

Terms of Reference: Thematic area 1 - Climate Change Act implementation support to Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities

Sector: Climate Policy and Governance

South Africa-UK PACT

Grant value:

Project budget can be up to £500,000 per project per financial year (Apr – Mar).

Project duration:

No more than 12 months. All projects are expected to start in October 2025, and can end no later than November 2026. The projects must have a clear indication of the outputs to be achieved within the 12-month delivery timeframe.

Deadline for submission of applications:

8th August 2025, 17:00 SAST / 15:00 UTC

Apply through Call for Proposals web page:

<https://www.ukpact.co.uk/south-africa-cfp-climate-policy-governance-clean-energy-2025>

The UK and South Africa have committed to work together to accelerate action on climate change while creating green jobs. To support this partnership, the UK Government is looking to extend its UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) programme in South Africa with technical assistance and capacity-building projects supporting the climate policy and governance and clean energy sectors.

This call for proposals aims to support activities which are strategically aligned to national priorities on climate change mitigation and key policy areas identified through consultations with government counterparts and key stakeholders.

What is South Africa-UK PACT?

UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) is a unique capacity-building programme. Jointly governed and funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) through the UK's International Climate Finance, it works in partnership with countries with high emissions reduction potential to support them to implement and increase their ambitions for tackling climate change.

UK PACT forms a key part of the UK's technical assistance offer under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) in South Africa.

What is UK PACT already funding?

Since 2020 the programme has funded numerous projects in South Africa, in sectors such as clean energy, green finance, climate policy and sustainable mobility. Previous and ongoing UK PACT projects in South Africa include:

Previous and ongoing UK PACT projects in South Africa include:

- Supporting sectoral modelling research for the evidence base South Africa used to inform its decision to submit an enhanced NDC.
- Supporting municipalities to procure the services of independent power producers.
- Assisting eThekweni municipality with designing a regional hydrogen economy strategy.
- Stimulating the growth of an embedded energy generation initiative in intermediary municipalities.

Further information on previous and ongoing projects can be found on the [South Africa-UK PACT web page](#).

What are we looking to fund

As a demand-informed programme, the South Africa-UK PACT Country Fund aims to align its support with the Government of South Africa's existing plans and policies. Through consultation with the Government of South Africa and other stakeholders, UK PACT has identified key opportunities in climate policy and governance and clean energy. We are looking to award grant funding for projects aimed at providing technical assistance and capacity-building to support a just transition.

Unlike the 2023 and 2024 calls for proposals, this opportunity calls for proposals in response to 4 topics – 2 of these are broad thematic areas with **broad** Terms of Reference, and 2 are specific project topics with **targeted** Terms of Reference.

You are currently looking at the following opportunity identified for funding within this call for proposals:

Project title		Sector	Number of expected grant awards
Thematic area 1:	Climate Change Act implementation support to Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities	Climate policy and governance	Potentially multiple
<p>These are broad Terms of Reference. Broad Terms of Reference (ToR) describe broad areas of support which have been identified as having potential to meet the objectives of SA Government counterparts and UK PACT programme outcomes. These broad ToR outline a non-exhaustive set of illustrative activities grouped under intervention areas. As part of this broad call, applicants do not need to address every single activity – applicants may propose projects which address a cohesive selection of the areas and activities, noting that the interventions proposed should be logical and coherent. We welcome innovative proposals from applicants which seek to achieve the objectives and outcomes for this theme: “Climate Change Act implementation support to Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities”. Multiple grant awards may be made under this call, depending on the strength of proposals and budget availability.</p>			
<p>Guidance on Government engagement during the Call for Proposals for broad Terms of Reference: While this support is linked to key national Government counterparts (namely, DFFE and SALGA), applicants are expected to work with Provinces, District Municipalities, or Metros, who will be the ultimate beneficiaries (or sub-national counterparts) of the support. As such:</p>			

- Applicants are expected to engage with their selected sub-national counterparts to design projects which meet their specific needs and align with the Terms of Reference.
- To ensure that sub-national counterparts have been consulted and involved, and welcome the support, **applicants are expected to obtain a signed Letter of Support from a relevant signatory** within the sub-national counterpart their project seeks to support (i.e. the Province or Municipality – this does NOT include DFFE and SALGA). The Letter of Support should be signed by the MEC or Head of Department (HOD) responsible for the environment in the case of a Province, and by the Mayor or Municipal Manager in the case of a Municipality. This letter must be submitted as part of your application.
- A briefing note has been shared with Provinces and Municipalities, describing the UK PACT support, which may support applicants in obtaining a Letter of Support from their selected counterparts. This briefing note can be found here.
- Applicants are expected to work with a single or a selection of Provinces and/or District Municipalities and/or Metros; however, it is recommended that your selection be based on strong existing relationships and a history of successful collaboration.
- The selected Provinces / Municipalities should NOT form part of your consortium, but should be listed as Counterparts in the relevant section of your application.

