



This document presents FAQs for applicants to the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Table of Contents

What is the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?	1
What is UK PACT?	1
Who is UK PACT governed by?	1
How is UK PACT related to COP26?	1
What does it mean for UK PACT to be flexible and adaptive?.....	2
Has the COVID-19 situation had an impact on the objectives and purposes of UK PACT?	2
What is the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?	2
What is the vision of the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?	2
What type of capacity building projects will be funded?.....	3
Will UK PACT help in building consortia or match-making between parties?.....	3
Who can apply?	3
Can an NGO apply in partnership with a Government agency?	3
Are past or current UK PACT grantees eligible to apply for funding again?.....	3
Where can projects be funded?	4
Can my project include countries other than the 11 countries covered by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund?	4
I've got a project idea which includes Colombia, Mexico, China, South Africa and/or Malaysia, should I apply to Country Programmes or Green Recovery Challenge Fund?	5
Do multi-country projects need to cover countries within one region only, or could they for example be implemented in Asia and Latin America?.....	5
Are there any geographical priority areas within each target country?.....	5
How does the Green Recovery Challenge Fund work?	5
How is funding managed?.....	6
How long does the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund programme run for?	6
Is there an expected duration for projects applying to the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund programme?.....	6
If I am successful in being offered funding, when can the project start?	6
Will there be flexibility in the project start times if in January we continue with confinement due to the pandemic?	7
How many projects are you looking to fund?.....	7
How much funding can I apply for?	7
When should I plan for my project to start? Funding Round 1	7
Will there be any additional funding in the future?	7
Is there any overlap with the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and the UK Government's Energy Catalyst?	8

What is the Green Recovery Challenge Fund process?.....	9
If successful, how and when will I receive the grant funding?	9
Who will the grant agreement be signed with?	9
Who/ which office should I contact for the funding request?	9
Is the contract a grant contract or commercial contract?	9
Can multiple organisations apply with one project?	9
In regard to partnerships/consortia, is the grant funding given to the lead implementing organisation or to a member of the partner implementing organisations?	9
Could you confirm Intellectual Property Rights terms under UK PACT?	10
Is it allowed for materials from the grant funding to be commercialised?	10
Can I also apply to other programmes within UK PACT e.g. UK PACT Skill-Shares and Secondments?	10
Will there be an opportunity to ask more questions during the application process?	10
What is the Return on Investment to the UK PACT?	10
Call for Proposals	11
What are the themes of the funding rounds?.....	11
Can you elaborate what are the specific challenges for each window?	11
Which call for proposals will include Sub-Saharan Africa?	11
Which call for proposals will include Asia?	11
Which call for proposals will include Latin America?	11
Is there a funding limit per funding round, per country or per window?	11
What type of impact is expected within a 12-month project?	12
Is UK PACT open to suggestions to projects in other sectors than those mentioned in the Call for Proposals?	12
I have a specific idea for the funding window. Can you tell me whether is it a strong idea to apply with?	12
Are projects focussed on resilience and adaptation eligible?	12
What are examples of evidence that are required to demonstrate demand from local stakeholders? Do you expect to see memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or letters of commitment from beneficiaries for the project and the implementing partner?...	12
Do primary beneficiaries need to be government? Or can we work with private sector and civil society?	13
Key eligibility criteria.....	14
Do I have to have the legal right to work in the country where my project will be delivered?	14
Do organisations need to be locally registered in the country of implementation to apply?...	14
If a consortium is proposed, what partnerships agreements need to be in place?	14
Must the implementing team be able to speak English?	14

Do projects need to have a UK Partner?	14
Is my project relevant for the programme?	14
What is ODA?	15
Is my project ODA compliant?	15
What are the accounting requirements?	15
Where can I find out more about the terms of the Grant Agreement?	16
Can I still apply if I have any conflicts of interest?	16
What due diligence checks will there be on my organisation?	16
Is the fund only available for new projects, or can existing initiatives apply to improve or extend a project?	16
Are those receiving funding from other HMG programmes eligible to apply?	16
Can commercial organisations apply for funding if they are working on a green recovery project on the given themes as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitment?	16
What if I am not eligible?	17
What are the eligible costs that can be funded?	18
Where can I find a list of eligible costs that can be claimed as part of the grant funding?	18
Can I get funding for my project that is developing a low-carbon technology?	18
Can the grant funding be used to pay for capital equipment?	18
Can organisations' internal salary costs include all normal salary on-costs?	18
Will the grant funding be subject to VAT?	18
Can exchange rate fluctuation variations be included in the budget to ensure adequate funding of the activities as planned?	19
What is project 'co-funding'?	19
Do projects have a better chance of securing funding if there is some co-funding?	19
Is it possible to use this funding for software development?	19
How do I apply?	20
What is the application process?	20
How long do I have to complete my application?	20
When will I hear about the outcome of my application?	20
Can I complete my application in a language other than English?	20
Which kind of references do you expect from applicants to prove their capacity to implement activities in the local language?	20
Am I allowed to include links into our application?	20
Where can I find guidance information on how to apply?	21
Can I submit multiple applications?	21

To submit multiple project ideas, does one have to submit separate applications or bundled in one?	21
Does the person who registers/ creates account to apply have to be the legal entity of the organisation?	21
Can Skill-shares and Secondments proposals be combined with project proposals?	21
If I am unsuccessful in my application, can I reapply?	21
I'm having a problem with the application portal, where can I get help?	21
I've forgotten my application portal password, what should I do?	22
How will applications be assessed?	23
How will my application be assessed?	23
What feedback will I get on my application?	23
Who will be involved in proposal review and selection?	23
How will the emissions reduction potential of proposals be assessed? Will this involve a specific methodology or criteria?	23
Where can I find more information about the assessment criteria?	23

What is the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?

