e.g. Thematic area 2: Advancing a Just and Clean Energy Transition through Local Action) if it is the lead entity in one proposal and a support partner in another?** **I am assuming that you cannot apply twice as the lead, with two different ideas (and government counterparts), under one of the broad thematic areas?**	**For Thematic Area 1 and Thematic Area 2 only:** • A lead implementing partner in one proposal/application may be a sub-partner in a different application. • Sub-partners may be included in multiple proposals / applications (i.e. exclusivity is not required). • Proposals can be submitted for more than one project, but a consortium (i.e. the same group of partners) cannot apply more than once to the same project. • We would prefer that a lead partner submit only one application under a thematic area, with a comprehensive set of activities and outputs. However, a lead implementing partner may submit more than one proposal/application under the same thematic area (noting this should be with a different consortium). **Proposals should be completely different project concepts, with different activities and different outputs.** This should not be used as an opportunity to submit piecemeal projects or the same project with a different approach. If the same project/activities are envisaged for multiple locations/municipalities/counterparts, only ONE application should be submitted; applicants should NOT submit an application for each location/municipality/counterpart. • Proposals may list than one Government counterpart, but applicants should carefully consider and describe their approach to managing multiple counterparts. Note that Government counterparts should not be part of your consortium.
Can you have more than one government counterpart in one proposal?	Yes, more than one Government counterpart may be listed in your proposal. However, applicants should carefully consider and describe their approach to managing multiple counterparts. **Updated 28 July**

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3 - Consortia and consortium-building	
Questions	**Responses**
	Kindly note that government departments and agencies can be Counterparts or Stakeholders, but CANNOT be consortium partners in any capacity.
Clarification on "Consortium Partners" (with reference to Section 10.1 of the proposal template): **The example provided involves working with potential service providers and collaborators (e.g. training providers), who play specific roles in the project's delivery but are not part of a formal consortium with joint delivery responsibilities. The role of these 'partners' is focused on service provision or specific collaboration, rather than being a part of a formal consortium structure.** **Should these potential 'partners' be included in Section 10.1 of the proposal template, or is this section exclusively reserved for formal consortium partners who will jointly deliver the project?** **If an applicant needs to procure various specialised portions of work (e.g. consulting services) under the planned programme, are those subcontractors also bound by the rule of executing on a "not-for-profit basis"?** **Updated 28 July** **Are there specifics detailing eligible sub-contractors/consultants to the project? Is there a selection process which must be undertaken (i.e. quoting procedures, quotations received, selection criteria)?**	Consortium partners are organisations that collaborate strategically to deliver the project; they are co-applicants and share responsibility for project outcomes. Third-party service providers contracted by the lead applicant or a consortium may deliver specific, time-bound services. Only consortium partners should be named and included in Section 10.1 of the proposal template. **If an entity is named as a consortium partner, then they cannot make a profit.** Third-party service providers **should not be named** in your proposal, although you may indicate that you intend to procure these services. If the contract exceeds £6,000, the service provider would need to be selected through a competitive procurement process. If a large proportion of the project needs to be outsourced to external service providers, this may be perceived as a shortcoming in the consortium's capability. Where it is necessary to procure services to deliver part of your project's activities, then you should indicate as such in the budget sheet and provide further detail in the "Other – justification" tab of the Budget and Workplan Template. Please see the Due Diligence Questionnaire at the end of the Applicant Handbook for expectations around procurement processes. Agreements with subcontractors should follow the guidelines in the Applicant Handbook.

4. Timelines, communication and contacts

4 - Timelines, communication and contacts	
Questions	**Responses**
Do all submissions receive feedback? If so, in what form?	All submissions will receive feedback by email once all submissions have been evaluated. Feedback will be sent to the email address used when submitting an application. Feedback can be expected in **September 2025**.
How much time will be allocated to evaluating and when will successful applicants be informed?	The deadline for submitting proposals is on **8 August 2025 at 17:00 SAST (15:00 UTC).** All applicants will be notified of the outcomes of their submissions – we expect this to take place in **September 2025**. All timelines are subject to change and updates will be communicated via the South Africa-UK PACT webpage.
Are there specific contacts for the different thematic priorities, or are they the same contact?	All queries related to the call for proposals should be sent to southafrica@ukpact.co.uk. Applicants are reminded that the British High Commission Pretoria is leading government engagement for this call for proposals. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the bidding process or prior to receiving an award.