Terms of Reference: Thematic Area 1 - Climate Change Act implementation support to Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities

Please note these are broad Terms of Reference, inviting innovative responses from applicants which meet the objectives and outcomes for the theme: "Climate Change Act implementation support to Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities".

Government counterpart: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and various Provinces and Municipalities.

Sector: Climate Policy and Governance

Project duration: No more than 12 months

Background

This project seeks to support various Provincial and Municipal governments to build readiness for the implementation of the Climate Change Act 22 of 2024 that was promulgated by the South African Government in July 2024. This is a joint initiative implemented by the South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in collaboration with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), with technical and financial support from UK PACT.

The recently promulgated Climate Change Act is central to the full implementation of climate change responses in South Africa, supporting domestic policy making and enabling the country to meet its international commitments under the Paris Agreement. The Act requires all tiers of government including provinces, metros and municipalities to develop and implement a set of instruments such as climate change strategies and an implementation plan which will guide the country's mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Specifically, provinces and local governments must develop or review their Climate Change Response Strategies and Implementation Plans, promoting an integrated approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation responses across all tiers of government:

- Section 17 (1) of the Act Requires a Provincial MEC responsible for the environment, or a Mayor of a District or Metropolitan Municipality, to undertake a climate change needs and response assessment within one year of the publication of the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan. It further requires a climate change response implementation plan to be developed within two years of undertaking the climate change needs and response assessment.
- Section 17 (2) of the Act requires that climate change response implementation plans should identify and map risks, vulnerabilities, areas, ecosystems, and communities that are or will be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Section 17 (3) requires that the climate change response implementation plan which includes measures or programmes relating to both mitigation and adaptation be integrated into the relevant environmental implementation plan of the Province, or the relevant Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the District or Metropolitan Municipality.

DFFE has developed specific Guidelines to assist provinces and municipalities in complying with respective provisions of the Act. These resources are listed and linked below:

- Volume 1: Mitigation Target Setting Guidelines at Sub-National Levels [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Volume 2: Guidelines for Conducting a Climate Change Mitigation Needs and Response Assessment [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Volume 3: Guidelines for Developing a Climate Change Mitigation Response Implementation Plan [\[click here to download\]](#)

It is envisaged that project participants will pilot these resources within their respective jurisdictions and provide feedback in the form of lessons learnt and recommendations for future updates to these resource guides.

This broad call for proposals seeks to deepen technical support to South African provinces and municipalities on the alignment of their policies, plans, and processes with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 22 of 2024.

Key suggested counterparts and stakeholders

Suggested counterparts: DFFE, SALGA, Provincial governments, District municipalities

While DFFE is a key counterpart, applicants should not request a Letter of Intent from DFFE, but rather from the ultimate beneficiaries of the project (i.e. selected Provinces and Municipalities – please refer to the “Important Information” section below).

Examples of other key stakeholders: Existing provincial or municipal networks, research institutions, civil society organisations, private sector partners, and others.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applicants must take note of the following when considering responding to this call:

- While DFFE and SALGA are key counterparts, applicants should not request a Letter of Support from DFFE or SALGA, but must obtain a Letter of Support from the ultimate beneficiaries of the project (i.e. selected Provinces or Municipalities).
- Applicants are expected to work with a single or a selection of Provinces and/or Municipalities; it is recommended that your selection be based on strong existing relationships and a history of successful collaboration.
- The application must contain a Letter of Support from the selected Provinces and/or Municipalities to participate in the proposed project – this must be submitted as part of your application. The Letter of Support should be signed by the MEC or Head of Department (HOD) responsible for the environment in the case of a Province, and by the Mayor or Municipal Manager in the case of a Municipality.
- A briefing note has been shared with Provinces and Municipalities, describing the UK PACT support, which may support applicants in obtaining a Letter of Support from their selected counterparts. [This briefing note can be found here.](#)
- These broad terms of reference describe a non-exhaustive set of illustrative activities, grouped under 4 areas. As part of this broad call, applicants do not need to address every single activity. Applicants may propose projects which address either some or all of the areas and activities, noting that the interventions proposed should be logical and coherent.