What is UK PACT?

UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) is a £60m capacity building programme under the UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) portfolio.

UK PACT works with partner countries, supporting them to accelerate their clean growth transitions, meeting the demand for high quality skills and expertise aligned with UK leadership and experience.

The programme supports countries eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) to implement and increase their ambitions for carbon emissions reductions in line with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the long-term goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit dangerous climate change. The UK PACT programme consists of three core components:

1. **Country Programmes:** to support innovative projects in partner countries to provide capacity building in line with the country context and demand from government stakeholders.
2. **Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF):** to provide support for innovative capacity building projects to promote low-carbon solutions and a green, resilient and inclusive recovery in a wider range of ODA-eligible countries
3. **Skill-Shares and Secondments:** to provide both short-term peer-to-peer skill shares with country counterparts, and long-term secondments into key institutions

This FAQ document refers to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund only.

Who is UK PACT governed by?

UK PACT is governed by Her Majesty's Government (HMG) Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The programme activities are being delivered by BEIS' delivery partners. The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is being delivered by ICF Consulting Services Ltd.

How is UK PACT related to COP26?

UK PACT works with partner countries to implement and increase their ambitions for carbon emission reductions in line with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the long-term goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit dangerous climate change. Five years after the Paris Agreement was agreed, countries are expected to come forward with more ambitious NDCs as well as long-term plans. Countries are expected to submit their new plans ahead of COP26, which is taking place in Glasgow, and in 2020 if possible. In this context, UK PACT will support partner governments to put forward greater ambition.

The UK PACT priority sectors in the upcoming calls for proposals align with COP26 priorities, in particular: seizing the opportunity of the renewable energy transition; safeguarding ecosystems with nature based solutions; accelerating the move to zero-carbon road transport; unleashing the finance that will power the shift to a low carbon economy. Together with partner governments, we hope to be able to showcase strong case studies from UK PACT projects that demonstrate emissions reduction and ambition-raising support delivered through our UK PACT Country Programmes at COP26.

What does it mean for UK PACT to be flexible and adaptive?

UK PACT responds directly to demand identified by partner governments. The programme has been designed to respond to this demand through three key mechanisms: Country Programmes; a Green Recovery Challenge Fund; and Skill-Shares and Secondments. The combination of these three mechanisms provides the programme with the flexibility to deliver capacity building support in the most effective and efficient way based on specific needs and demand of partner countries.

It is also important that individual projects funded under UK PACT remain responsive to changes in needs and demands due to shifts in context. Flexible and adaptive programming means that projects are equipped and facilitated to shift activities and outputs in response to such changes over the project lifetime. The need for such flexibility has been made especially clear under the current COVID-19 crisis, and we will be looking for robust risk assessments and mitigation strategies in project proposals to ensure projects have the necessary built-in flexibility and adaptability to prepare for continued uncertainty and change within the operating environment.

Has the COVID-19 situation had an impact on the objectives and purposes of UK PACT?

UK PACT aims to accelerate domestic and international action and ambition on climate mitigation and deliver sustainable low-carbon economic development. As such, UK PACT has an important role to play in supporting Government, businesses and civil society in their efforts to achieve a 'green, clean and resilient recovery' post-COVID-19, and in supporting new policy, planning, investment and action to align with climate ambitions.

As part of our assessment criteria for the next phase of UK PACT, we will be looking for evidence of how project proposals can contribute to both emissions reductions and economic recovery objectives.

We are also aware that the pandemic and post-pandemic situation is continuously evolving and will continue to do so for many months to come. We want to ensure that UK PACT and the projects funded remain responsive and adaptive in order to manage challenges and capitalise on opportunities as they arise. We will therefore also be looking for robust risk assessments and mitigation strategies to ensure projects have the necessary built-in flexibility and adaptability to prepare for continued uncertainty and changes within the operating environment during implementation.

What is the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a £12 million capacity building fund running from 2020-2 to support low-carbon transitions and a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery in ODA-eligible countries, via open calls for proposals around specific challenges.

What is the vision of the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund aims to develop a portfolio of bold and novel projects that address specific low-carbon challenges. The projects need to show measurable changes, promote social inclusion and inspire future actions to drive climate ambition at scale.

What type of capacity building projects will be funded?

The programme will fund capacity development projects that support the acceleration of the low-carbon transitions in targeted ODA-eligible countries.

Examples of activities we expect to fund include enhancing skills through training, proposing recommendations of new policies or tools to accelerate emission reductions, creating knowledge and communication products (e.g. research papers) or strengthening networks of key actors to drive climate action.

Will UK PACT help in building consortia or match-making between parties?

UK PACT does not provide a consortium building service.

Who can apply?

The following types of organisations are eligible to apply: think tanks, consultancies (private sector firms), academic institutions, community organisations, and NGOs, professional associations or similar organisations that have the knowledge, skills and experience to deliver capacity building projects in relevant themes and countries.