5.Questions specific to Project 1 "Development of the Eastern Cape Climate Change Response Strategy"

5 - Project 1 "Development of the Eastern Cape Climate Change Response Strategy"	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Is there any restriction regarding formal letters of support or MOUs to be submitted with the application pack?**	Kindly note that for Project 1 (ECCCRS), **no Letter of Support is required** and we request that applicants do not reach out to the government Counterpart during the application process.

5.Questions specific to Project 2 "Supporting the Western Cape Government in the development of the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan"

6 - Project 2 "Supporting the Western Cape Government in the development of the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan"	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Could you please confirm that the WCIRP does not consider other fuels, (e.g. gas, hydrogen, petroleum products)?**	We can confirm that the WC IRP focuses on electricity. Other fuels should be considered in so far as they may be needed for electricity supply e.g. gas to power, and displacement of diesel for electricity generation to meet CO_2 emissions reduction targets. Green Hydrogen production and use should be explored – it is expected that this can be done through scenario analysis so that additionality aspects can be discerned. Further clarity will be provided should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage. The inception phase will allow for adjustments to activities and budgets in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.
Updated 28 July **Is the modelling exercise focused on optimisation of the power system, i.e. electricity modelling, or should it encompass wider energy flows? If the latter, which energy flows should be considered?**	The modelling exercise is fundamentally focused on electricity. Other energy flows should be considered in relation to electricity as the main carrier e.g. the potential for LNG to support gas to power, and consideration of upstream gas dependencies. However, detailed modelling of gas and liquid fuels carriers is not considered within scope of the WC IRP. A modelling and planning framework which considers the incorporation of these fuels into a WC Integrated Energy Plan is required. The WCG is currently undertaking electricity network analysis which is expected to inform the electricity flows and access to this work will be provided to the successful applicant. At this stage, applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach. Further clarity will be provided should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage. The inception phase will allow for adjustments to activities and budgets in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.

6 - Project 2 "Supporting the Western Cape Government in the development of the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan"	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **The required outputs clarify that a detailed network analysis is not needed. Please confirm the extent to which analysis on investment requirements will consider secondary grid investments?**	The modelling exercise is fundamentally focused on electricity. Other energy flows should be considered in relation to electricity as the main carrier e.g. the potential for LNG to support gas to power, and consideration of upstream gas dependencies. However, detailed modelling of gas and liquid fuels carriers is not considered within scope of the WC IRP. A modelling and planning framework which considers the incorporation of these fuels into a WC IntegratedSome preliminary high-level analysis on secondary grid investment has already been undertaken (e.g. Clean Energy Plan is required.Transmission Roadmap indicates investment requirements in distribution). The WCG is currently undertaking electricity network analysis which is expected to inform the WC IRP project and will be provided to the successful applicant to allow applicants to provide pre-feasibility level estimates of secondary grid investments. Further clarity will be provided should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage. The inception phase will allow for adjustments to activities and budgets in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.
Updated 28 July **Is UK PACT agnostic on the modelling software that shall be used for the power system modelling?**	Applicants can proceed with this assumption. Further clarity will be provided should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage. The inception phase will allow for adjustments in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.
Updated 28 July **Is the objective of the training exercise that the WCG team gains a full understanding of the project's modelling activities and its outputs?**	Yes. Some of the intended outcomes of this project are to enhance Government capacity and ensure Government ownership.
Updated 28 July **Should we make provision for local and international travel?**	Applicants should budget for the reasonable costs associated with their projects, whether for local or international travel. The UK PACT Budget and Workplan template provides indicative rates. Environmental sustainability, carbon tracking, and Value for Money should be considered, but travel is not restricted.
Updated 28 July **Should projects budget for workshop venues?**	All project costs should be adequately budgeted for, based on market-related rates and guidance provided in the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template. UK PACT cannot provide nor guarantee venues. Applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach.
Updated 28 July **Do we need to translate the documents from English into other languages such as Afrikaans or Xhosa? What about interpretation services?**	At this stage, applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach and recommendations. Further clarity will be provided should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage. The inception phase will allow for adjustments in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.