<p>Main objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the state of readiness for implementation of the Climate Change Act. • To deepen technical support to sub-national government on the applications of the Climate Change Act, including conducting needs and response assessments and developing climate change response implementation plans. • To enhance the capacities and capabilities provinces and municipalities to respond to the requirements of the Climate Change Act, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Supporting provinces and municipalities to improve Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks. ◦ Improving knowledge sharing and networking, information exchanges and institutional strengthening of provinces and municipalities to perform their mandates and environmental functions in respect of the Climate Change Act. • To support provincial and municipal capacities to mobilise and access climate finance toward the implementation of the Climate Change Act within their jurisdictional spheres. • To ensure that the needs and circumstances of vulnerable and marginalised localities and people are considered in decision-making and planning processes, including vulnerable workers and groups such as women, especially poor and rural women, children, especially infants and child-headed families, the aged, the poor, the sick and persons with disabilities as well as in alignment with the principles of the Just Transition Framework adopted by South Africa Government for implementation across all tiers of government.
<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p> <p><i>Illustrative activities are grouped under 4 areas and are non-exhaustive.</i></p> <p><i>As part of this broad call for proposals, applicants do not need to respond to every activity. Applicants may choose to propose projects which address some or all of the areas and activities, noting that the proposed interventions should be logical and coherent.</i></p>	<p>Area 1: Consolidate existing information and conduct an analysis on the state of readiness for implementation of the Climate Change Act, gathering information from DFFE, provinces, and municipalities</p> <p><i>Illustrative interventions may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse information including key climate-related documents (policies, strategies, action plans, programmes, projects, and activities), institutional capacity, and organisational arrangements for different sectors. • Review the existing mitigation-related initiatives and their alignment with national guidelines on target setting, needs assessments, and response planning. • Review the status of GHG inventory development, climate change measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems within provinces and municipalities. • Identify the information gaps regarding climate change mitigation response strategies in institutional knowledge and technical capabilities. • Develop recommendations on how any gaps or barriers to implementation could be overcome.

Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)

Illustrative activities are grouped under 4 areas and are non-exhaustive. As part of this broad call for proposals, applicants do not need to respond to every activity. Applicants may choose to propose projects which address some or all of the areas and activities, noting that the proposed interventions should be logical and coherent.

Area 2: Support provinces and municipalities to improve Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) and climate change mitigation reporting in compliance with the Climate Change Act

- Develop a Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework for tracking and reporting climate actions at provincial and local levels, clearly outlining roles, responsibilities, timelines, and processes.
- Develop a standardised mitigation reporting template, aligned with national reporting formats, to support GHG inventory compilation and performance tracking in compliance with the Climate Change Act. Consider how existing toolkits may be utilised, updated, or enhanced.
- Scope out the need and functional specifications for a centralised sub-national reporting platform for climate change mitigation which feeds into national reporting protocols.
- Develop a reporting template for sub-national governments, based on the following three-volume series of mitigation-focused guidelines:
 - Volume 1: Mitigation Target Setting Guidelines at Sub-National Levels [\[click here to download\]](#)
 - Volume 2: Guidelines for Conducting a Climate Change Mitigation Needs and Response Assessment [\[click here to download\]](#)
 - Volume 3: Guidelines for Developing a Climate Change Mitigation Response Implementation Plan [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Create capacity-building materials and tools on climate change mitigation, including guidance on data collection, emission source identification, calculation methodologies, and standardised reporting practices consistent with national guidelines. Foundational work done by DFFE on GHG inventories and mitigation analysis will be shared with the successful applicant(s).
- Develop a database of emission factors where Provinces and District Municipalities can reference appropriate emission factors.
- Establish, leverage, or strengthen networks for ongoing peer-exchange between sub-national governments, carefully considering the post-funding sustainability of such networks.