Government departments and agencies are not eligible to apply for or receive UK PACT funding. Organisations that are separate legal entities from the government are eligible to apply for and receive funding.

Eligible organisations listed above can be based in any country and can apply alone or as part of a consortium with organisations from any country.

Applicants will also need to review and agree to the terms of the [Grant Agreement](#). Grantees are required to accept the terms of the Grant Agreement to participate in the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and any changes are unlikely to be accepted. Therefore, applicants should review these terms carefully as they will be expected to agree to them before they implement their project.

Can an NGO apply in partnership with a Government agency?

Government departments and agencies are not eligible to apply for or receive UK PACT funding. Organisations that are separate legal entities from the government are eligible to apply for and receive funding.

A government agency can be a beneficiary of a project, however they cannot be part of a consortium or in any way be recipient of the grant funding.

Are past or current UK PACT grantees eligible to apply for funding again?

Yes, past and current UK PACT grantees are eligible to apply for UK PACT funding again. The funding round for new UK PACT projects in 2020 will be run using an open and competitive process. Therefore, there is no guarantee that existing or previous UK PACT implementing partners will be successful or be allocated new funding and no advantage will be given to existing or previous UK PACT implementing partners.

Where can projects be funded?

To apply for GRCF funding, projects must take place in and benefit at least one of the following ODA eligible countries:

1. Argentina
2. Bangladesh
3. Brazil
4. Ethiopia
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Kenya
8. Nigeria
9. Peru
10. Thailand
11. Vietnam

Can my project include countries other than the 11 countries covered by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund?

Only projects that are delivering in one or more of the listed countries are eligible to apply. The primary benefit of projects and the main project activities should remain within the 11 target countries.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund projects may have a regional impact, and as such, project activities can include UK PACT Country Programme countries (China, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, and South Africa) within a multi-country / regional project, however, the primary beneficiary must be one of the 11 target countries.

Please note that in China, UK PACT complements existing HMG programmes that are focused specifically on China's transition from high-carbon to low-carbon sources of energy by helping ensure China's financial system is well-placed to provide the capital needed for the transition. Therefore project activities in China will only be considered as part of a wider multi-country or regional initiative for the 'greening financial systems' window of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, and not the other windows of the Fund.

The UK Government is committed to supporting the low-carbon transition across the world and there are a number of similar programmes available, which may be suitable for capacity building initiatives implemented beyond the countries covered by the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund. These include: [The Climate Ambition Support Alliance](#)¹ and the [NDC Partnership](#)²

¹ The Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA) provides technical assistance to climate vulnerable country negotiators to increase their capacity and capability in order to engage more effectively within the international climate negotiations. CASA partners provide tailored support to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (as convener of the High Ambition Coalition), as well as *ad hoc* training to individual negotiators from any developing country group. The CASA programme further aims to support climate vulnerable countries in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with technical assistance for NDC development and enhancement, transparency and access to finance. For more information see: <https://casaclimate.org/>

² The UK is a member of the NDC Partnership, which supports developing countries to implement their NDC through improved planning and access to finance. Any country is able to become a member – see their website for more information about how to join: <https://ndcpartnership.org/members>. If you are already a member, we recommend contacting the NDC Partnership's Support Unit through your government's NDC Partnership focal points to find out what support is available. Their website also has a Climate Finance Explorer that can signpost to sources of finance, which is available to everyone: <https://ndcpartnership.org/climate-finance-explorer>

I've got a project idea which includes Colombia, Mexico, China, South Africa and/or Malaysia, should I apply to Country Programmes or Green Recovery Challenge Fund?

For the GRCF, projects' primary benefit and main project activities must remain within at least one of the 11 target GRCF countries. Projects which include countries that are part of the [UK PACT Countries Programmes](#) (China, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico and South Africa) and are part of a multi-country or regional initiative are welcome to apply for the GRCF.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how the majority benefit of the project is to at least one of the 11 target GRCF countries.

Projects which build upon the experience gained in the UK PACT Country Programmes are encouraged to apply for the GRCF, as long as the primary benefit of the project is to one of the GRCF 11 target countries.

Please note that in China, UK PACT complements existing HMG programmes that are focused specifically on China's transition from high-carbon to low-carbon sources of energy by helping ensure China's financial system is well-placed to provide the capital needed for the transition. Therefore project activities in China will only be considered as part of a wider multi-country or regional initiative for the 'greening financial systems' window of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, and not the other windows of the Fund.

If the primary beneficiary of your project is one of the UK PACT Country Programme countries (China, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, and South Africa) you can find the relevant pages for UK PACT Country Programmes [here](#).

Do multi-country projects need to cover countries within one region only, or could they for example be implemented in Asia and Latin America?

Projects are allowed to deliver in countries across different regions. However, the project must be able to demonstrate that it will be meeting the needs of the beneficiaries in each country and region covered. The project team must also have the necessary knowledge, experience, and networks to allow effective delivery across every country that it plans to operate in.

Are there any geographical priority areas within each target country?

There are no specific geographical priority areas. We welcome projects that operate at the regional, national and sub-national (regional, district and municipal - cities and towns) levels, as long as these clearly demonstrate impact potential and verified demand from beneficiaries. In many cases, capacity building needs and implementation support is most needed at the sub-national level.