6 - Project 2 "Supporting the Western Cape Government in the development of the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan"	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 28 July **Is professional drafting and editing expected for the Final WCIRP Report?**	Applicants may propose what they feel would support the project outcomes and deliver a high-quality project. Applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach. All project costs should be adequately budgeted for.
Updated 28 July **What is expected for the case study?**	UK PACT will provide a case study template and guidance if your project is selected to proceed to the co-creation stage, at which point the successful applicant will have an opportunity to revise their MEL resource allocation. The case study is narrative, typically unpacking stories of change, learning on key drivers/mechanisms of success (and failure), and serving as a contribution to the programme-level results framework reporting.
Updated 28 July **Would a letter of support from the Head of a City of Cape Town department be sufficient or does it have to be the City Manager?**	Kindly note that for Project 2 (WC IRP), **no Letter of Support is required** and we request that applicants do not reach out to the government Counterpart during the application process.

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7.Questions specific to Thematic Area 1 "Enabling implementation of the Climate Change Act at subnational level"

7 - Thematic Area 1 "Enabling implementation of the Climate Change Act at subnational level"	
Questions	**Responses**
Updated 21 July: For Thematic Area 1, applicants are expressly requested **NOT** to contact DFFE or SALGA to obtain their support for proposed projects. DFFE and SALGA have already been engaged by UK PACT. Letters of Support for Thematic Area 1 should be obtained from relevant sub-national counterparts (provinces/ municipalities) where the projects will be implemented.	
Please advise if a letter of support from SALGA (in addition to the respective municipalities) would be advisable to strengthen our proposal?	SALGA is already informed of this support, and applicants need not obtain a Letter of Support from them. Letters of Support are only required from the counterparts who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the support (e.g. municipalities).
Updated 28 July **While the Terms of Reference for Thematic Area 1 describe the illustrative activities as "non-exhaustive," the examples listed appear to focus primarily on the development of frameworks, templates, plans and procedures, rather than on technical approaches directly linked to the implementation of mitigation reporting. Could you please confirm whether implementation-oriented or technical approaches would also be considered eligible, even if they are not explicitly included among the illustrative activities in the ToR?**	Implementation-oriented or technical approaches would be welcomed, provided that these: • Meet the project objectives as well as the UK PACT programme's intended outcomes and impact. • Take into account UK PACT's guidance on eligible costs (see the UK PACT Applicant Handbook and Budget and Workplan template).

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8. Questions specific to Thematic Area 2 "Advancing a Just and Clean Energy Transition through Local Action"