Area 3: Direct support to sub-national governments (provinces / municipalities) on conducting needs and response assessments and developing inclusive climate change response implementation plans as required by the Climate Change Act

- Conduct capacity building on needs and response assessments and development of implementation plans.
- Review of existing or development of the Climate Change Response Strategy and Implementation Plan (mitigation component) for mitigation in the relevant Province or District Municipality, including developing strategies and entry points for strengthening GEDSI/inclusive climate action.

**Illustrative
scope of
activities (non-
exhaustive)**

Illustrative activities are grouped under 4 areas and are non-exhaustive. As part of this broad call for proposals, applicants do not need to respond to every activity. Applicants may choose to propose projects which address some or all of the areas and activities, noting that the proposed interventions should be logical and coherent.

(Area 3 continued)

- Align mitigation components with National guidance tools for sub-national governments including, the Mitigation Target Setting Guidelines, Mitigation Needs and Response Assessment Guidelines, and Mitigation Response Implementation Plan Guidelines.
- Incorporate appropriate information from Provincial and Local Government documents, including IDP, SDF, EIP, and Economic Development Strategies and recommend climate change responses appropriate in the strategy and implementation plan.
- In the case of a Municipality, mainstream the climate change response implementation plan into Municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Framework (SDF), and Economic Development Strategies (EDS).
- In the case of a Province, mainstream the climate change response implementation plan into provincial planning frameworks such as Environmental Implementation Plans (EIPs), and provide capacity and technical support towards its publication in the relevant provincial Gazette.
- Incorporate the emerging issues such as a just transition and GEDSI within the context of climate change mitigation, including ensuring inclusive and equitable engagement with stakeholders, duty bearers and rightsholders in climate action and impact. Identify those responses that are implementable within the period of the strategy.

Area 4: Identify and develop mitigation actions with the goal of supporting provinces and municipalities to access climate finance for the implementation of priority response measures

- Identify mitigation interventions that can be implemented at scale and across municipalities (i.e. similar to the Climate Change Flagship programme), considering also GEDSI/equitable co-benefits amongst prioritisation criteria.
- Develop an evaluation/prioritisation model for the identification and prioritisation of interventions/response measures, ensuring alignment with sub-national decision-making and approval processes. Consider GEDSI/equitable co-benefits amongst prioritisation criteria.
- Undertake technical analysis to determine the feasibility and/or cost-benefit of interventions that can be implemented at scale and across municipalities, considering GEDSI principles in beneficiation and implementation.
- Develop pilots and/or business cases to accelerate implementation of mitigation measure identified, linking these to financing pathways.
- Identify sources of climate finance and application requirements, and/or develop alternative finance mechanisms and pathways for appropriate financing. Where feasible, develop funding proposals that can support response measures at scale and across municipalities.
- Provide project preparation and funding application support for provinces and municipalities with existing climate change response implementation plans.
- Identify mechanisms for developing and funding a pipeline of viable projects emerging from climate change response implementation plans.

Required Activities	<p>As part of UK PACT's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities, and UK PACT's ongoing efforts to mainstream Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) considerations, the successful implementing partner will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a project case study (templates will be provided to the successful applicant) • Report on UK PACT as well as JETP MEL indicators on a quarterly basis (templates will be provided to the successful applicant) • Report on outputs, intermediate outcomes, and outcomes of the project • Develop a GEDSI Action Plan for the project (templates will be provided to the successful applicant)
Illustrative outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project outputs may include, but are not limited to the following: • Analysis report on the status of implementation of the Climate Change Act. • Provincial / District / Metro GHG inventories. • Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework for tracking and reporting climate actions at provincial and local levels. • Standardised mitigation reporting templates, aligned with national reporting formats, to support GHG inventory compilation and performance tracking in compliance with the Climate Change Act. • Lessons learned and user recommendations from the implementation of the mitigation guidelines developed by DFFE and SALGA. • A database of emission factors for Provinces and District Municipalities to utilise in GHG inventories. • Capacity-building materials and tools on climate change mitigation, including guidance on data collection, emission source identification, calculation methodologies, and standardised reporting practices. • Provincial / District / Metro Needs and Response Assessments. • Provincial / District / Metro Climate Change Response Implementation Plans. • Pilots, business cases, and pathways for accessing climate finance based on the Climate Change Response Implementation Plans developed.
Illustrative outcomes (non-exhaustive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of enhanced plans, models and capabilities that drive the implementation of the Climate Change Act at sub-national level, with a view to deliver more ambitious, sustained and inclusive action on emissions reduction. • Implementation of plans and models (including policies, practices, tools and technologies) that deliver accelerated alignment and mainstreaming of the Climate Change Act at sub-national level, with a view to reduce emissions and facilitate inclusive and resilient economies.