How does the Green Recovery Challenge Fund work?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is run in funding rounds, each consisting of windows on specific themes and regions. Application to the fund is a two-step process (expressions of interest and Full Proposal stages) run through competitive call for proposals. All relevant timelines and news announcements can be found on the [website](#).

How is funding managed?

Funding is managed by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund delivery partner, ICF Consulting Services Ltd. Successful applicants will be required to submit regular reporting forms to ICF Consulting Services Ltd. Funding will be paid in arrears in GBP (£), at quarterly intervals as agreed in the grant agreement.

How long does the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund programme run for?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is currently planned to run from August 2020 to April 2022.

Project funding through UK PACT is currently available for up to 12 months. It is expected that all proposed project tasks will be completed by the end of January 2022, as payment milestones cannot exceed this date (for projects awarded as part of the first funding round). This excludes monitoring and evaluation activities beyond January 2022. Co-funding to support longer-term projects is allowed.

The programme is currently split into two funding rounds. The first launching in August 2020 and the second aiming to be launched in November 2020.

Subject to the extension of the UK PACT Programme, it may be possible for projects to receive funding beyond 12-months in the future. Currently, projects are only offered funding for up to 12-months.

Is there an expected duration for projects applying to the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund programme?

Project funding through UK PACT is currently available for up to 12 months. All proposed activities up to and including operation start up must be completed by January 2022 to ensure that all milestone payments can be claimed. In addition to the project implementation time, applicants will need to factor in when they submit their application, the assessment windows and the decision time into their project duration planning.

Co-funding to support longer-term projects is allowed.

Following the end of project implementation, participants are expected to produce an exit report and case study for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Subject to the extension of the UK PACT Programme, it may be possible for projects to receive funding beyond 12-months in the future.

If I am successful in being offered funding, when can the project start?

Applicants that are offered grant funding will be funded for tasks which start from the date of signature of the grant agreement. For funding round one, this is expected to be mid-January 2021. Confirmed dates and dates for future funding rounds will be announced on the Green Recovery Challenge Fund website when they are available.

Will there be flexibility in the project start times if in January we continue with confinement due to the pandemic?

First round project duration should fall within the time periods of January 2021 – January 2022, but it is not necessary to use the whole period and shorter projects will be considered.

If at the point of being notified that a project has been selected for funding it is clear that the start date of January 2021 cannot be achieved due to the impacts of COVID-19, this should be raised immediately with ICF Consulting for discussion.

We are aware that the pandemic and post-pandemic situation is continuously evolving and will continue to do so for many months to come. We want to ensure that UK PACT and the projects funded remain responsive and adaptive in order to manage challenges and capitalise on opportunities as they arise. We will therefore also be looking for robust risk assessments and mitigation strategies to ensure projects have the necessary built-in flexibility and adaptability to prepare for continued uncertainty and changes within the operating environment during implementation

How many projects are you looking to fund?

The limitation is the allocation of funding, not the number of projects to be funded. Applicants may apply for up to £500,000 for the duration of the project.

How much funding can I apply for?

Applicants may apply for up to £500,000 for the duration of the project.

When should I plan for my project to start? Funding Round 1

Applicants to funding round 1 should plan for their projects to start mid-January 2021.

Dates for future funding rounds will be announced on the Green Recovery Challenge Fund [website](#) when they are available.

Will there be any additional funding in the future?

UK PACT's current funding and timeframes only allow us to guarantee successful applicants funding for 12-month projects. However, subject to approval of further funding for the UK PACT programme in the future, we may subsequently be in a position to extend funding to some of the projects selected in this call for proposals beyond the initial 12-month funding period. Please also note that any extension is not guaranteed, and would be subject to satisfactory performance, a detailed proposal for the subsequent phase and continued strategic fit with UK PACT priorities, as well as BEIS approvals for further funding for UK PACT.

The expression of interest template will allow applicants to set out information on their longer-term vision for what they would do, if they could implement projects for more than one year. Projects which, because of their nature, are fixed at 12-months or less will not be penalised.

Is there any overlap with the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and the UK Government's Energy Catalyst?

The Energy Catalyst programme³ supports UK and overseas businesses and organisations to develop highly innovative, market-focused energy technologies that primarily look to enable energy access in Sub-Saharan Africa and South/South East Asia.

Although both the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund and Energy Catalyst programmes support climate change mitigation projects, there is no direct overlap and the requirements, aims and applications are separate.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-catalyst-what-it-is-and-how-to-apply-for-funding>

What is the Green Recovery Challenge Fund process?

If successful, how and when will I receive the grant funding?

Grant funding will be paid in arrears into the account specified in the [Grant Agreement](#). This is dependent on receipt and approval of appropriate evidence, as specified in the Grant Agreement. Funding will be disbursed in GBP (£) and be paid in quarterly intervals (in arrears), as specified in the Grant Agreement for your project.

Who will the grant agreement be signed with?

The Grant Agreement will be signed with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). ICF Consulting will be named as a Grant Manager in the Grant Agreement and will be the main point of contact for implementing partners.

Who/ which office should I contact for the funding request?

All applications for funding should be submitted through the [application portal](#). All enquiries should be directed to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund Team through the website by email at grchallengefund@ukpact.co.uk.

As part of the engagement process with stakeholders and beneficiaries it might be relevant for a project to contact the local UK embassy or other Government contacts, however all funding requests and applications must be submitted to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund Team through the portal.

Is the contract a grant contract or commercial contract?

