

The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator

Guiding Questions & Selection Criteria

Background:

Through the **Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)**, the UN Climate Technology Center and Network (UN CTCN) provides technical assistance to innovative solutions for adapting to climate change.

We are now receiving high-quality applications from projects that can demonstrate strong transformative impact and sustainability.

Guiding Questions

Applications submitted to AFCIA will be more likely to be accepted if they consider the following 10 guiding questions.

Guiding Question 1: Your project should demonstrate that it has identified a climate hazard affecting your host country. Does your project cover any of the adaptation hazards listed below?

- i) Drought and water security
- ii) Erratic rainfall
- iii) Extreme cold
- iv) Increasing temperatures / heatwaves
- v) Floods
- vi) Glacial retreat
- vii) Landslides
- viii) Sea level rise
- ix) Coastal erosion
- x) Storms and cyclones

Guiding Question 2: Your project should focus on climate adaptation sectors as prioritized by the Adaptation fund and UN CTCN. Does your project fit under any of the climate adaptation sectors listed below? (multiple options allowed)

- i) Nature-based solutions
- ii) Urban Adaptation

- iii) Water management
- iv) Food security
- v) Disaster risk management or Early warning System
- vi) Innovative Finance
- vii) Marine, Fisheries and oceans
- viii) Forest and land use

Guiding Question 3: Your project should be aligned with climate change strategies of the host country. Is the hazard, sector or innovation involved in your project related to any of the below? If not, ask why that might be.

- i) Nationally Determined Contributions
- ii) National Adaptation Plans
- iii) Technology Needs Assessment

Guiding Question 4: Is your project truly innovative? Here are examples of types of innovation:

- i) Incremental innovation: Your innovation is low cost, low risk, highly spread across more emergent economies. It is mature and has demonstrated its impact, but has not been deployed in the host country.
- ii) Disruptive innovation: Your innovation is completely new, never been tested anywhere, if it works it can have a huge impact.
- iii) Radical innovation: Your innovation aims at doing better what is currently done using new tools such as Artificial Intelligence.
- iv) Systemic innovation: Your innovation expects to change the system entirely.

Guiding Question 5: Is your innovation transformative? For example:

- i) Will your project change the behaviors, practices, or decisions of key actors — farmers, planners, investors, policymakers — in a lasting way?
- ii) Will it shift incentive structures or create new market dynamics that continue to drive adoption after the project ends?
- iii) Does your innovation reach groups that are currently excluded from existing climate services or financial products such as women, youth, smallholders, informal settlements, remote communities?
- iv) Do you think that your innovation could change the way the beneficiaries of the project will react to climate scenarios within 10-20 years?
- v) Would you consider that this change will be significant?

Guiding Question 6: Is your project replicable and scalable within the host country or regionally?

- i) If the pilot succeeds, could the solution be progressively expanded to other regions, districts, or communities within your country, beyond the initial pilot site?
- ii) Is the challenge your innovation addresses widespread across the country, (or is it geographically or sectoral specific)?

Guiding Question 7: Your project should be financially sustainable. Have you identified who could fund the next phase?

- i) Are there donors, development finance institutions, or regional funds that have expressed interest in this sector or type of innovation?
- ii) Have you initiated dialogue with any potential follow-on funders, or do you have a plan to do so?
 - **Public funding:** Which government institution, ministry, or national/regional climate fund (e.g., national climate fund, green investment facility) could co-finance or absorb the project?
 - **Private finance:** Is there a business model or revenue stream that could attract private investors, impact funds, or financial institutions? Who specifically?
 - **Blended finance:** Could a combination of public and private resources be structured — for example, with public funds de-risking private investment?

Guiding Question 8: Is your project anchored into National Systems of Innovation?

A National System of Innovation (NSI) is a network of actors, institutional contexts and linkages that underlie national technological change. The NSI should thus play a central role in supporting a country's efforts to enhance action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also helps a country to meet other developmental challenges and add value to its national economy.