Additional reference documents for these Terms of Reference:

- [Climate Change Act 22 of 2024](#) [link to external site]
- [Just Transition Framework](#) [link to external site]
- Volume 1: Mitigation Target Setting Guidelines at Sub-National Levels [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Volume 2: Guidelines for Conducting a Climate Change Mitigation Needs and Response Assessment [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Volume 3: Guidelines for Developing a Climate Change Mitigation Response Implementation Plan [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Climate Change Mitigation Needs and Response Assessment Tool 27022025 [\[click here to download\]](#)
- Climate Change Mitigation Response Implementation Plan Tool 27022025 [\[click here to download\]](#)

Important things to consider in your application:



Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)

All proposals must consider accessibility and inclusivity as a key action area in creating a more democratic, equitable and just transition to reduced emissions. As a result, **all projects are required to mainstream GEDSI** within the projects stated above and ensure adequate expertise and resources are available throughout delivery to achieve this, including developing a GEDSI Action plan during the inception period with support from the UK PACT South Africa GEDSI Advisor. Illustrative examples of potential activities include:

- Conducting a GEDSI analysis and systematically taking account of the differentiated needs, knowledge, experiences, and priorities of women, youth, and historically disadvantaged and other marginalised groups in all project activities.
- Contributing to improved evidence and policymaking to tackle energy poverty and increase inclusive energy security in South Africa.
- Ensuring project outputs/deliverables reflect evidence-informed GEDSI-specific considerations and recommendations, or discuss GEDSI impacts and outcomes.
- Conducting enhanced needs assessments and meaningfully engaging with civil society groups, including women's rights organisations, youth associations and organisations of people with disabilities, to better understand energy and employment needs and opportunities.
- Ensuring that the development of a green economy is built on inclusive supply chains, removing barriers faced by small businesses, marginalised groups, and those working in sectors which may shrink over time (e.g., fossil fuels).
- Recognising the role of marginalised groups and communities in informal sectors or roles with low visibility, including how they may be brought into the Just Transition.
- Facilitating increased engagement of women, youth, poor households, people with disabilities, and historically disadvantaged and other marginalised groups in decision-making, public consultation, and participatory planning.
- Increasing the integration of GEDSI-sensitisation and -considerations in policies, regulation, and planning processes and/or improved implementation of these.

We will score all projects using GEDSI selection criteria to ensure that projects seek to understand and address the needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups. All proposals are required to:

- Consider the key differences in the ways that local communities, youth, women, lower-income households, marginalised groups, and people with disabilities access and use energy and contribute to the Just Energy Transition. Key issues may include those of affordability, accessibility, safety, and representation.
- Identify specific outputs that would address some of the issues faced and integrate these activities through the project.
- Ensure that the project's monitoring and results framework explicitly states how GEDSI outcomes will be achieved through the project's outputs.
- To reflect FCDO's commitment to the localisation of delivery, additional consideration will be given to consortia which include local organisations, Level 1 & 2 B-BBEE contributors, women-owned entities, and entities owned by people with disabilities.

Applicants are encouraged to review [**UK PACT's GEDSI Ambition and Guidance**](#) when developing their proposals. On the UK PACT website, applicants can also find guidance on how to mainstream GEDSI in different sectors and case studies from previous programming.



Budget and funding availability

Each proposal will be assessed independently. We will support projects with grants of up to £500,000 per financial year (UK financial year, April – March).

Funding is available for up to 12 months. All projects are assumed to have a start date in October 2025. The projects must have a clear indication of the outputs expected to be achieved over the course of the year.

During the project delivery phase, should additional funding become available, we may be able to consider project extensions beyond the initial 12-month period, but this cannot be guaranteed. Budgets and workplans should therefore only be submitted for 12 months, and should deliver distinct, comprehensive, and meaningful projects and outputs as part of a 12-month delivery timeframe.

Proposals can be submitted for more than one project. However, separate applications should be prepared for each project.