The funding under the UK PACT green Recovery Challenge Fund will be in the form of grant funding. The agreement under which the funds will be distributed to implementing partners will be a Grant Agreement and not a commercial contract.

Can multiple organisations apply with one project?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund accepts applications from multiple organisations who wish to operate in a consortium of one lead implementing organisation and other partner implementing organisations. The application requires a nominated lead implementing organisation, which can be supported by other partner implementing organisations (optional).

In regard to partnerships/consortia, is the grant funding given to the lead implementing organisation or to a member of the partner implementing organisations?

The lead implementing organisation applying to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund will be the recipient of the grant funding.

Could you confirm Intellectual Property Rights terms under UK PACT?

Please refer to clause 25 of the [Grant Agreement template](#) for the full Intellectual Property Rights terms.

Is it allowed for materials from the grant funding to be commercialised?

As per the terms set out in the Grant Agreement, any materials using funding provided can be used in accordance with an Open Government Licence. The Open Government Licence (OGL) is a simple set of terms and conditions under which information providers in the public sector can license the use and reuse of their information. Provided that the grantee complies with the terms, the grantee will have permission to use information anywhere in the world. The licence is also non-exclusive which means that the grantee will not be the only person able to make use of it. The Open Government Licence enables the grantee to use information for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Please see the [Grant Agreement template](#) for further information.

Can I also apply to other programmes within UK PACT e.g. UK PACT Skill-Shares and Secondments?

Yes, you can apply to multiple programmes in UK PACT. Applicants will need to state any conflicts of interest at the application stage.

Will there be an opportunity to ask more questions during the application process?

After the launch of the funding round, there will be the opportunity to ask clarification questions by email on grchallengefund@ukpact.co.uk. It will be possible to ask questions for two weeks after the launch of the funding round.

For the first funding round, the deadline for clarification questions is 26th August 2020 12:00 BST (UK time). Answers will be published by 2nd September 2020 and will be available on the Green Recovery Challenge Fund website.

Deadlines for future funding rounds will be announced on the Green Recovery Challenge Fund [website](#) when they are available.

What is the Return on Investment to UK PACT?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund administers grants, not investments or loans, so no financial return is expected for the programme.

As specified in the Grant Agreement, the Intellectual Property Rights created by the funded activities will be held by the UK Government in accordance with the One Government License (OGL), however this licence is non-exclusive which means that the Intellectual Property is open access.

Call for Proposals

What are the themes of the funding rounds?

You can find information on the themes of the funding rounds on the [website](#).

Can you elaborate what are the specific challenges for each window?

We advise all applicants to review the information provided as part of the window descriptions for each theme, that is available on the [website](#). We have laid out the context and scope under each of the windows. Examples have been highlighted, but this is not an exhaustive list and we will welcome ideas beyond this, as long they are within the scope of the funding window and meet the objectives of UK PACT.

As part of the selection criteria, projects will be selected on their merit towards addressing specified issues and the wider objectives of the UK PACT programme.

Which call for proposals will include Sub-Saharan Africa?

The demand in various regions was considered during the scoping of the themes for the call for proposals. Although Sub-Saharan Africa is not the subject of the first funding round, it will be included in future funding rounds once the regional demand is clarified. The inclusion of Sub-Saharan Africa in future funding rounds will be announced in due course.

Which call for proposals will include Asia?

The demand in various regions was considered during the scoping of the themes for the call for proposals. Asia is included in the first funding round, in the 'electrifying urban mobility' and 'greening financial systems' windows. The inclusion of Asia in future funding rounds will be announced in due course.

Which call for proposals will include Latin America?

The demand in various regions was considered during the scoping of the themes for the call for proposals. The first funding round includes Latin America in the 'greening financial systems' window. The inclusion of Latin America in future funding rounds will be announced in due course.

Is there a funding limit per funding round, per country or per window?

All projects for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund are selected on a competitive basis. Rather than adhering to pre-defined limits or quotas, projects will be carefully selected to ensure a balanced and complementary portfolio. Distribution across countries will be considered.

What type of impact is expected within a 12-month project?

The focus of UK PACT is to provide capacity building support that builds capabilities and knowledge within key institutions to support low carbon transitions and emissions reductions. At the EOI stage, applicants will be expected to demonstrate a basic outline of the expected project plan. If shortlisted, further detail including a detailed project plan, which identifies outputs and intermediate outcomes will be requested. Applicants will be asked to present what outputs will be delivered by when and a clear logic of how proposed outputs will lead to enhanced capacities and capabilities amongst target stakeholders, and how this in turn will contribute to the impact of enhanced and sustained action on emissions reductions.

Applicants are also asked to provide details on how their projects may incentivise further action from wider stakeholders; what pathways for further scaling or replication of project activities exist; and how projects aim to create impact beyond the period of UK PACT funding.

Is UK PACT open to suggestions to projects in other sectors than those mentioned in the Call for Proposals?

Only projects that align with priority themes in each region will be eligible for inclusion in this funding round. This will be assessed through the 'strategic fit' criterion. Importantly, we expect grant applicants to clearly demonstrate and evidence in their proposals how they have themselves identified and tested demand for proposed interventions, as well as built relationships that secure necessary buy-in from primary beneficiaries.

I have a specific idea for the funding window. Can you tell me whether is it a strong idea to apply with?