An NSI consists of:

- i) **Actors:** Organizations that participate in technology development and transfer e.g. technology firms, universities and financiers.
- ii) **Institutional context:** Norms, cultural practices and laws that shape actor efforts e.g. government policies that affect how the private sector invests in a particular sector.
- iii) **Linkages:** Interactions and relations between the actors and the institutional context e.g. flows of information and knowledge, and collaboration between firms, universities and research institutes

Guiding Question 9: Would your project be able to provide evidence of direct impact at short-, medium- and long-term?

- i) How many persons would it affect directly if implemented? Or how many lives could it protect? Or how many families could benefit from a higher income while facing less climate risks?
- ii) Would it impact the disaster risks and EWS of the country?
- iii) Would it improve the economic resilience of the targeted community by increasing their income?
- iv) Would it restore, protect or rehabilitate natural assets?
- v) Would it produce, develop, improve or strengthen assets?

Guiding Question 10: Does your project promote gender equality and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups including women and youth?

- i) For more information you can find gender guidelines on the CTCN's website here: <https://www.ctc-n.org/technologies/ctcn-gender-mainstreaming-tool-response-plan-development>
- ii) Further reading on gender can be found on the CTCN website here: <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender>

If your answer is 'no' to any of these guiding questions, please do not submit and continue to work on your proposal.

Selection Criteria

The evaluation process will consist of three stages:

Stage 1: Mandatory Criteria (Pass/Fail)

Proposals will first be assessed against the mandatory requirements on a pass/fail basis. Any bidder that fails to meet any of the mandatory requirements will be deemed technically non-compliant and will not proceed to the next stage of the evaluation.

Stage 2: Technical Evaluation (80%)

Bidders that pass Stage 1 will undergo a detailed technical evaluation based on the pre-defined point-scale evaluation criteria. The technical proposal will be scored out of a total of 100 points.



To qualify for the next stage, bidders must achieve a minimum technical score of 70 points.

Stage 3: Commercial Evaluation (20%)

Only bidders that successfully pass the technical evaluation stage will proceed to the commercial evaluation.

The commercial evaluation will be conducted by the UN CTCN team based on the commercial evaluation criteria defined below. For this call for proposals, the commercial evaluation will consist solely of a non-discretionary yes/no assessment.

Mandatory Criteria (Pass/Fail)

| Criteria | Examples of evidence | Type of Evaluation: |
|--|--|---------------------|
| The project idea is a Climate Adaptation project | Climate hazards covered | Pass/ Fail |
| The project is aligned with the host country's national climate strategies | Nationally Determined Contributions; Technology Needs Assessment; National Adaptation Plan | Pass / Fail |

Technical Evaluation (Scored Criteria)

| Criteria | Requirement | Max points |
|--|--|------------|
| The project is located in a Small Island Developing State or Least Developed Country | The host country is a Small Island Developing State or Least Developed Country | 15 |
| The project is innovative | Explanation on the innovation angle will be provided. | 15 |
| The project is transformative | Explanation on the transformative angle will be provided. | 15 |
| The project is replicable | Explanation on the replicable angle will be provided. | 15 |
| The project is financially sustainable | Explanation on the financial sustainability will be provided. | 15 |
| The project is anchored in or helping to build the country's National System of Innovation | Explanation on the NSI component will be provided. | 5 |
| The project estimates the impact of the initiatives | Estimation of expected impact is provided | 10 |



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|---|--|---------------|
| The project promotes gender equality and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups including women and youth | Explanation of how the project support women would and /or youth empowerment (if relevant) | 10 |
| <u>Total</u> | Your application will need to score at least 70 points to be considered as eligible | 70/100 |

Commercial Evaluation (Scored Criteria)

| Criteria | Type of Evaluation: Yes |
|--|--|
| Is the project aligned with the budget expectations (up to 150,000 USD) | Yes / No |
| Is the procurement within the budget allowed by UN CTCN (max 20%) | Yes/ No |

*For more information on the application process and the selection criteria,
please contact ctcn@un.org*