Government engagement

Guidance on Government engagement during the application period for broad Terms of Reference:

While this support is linked to key national Government counterparts (namely, DFFE and SALGA), applicants are expected to work with Provinces or Municipalities who will be the ultimate beneficiaries (or sub-national counterparts) of the support. As such:

- Applicants are expected to engage with their selected sub-national counterparts to design projects which meet their specific needs and align with the Terms of Reference.
- To ensure that sub-national counterparts have been consulted and involved, and welcome the support, applicants are expected to obtain a signed Letter of Support from a relevant signatory within the sub-national counterpart their project seeks to support (i.e. the Province or Municipality – this does NOT include DFFE and SALGA). The Letter of Support should be signed by the MEC or Head of Department (HOD) responsible for the environment in the case of a Province, and by the Mayor or Municipal Manager in the case of a Municipality. This letter must be submitted as part of your application.
- Applicants are expected to work with a single or a selection of Provinces and/or District Municipalities and/or Metros; it is recommended that your selection be based on strong existing relationships and a history of successful collaboration.
- The selected Provinces / Municipalities should NOT form part of your consortium, but should be listed as Counterparts in the relevant section of your application.



What is the timeline for selection?

Stage	Date
1. Terms of Reference (ToR) and application process launched	30 June 2025
2. Deadline for receipt of clarification questions	25 July 2025
3. Consolidated answers to clarification questions will be published on the 3 occasions, on the South Africa-UK PACT web page. Kindly note that clarification questions will not be answered by email.	14 July 2025 21 July 2025 28 July 2025
4. Deadline for submission of applications	8 August 2025 17:00 SAST/ 15:00 UTC
5. Applicants notified	September 2025
6. Due diligence, co-creation and grant signing	September 2025 - October 2025
7. Projects start date	October 2025

Timelines are subject to change. Changes will be communicated on the South Africa-UK PACT Call for Proposals web page.



Application guidance

All applications for this call must be submitted via the Call for Proposals web page by **8 August 2025, at 17:00 SAST / 15:00 UTC**. Projects will be selected through a one-stage open and competitive Call for Proposals. Applicants should read the Terms of Reference and Applicant Handbook to understand what is required to submit a strong proposal for this call.

Application submission process

Step 1:

Visit the respective UK PACT Call for Proposals web page.

Step 2:

Download the application pack

Step 3:

Fill out the application pack

Step 4:

Submit the form linked on the CfP page under the respective project

Step 5:

You will receive a link by email to submit your application. Upload the completed application pack to the link sent via email (upon the completion of Step 4)

Once you have submitted your documents on the web browser, you should see a green tick on your webpage with a message indicating that your submission was successful. Kindly note that you will not receive an email confirming receipt of your application.

What do you need to submit?

You will submit **5 application documents using the UK PACT templates provided** which are available for download via the CfP page. These are:

1. **Project proposal template** — please ensure that you populate the proposal template as fully as possible, to avoid submitting an incomplete application.
2. **Budget and workplan template** — note: all proposals must include an inception phase of one month in the workplan, during which time any necessary engagements with the Government of South Africa will be carried out, deliverables confirmed and theory of change finalised. At the end of this period a revised workplan may be required.
3. **Project Theory of Change form**
4. **Project risk and issue register template**
5. **Letter of Support from relevant Sub-national Government Counterparts** – i.e. the selected Provinces / Municipalities your project seeks to support.

Applications MUST include each of the application documents in order to be eligible.

Additional supporting documentation may be submitted, such as CVs of key staff.



What are the eligibility criteria?

Eligibility criteria

- Applicant**
- 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.
 - UN agencies are eligible to apply, however please note where a UN agency is the lead applicant, project awards will be subject to signing a Contribution Arrangement with FCDO. This may impact timescales for implementation.
 - 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 and the Budget and Workplan Template (linked on the CfP webpage) for clarity on eligible costs.
 - Government agencies and Government departments **are not eligible** to receive UK PACT funding, either as a lead organisation or partner 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, [linked here](#)**) may form part of consortia **as downstream partners**, but may not apply as the lead implementing partner.
 - Universities may apply as lead implementing partners or as part of a consortium.
 - We encourage consortia to apply. We do not restrict sub-partners from applying as part of multiple consortia.

-
- Project**
- Proposals can be submitted for more than one project, but a consortium cannot apply more than once to the same project.
 - **Budgets must not include tangible assets or capital expenditure.** Including these costs may result in your application being ineligible.