We will not be able to provide feedback on specific ideas or the strength of proposals applying for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. We advise all applicants to review the information provided as part of the window descriptions for each theme, that is available on the [website](#). We have laid out what will be in scope under each of the windows. Examples have been highlighted, but this is not an exhaustive list and we will welcome ideas beyond this, as long they are within the scope of the funding window and meet the objectives of UK PACT.

Are projects focussed on resilience and adaptation eligible?

UK PACT is a climate mitigation programme, and all project proposals will be assessed on their potential to contribute to emissions reductions targets. Activities that deliver resilience and adaptation impacts can be included within projects, so long as the primary objective and impact of the project is focussed on climate mitigation and emissions reductions.

What are examples of evidence that are required to demonstrate demand from local stakeholders? Do you expect to see memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or letters of commitment from beneficiaries for the project and the implementing partner?

As a demand-led programme, demonstrating strong beneficiary relationships and buy-in is key. At the EOI stage, applicants will be asked to identify primary beneficiary partnerships and additional stakeholders. Applicants can attach supporting evidence of that partnership (i.e. a letter or email), but this is not mandatory. At the Full Proposal stage, shortlisted applicants will be asked to provide

evidence of stakeholder and beneficiary engagement that has already occurred and to develop a proposed engagement plan with beneficiaries as appropriate to their project. This could include: informing beneficiaries through regular communications, establishing joint working groups, or even agreeing to more specific project Terms of Reference if appropriate.

Do primary beneficiaries need to be government? Or can we work with private sector and civil society?

Primary beneficiaries do not need to be government stakeholders. There are no restrictions on who the beneficiaries of the project are, so long as they have a need for capacity building in the areas defined by the funding window themes.

A primary beneficiary is an individual or group that the project directly works with, who will benefit from the change that the project will deliver. For example, government, ministries, communities, regional or city level organisations, private sector associations, financial institutions, women's groups and marginalised groups.

Key eligibility criteria

Do I have to have the legal right to work in the country where my project will be delivered?

The lead and partner organisations which will be delivering the project must have the legal right to work in all countries where the project will be operating.

Do organisations need to be locally registered in the country of implementation to apply?

Organisations and consortia need to be sure that they are structured and registered in a way that allows them to deliver the project they have proposed. We require organisations and/or consortia to make sure they have confirmed their own ability to deliver their proposed project in country

If a consortium is proposed, what partnerships agreements need to be in place?

At the EOI stage, any proposed partnership or sub-contracting arrangements should be identified and partners should be committed to working together on the project. Full details on the agreement between consortia can be found in the [template Grant Agreement](#).

Must the implementing team be able to speak English?

The project and the implementing team should demonstrate the skills needed to deliver the project. This includes being able to report to and hold meetings with UK PACT in English and understand any communications circulated by UK PACT in English. Where relevant, and in cases where not all members of project teams speak English, it may be necessary or preferential to include budget for translation.

Do projects need to have a UK Partner?

No, projects do not need to have a UK partner. Consortia can be constructed from organisations in any country. However, there is an expectation that the organisation or consortia proposed has strong networks and experience in the UK PACT delivery country and necessary expertise in proposed programme content.

In the case of China, it is however a requirement for projects to have an international partner.

Is my project relevant for the programme?

The proposed project must be providing capacity development support within the regional and thematic scope allocated for each funding window and must contribute to the programme's intended outcome of enhanced and sustained actions on emissions reductions.

What is ODA?

ODA is an abbreviation for Official Development Assistance. This assistance has been allocated under Section 1 of the International Development Act 2002. ODA contributes to a reduction in poverty and aims to further sustainable development or improve the welfare of relevant countries.

According to the OECD, Official Development Assistance is defined as financial support to eligible countries and to multilateral development institutions which are: 1) Provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and 2) Is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. More information about ODA can be found on the [OECD website](#).

Is my project ODA compliant?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund will only fund projects which are ODA compliant. This is not project task specific, as a certain task could be ODA eligible or ineligible depending on context and detail. To consider whether your project is ODA compliant you may wish to consider the following questions:

- What does success of your project tasks look like?
- How might the impact of your project be measured?
- How does your project contribute to sustainable development?
- Would your project lead to the outcome of a reduction of poverty in the implementing country/ies?

You will be asked about the above questions in application forms.

The DAC list of ODA-eligible countries can be found [here](#). The Green Recovery Challenge Fund Projects are expected to benefit at least one ODA eligible country from the following:

1. Argentina
2. Bangladesh
3. Brazil
4. Ethiopia
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Kenya
8. Nigeria
9. Peru
10. Thailand
11. Vietnam

What are the accounting requirements?

The applicant must have an appropriate accounting system in place to be able to manage the grant funding and receive the payments in arrears, in GBP via fees and expenses invoiced.

It is important that grantees have robust financial management strategies and processes in place to facilitate responsible and transparent management of funds.

Where can I find out more about the terms of the Grant Agreement?

The template Grant Agreement can be viewed [here](#). Grantees are required to accept the terms of the Grant Agreement to participate in the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and any changes are unlikely to be accepted. Therefore, grantees should review these terms carefully as they will be expected to agree to them before they implement their project.

Can I still apply if I have any conflicts of interest?

Yes, however applicants must declare any conflict of interests that currently exist or that could arise during this selection process and/ or during project implementation. These will be considered at assessment stage. Conflicts of Interest can be personal, business and/ or finance related. Where potential conflicts of interest are declared, the EOI should both state these and the actions that will be taken to mitigate them.