8 - Thematic Area 2 "Advancing a Just and Clean Energy Transition through Local Action"	
Questions	**Responses**
Are solutions that can help transition the public transport system to clean energy within the scope of thematic area 2?	While a broad range of activities may be considered for Thematic Area 2, kindly consider the degree of alignment with the 3 areas described within the detailed Terms of Reference and ensure that your proposal clearly articulates this. While we cannot speak to the details of your project, we would recommend that you evaluate whether this project is more aligned with the sustainable transport sector or with this specific call.
Kindly confirm whether feasibility study focused on plastic pyrolysis as a transitional clean energy and circular economy solution would fall within the eligibility scope of this call?	**Updated 21 July** Waste to energy solutions will be considered as part of this call; however, given the disadvantages of plastic pyrolysis, environmental sustainability should be addressed and broader benefits clearly demonstrated.
For Thematic Area 2, can the applicant obtain a signed Letter of Intent from a relevant signatory within a State-Owned Company/Enterprise? Or is the expectation that to comply with this application requirement the Government counterpart must be a Province or Municipal Government or Government Agency?	For Thematic Area 2, suggested counterparts include Government agencies and SOEs such as (but not limited to) DBSA, IDC, and SALGA. Other government entities such as DTIC, COGTA, Provinces, and Municipalities may also be considered, but are not a prerequisite. A Letter of Support should be obtained from the relevant Government counterpart(s). Kindly refer to clarification provided in Section 3 above, which clarifies the difference between counterparts and stakeholders.
Advise on the eligibility of a comprehensive supply/value-chain assessment (components), skills audit and training, partner network and business model for proposed manufacture of a hydrogen energy technology within Atlantis SEZ, including two field trial demonstrations of the technology?	Various aspects of the proposed concept seem to align with this call, however, proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to clearly articulate how they will achieve the objectives of the detailed Terms of Reference for Thematic Area 2. Kindly note that UK PACT cannot fund tangible assets, infrastructure, or capital expenditure; inclusion of these elements will result in an ineligible application. However, technical assistance aspects of this project appear to be eligible for funding.
Updated 21 July Could the DFFE and a relevant Industry Association be collaborators in lieu of a municipal partner for projects designed for thematic area 2? The project under consideration focuses on piloting decarbonisation strategies in a legacy manufacturing	UK PACT projects are intended to support the just transition objectives of the South African government. For Thematic Area 2, applicants may approach relevant Government counterparts to seek their support. Industry-focused just transition planning is relevant to this call for proposals, noting that: • A key Government counterpart should support the intervention, and it should be clear how the proposed project supports their objectives.

8 - Thematic Area 2 "Advancing a Just and Clean Energy Transition through Local Action"	
Questions	**Responses**
sector, supporting producers with just transition planning.	• Provided that the association is not a government owned entity, an industry association may be a consortium partner if appropriate. Alternatively, such an association may be considered a key stakeholder. • Private sector producers would likely be considered key stakeholders and beneficiaries. Note: this does NOT apply to Thematic Area 1.
Updated 21 July **Would projects related to carbon capture and the development of biodiversity credits be eligible under Thematic Area 2?**	While a broad range of activities may be considered for Thematic Area 2, kindly consider the degree of alignment with the 3 areas described within the detailed Terms of Reference and ensure that your proposal clearly articulates this. While we cannot speak to the details of your projects, we would recommend that you evaluate whether these projects will achieve the objectives for Thematic Area 2.
Updated 28 July **We are planning to offer the beneficiary the possibility of using either a commercial tool or an open-source tool, each of which has different budget implications. How might we approach the project budget?**	As general guidance, applications responding to Thematic Area 2 are expected to have consulted with potential Government counterparts regarding their needs, noting the requirement for a Letter of Support as described in the terms of reference. The project should consider the scalability and replicability of the project, Government ownership, as well as the intended impact, when proposing an approach. Applicants are requested to set out the assumptions which inform their approach. All project costs should be adequately budgeted for – in this case, the applicant may consider completing the Budget template with the higher budget, while the narrative proposal may describe the budget range. Should your application be selected to proceed to the co-creation stage, project adjustments can take place in collaboration with the Counterpart and UK PACT.
Updated 28 July **Is Operational Expenditure of a proposed pilot project a valid direct cost? (e.g. the cost of producing biomass pellets to be supplied to industrial partners).**	Please refer to the UK PACT Budget and Workplan template and the Applicant Handbook for details on eligible costs. In general, operational expenditure may be eligible, provided that the materials and supplies are directly used in the delivery of the project, and that the costs are necessary and directly attributable to the implementation of the project. However, the pellets should not have a useful economic life beyond the end of the project, i.e. the pellets must be for testing and demonstration only, not for profit or regular sale. The proposed pilot project for which funding is sought should not be commercial in nature.