-
- Application**
- All applications must be coherent and legible.
 - **All relevant templates** must be completed.
 - **All relevant sections** in each template must be completed.
 - Applications must be submitted in English.
-

What are the selection criteria?

Area	Heading	Criteria description	Weighting
Technical (70%)	Project description, methodology and workplan	The applicant clearly articulates how the project responds to the Terms of Reference, plans to deliver the expected outputs and lays out a project plan which includes a description of the project, activities, workplan, and stakeholder engagement plan. The applicant provides a convincing rationale for the ability of the project to deliver outcomes.	25
	Impact	The applicant clearly articulates how the project will specifically help the counterpart achieve and accelerate their goals of achieving carbon emissions reductions in relevant sectors. The applicant provides a clear impact pathway [See the Theory of Change template to be submitted] showing how their outputs will lead to the outcomes required for transformational change and identifies opportunities for replication / scaling up of activities	15
	Knowledge, skills, experience, and team structure	<p>The proposed project team has relevant knowledge and experience in the subject area and has the skills in place to deliver the project. This includes knowledge, skills and experience in the specific thematic area the proposal responds to, technical assistance/capacity building, and public sector project implementation. The core skills, experience and knowledge required to deliver all elements of the project that have been outlined (including project management, monitoring and evaluation, and GEDSI mainstreaming) are covered and the team is well structured and available to mobilise quickly.</p> <p>To ensure effective knowledge transfer and capacity building, applicants must demonstrate a strong understanding of South African priorities and delivery context, as well as bringing relevant expertise required.</p> <p>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.</p>	15
	Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)	The applicant clearly identifies how the project will seek to understand and address the needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, including considerations of race and class. The proposal has considered the key differences in the way that local communities, men, women, youth, lower-income households, marginalised groups and people with disabilities are impacted by a just transition, as well as their barriers and opportunities to participate in climate action. The proposal has successfully mainstreamed GEDSI in their project and identified specific outputs that would lead to desired GEDSI outcomes.	15

What are the selection criteria?

Area	Heading	Criteria description	Weighting
Project Management (15%)	Project Management	The proposal outlines a clear plan for mobilising the project quickly and effectively. There are robust project management mechanisms to ensure activities stay on track and deliver project results. The applicant provides a clear plan for managing consortia where applicable.	10
		The applicant has clearly outlined the key risks associated with delivery with clear plans for mitigating these and an understanding of the likelihood and impact of each. This includes impacts on marginalised/indigenous groups and changing political and security contexts.	5
	Environmental sustainability	The applicant has outlined a robust approach to minimising any negative impact on the environment due to this project. For example, through minimising travel, tracking emissions, implementing environmental policies, carbon off-setting etc.	Y/N
Financial (15%)	Budget	The budget is clearly linked to the activities and outputs outlined, 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 to allow for close coordination with UK PACT.	10
	Value for money	The application provides confidence that the project will represent good value for money, including FCDO's Four Es (economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity). The Four Es are detailed in the Applicant Handbook .	5

How do we score each criterion?

Score	
5	Excellent response, significant degree of confidence: extremely clear response, explicitly addresses the requirements of the call.
4	Strong response, high degree of confidence: strong response, addresses the requirements of the call to a good degree.
3	Good response, good degree of confidence: fairly strong response, addresses most of the requirements of the call.
2	Weak response, some degree of confidence: weak response, Addresses some of the requirements of the call.
1	Poor response, limited degree of confidence: doesn't address requirements of the call

What to do if you have questions?

Applicants should read this Terms of Reference together with the [Applicant Handbook](#) and other guidance documents for all the details on how to apply.

Questions related to this call for proposals can be addressed to: southafrica@ukpact.co.uk. **Answers will be published on the South Africa-UK PACT Call for Proposals web page.** Kindly note that clarification questions will not be answered by email. **Clarification questions will be accepted until 25 July 2025 at 17:00 SAST/ 15:00 UTC.**

If you have any technical issues with the **Call for Proposals web page** or the submission process, please contact: southafrica@ukpact.co.uk.

UK PACT

UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) is a programme funded by the UK Government. UK PACT supports countries that strive to overcome barriers to clean growth and have high emissions reduction potential to accelerate their climate change mitigation efforts.