What due diligence checks will there be on my organisation?

All applicants will be subject to a robust due diligence process. This will include automated checks for financial risks and against HM Treasury Sanction list amongst others. If the applicant is successful at Full Proposal stage, applicants will also be required to fill out ICF Consulting's dedicated due diligence form.

This self-declaration collects information including but not limited to past project references, insurance policies, safeguarding policies, quality assurance procedures and past prosecutions. Applicants are required to submit supporting documents and all information provided is validated against publicly available data wherever possible.

Should any significant risks be identified, a project may be excluded from receiving funding.

Is the fund only available for new projects, or can existing initiatives apply to improve or extend a project?

Existing initiatives are eligible to apply to the GRCF, however the project activities should be distinct there should be no duplication.

Are those receiving funding from other HMG programmes eligible to apply?

Yes, organisations receiving funding from other HMG projects are eligible to apply. Where funding has been received for the same project, applicants must be able to clearly distinguish between activities funded by UK PACT and those activities funded through other sources, as well as any associated results achieved. Applicants must be prepared to separately account for and report on spend against UK PACT funding. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the need and additional impact of UK PACT funding.

Can commercial organisations apply for funding if they are working on a green recovery project on the given themes as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitment?

All projects must be demand-led and must be able to demonstrate demand and engagement with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries. Potential applicants should also check the list of eligible organisations and the terms of the [Grant Agreement](#).

What if my project is not eligible?

If your project is not eligible, then the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund might not be a suitable source of funding for your project. If your project does not meet the thematic and regional focus of this funding window, your project may be eligible for future funding rounds, so you should register your interest on the website to stay up to date with future announcements. However, the other key eligibility criteria will be the same for future funding rounds.

The UK Government is committed to supporting the low-carbon transition across the world and there are a number of similar programmes available, which may be suitable for capacity building initiatives that are beyond the scope of the UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund. These include: [The Climate Ambition Support Alliance](#)⁴ and the [NDC Partnership](#)⁵

⁴ The Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA) provides technical assistance to climate vulnerable country negotiators to increase their capacity and capability in order to engage more effectively within the international climate negotiations. CASA partners provide tailored support to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (as convenor of the High Ambition Coalition), as well as *ad hoc* training to individual negotiators from any developing country group. The CASA programme further aims to support climate vulnerable countries in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with technical assistance for NDC development and enhancement, transparency and access to finance. For more information see: <https://casaclimate.org/>

⁵ The UK is a member of the NDC Partnership, which supports developing countries to implement their NDC through improved planning and access to finance. Any country is able to become a member – see their website for more information about how to join: <https://ndcpartnership.org/members>. If you are already a member, we recommend contacting the NDC Partnership's Support Unit through your government's NDC Partnership focal points to find out what support is available. Their website also has a Climate Finance Explorer that can signpost to sources of finance, which is available to everyone: <https://ndcpartnership.org/climate-finance-explorer>

What are the eligible costs that can be funded?

Where can I find a list of eligible costs that can be claimed as part of the grant funding?

A list of eligible activities which can be claimed as part of the grant funding, can be found in Annex 1 of [the Guidance Document](#).

Can I get funding for my project that is developing a low-carbon technology?

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund will only fund capacity building projects, so directly funding technology development is not in scope. However, for example, projects that facilitate the uptake of low-carbon technologies may be eligible.

Examples of capacity building activities we expect to fund include enhancing skills through training, proposing recommendations of new policies or tools to accelerate emission reductions, creating knowledge and communication products (e.g. research papers) or strengthening networks of key actors to drive climate action

Can the grant funding be used to pay for capital equipment?

No. Applications for the funding of specific equipment are not eligible.

Can organisations' internal salary costs include all normal salary on-costs?

Yes. Cost rates can include all normal employment rates and overheads but cannot include a profit margin.

Will the grant funding be subject to VAT?

If the awarded organisation is based in the UK and they are claiming for UK based services they should invoice on a 0% VAT basis. If Grant Conditions have been met, the UK company should not charge BEIS for UK VAT provided the grant money for abroad use does not change from the original intention.

The grant conditions for not attracting VAT are:

- The grant fulfils an obligation i.e. legal requirement e.g. commitment on ODA spend.
- Payment of the grant does not lead to any benefits (cash or kind) to the grant donor.

If the organisation is based outside of the UK, they should invoice based on the local tax law. HMG is not able to recover this tax and it is up to the organisation in question to deal with their tax duties locally.

Can exchange rate fluctuation variations be included in the budget to ensure adequate funding of the activities as planned?

Applicants will be paid in GBP and must be prepared to manage the risk of exchange rate fluctuations during the lifetime of the project. If exchange rate fluctuations become unmanageable, i.e. could prevent the project from being able to complete activities and deliver outputs within the agreed budget or agreed timeframes, this should be flagged to UK PACT.

What is project 'co-funding'?

Co-funding is money for the project that comes from another source than UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund. For example, a project proposal might include funding from UK PACT Green Recovery Challenge Fund and another donor e.g. Department for International Development.

Do projects have a better chance of securing funding if there is some co-funding?

There are no requirements for match or co-funding to be eligible for UK PACT support. However, if it is demonstrated that co-funding would contribute to the sustainability of the proposed activities or leverage further climate mitigation activities, this would be considered under relevant selection criteria, e.g. sustainability. The proposal should also clearly outline how UK PACT financing is additional and identify a discrete budget of activities not covered by other sources of funding.

Is it possible to use this funding for software development?

A list of eligible costs can be found in Annex 1 of the [Guidance Document](#).

How do I apply?

What is the application process?

Prospective applicants are invited to register [here](#) to be added to a mailing list for relevant news on UK PACT and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Applicants are invited to register to apply for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund on the dedicated [application portal](#) when the funding windows are launched. Applications should be submitted electronically via the portal. The application is a two-step process using the application portal:

1. Complete and submit an expression of interest
2. Complete and submit a full proposal*

*only selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal

How long do I have to complete my application?

After the launch of the funding round, prospective applicants will have to complete and submit their Expression of Interest application via the portal. Details of the timing for this are available on the [Green Recovery Challenge Fund website](#).

Applicants who are successful in the first stage of the application, will be invited to submit a full proposal. Details of the timing to complete this are available on the [Green Recovery Challenge Fund website](#).

When will I hear about the outcome of my application?

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email stating within how many weeks you will receive feedback on the outcome of your application.

Can I complete my application in a language other than English?

All applications must be submitted in English.

Which kind of references do you expect from applicants to prove their capacity to implement activities in the local language?

At the Full Proposal stage, projects must submit CVs for the project team as part of the application. These should include evidence of the required language abilities, such as experience in the country of operation or any other relevant evidence.

Am I allowed to include links into our application?

The application is evidence-based and all applications will be assessed only on the information provided in the application form. Strict word limits will be imposed to ensure applications are specific and direct.

Where can I find guidance information on how to apply?

[The guidance document](#) provides more information on how to apply. You can also contact the delivery team by email on grchallengefund@ukpact.co.uk

Can I submit multiple applications?

The same applicant can submit multiple applications, whether as the lead implementing organisation or a partner implementing organisation within a consortium.

There are also no restrictions on the type of applications submitted by an organisation, this could include multiple projects for the same window, for multiple projects in one country, for projects in different regions and for different funding rounds. There is also no restriction on organisations applying for both the Country Programme and the GRCF.

To submit multiple project ideas, does one have to submit separate applications or bundled in one?

Each distinct project idea should be submitted with a separate application.

Does the person who registers/ creates the account to apply have to be the legal entity of the organisation?

It is not necessary for the lead contact for the application to be the legal entity of the lead implementing organisation. However, it will be necessary to provide the name of the legal entity of the lead implementing organisation. The lead implementing organisation applying will be the recipient of the grant funding.

Can Skill-shares and Secondments proposals be combined with project proposals?

When you submit an EOI to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, the EOI must be about an eligible capacity building project only. However, there is a space within the EOI form to indicate if any organisation involved in the proposed capacity building project intends to apply to the Skills-Shares and Secondments component of UK PACT. Organisations are eligible to apply for both Green Recovery Challenge Fund and Skills-Share support.

If I am unsuccessful in my application, can I reapply?

If a project is unsuccessful in a certain funding round, the applicant can reapply in the next funding round, however the project application must be relevant to the region and theme of the funding round.

I'm having a problem with the application portal, where can I get help?

For help using the application portal, please contact grchallengefund@ukpact.co.uk

I've forgotten my application portal password, what should I do?

If you have forgotten your application portal password, you can reset this by clicking 'login' and then 'forgot password?' on the application portal.

How will applications be assessed?

How will my application be assessed?

Potential projects will be assessed on several criteria, as detailed in the Expression of Interest and Full Proposal forms and [guidance document](#).

Final selections will be guided by the need for a balanced portfolio of projects covering different themes, regions and levels of novelty.

What feedback will I get on my application?

All applicants will be informed if they have been successful or unsuccessful in progressing to the Full Proposal stage. Unsuccessful applications will receive feedback on the outcome and any areas in which their application failed to meet minimum eligibility requirements.

Successful applicants at the EOI stage will receive feedback which will help to guide improvements for the Full Proposal Stage.

Who will be involved in proposal review and selection?

ICF Consulting staff with relevant thematic expertise will review and score all applications. An Advisory Panel consisting of UK Embassy representatives and thematic experts and will be consulted to provide guidance throughout the assessment process. The review of the applications will be discussed with a Recommendation Panel including BEIS UK PACT staff. A recommendation report including inputs from the Panels will then be presented to the Investment Decision Panel consisting of senior BEIS staff who will make the final project selection.

How will the emissions reduction potential of proposals be assessed? Will this involve a specific methodology or criteria?

Given the diversity of sectors and contexts within which UK PACT projects will operate, there is no single methodology prescribed for measuring emissions reduction potential. Assessment of emissions reduction potential will be made based on the level of strategic fit of project proposals (priority sectors in each country have been identified in part due to their emissions reduction potential) and applicants' responses to how their projects align with and are expected to contribute to the achievement of NDC targets. Applicants will be asked to present clearly outlined activities, outputs and intermediary outcomes in their project plans, including a clear logic of how proposed outputs will lead to enhanced capacities and capabilities amongst target stakeholders, and how this in turn will contribute to enhanced and sustained action on emissions reductions.

Where can I find more information about the assessment criteria?

More information about the different criteria that the applications will be assessed on and their relative importance can be found in the [guidance document](#).