

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

First and second pre-launch webinars on the Call for Projects 2023, 26 April and 17 May 2023

Questions from the second webinar are added to respective sections and highlighted in red boxes

Content

1	General issues.....	1
2	Selection criteria.....	3
3	Eligibility of countries.....	4
4	Eligibility of Applicants, Applicant Support Partners (ASP) ¹ and Implementation Organisations...	5
5	Eligibility of sectors and technologies.....	7
6	Submission of Project Concepts.....	8

1 General issues

What is the best way to be kept up to date about the upcoming Call for Projects and the Mitigation Action Facility?

Please check our [website](#) for information on the [current Call](#) and [news](#) about the Mitigation Action Facility. We would also encourage you to [subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive automatic news and updates about the Mitigation Action Facility and its Calls for Projects.

Does the Mitigation Action Facility require a matching grant?

No, projects do not need a matching grant to apply to the Mitigation Action Facility. Nevertheless, projects should demonstrate that they can leverage additional private and / or public financing with the funding provided. There is no minimum threshold for the private and public leverage. It is important to demonstrate how the mitigation technology or practice proposed in the project will be financed and showcase that the project will create favourable market conditions for further uptake and upscaling of the mitigation technology or practice.

What is the minimum and maximum funding volume per project under the Call for Projects 2023?

Funding volume requested from the Mitigation Action Facility for implementation should be in the range of EUR 5-25 million, excluding funding for the Detailed Preparation Phase (DPP). Additional information can be found in the [General Information Document \(GID\)](#).

¹ For Glossary, please check the [General Information Document \(GID\)](#), Annex 2 or the [website of the Mitigation action Facility](#)

If an Applicant submits a Project Concept without securing other partners, is there a process to connect the Applicant to relevant ministries and / or partner financial institutions?

All Applicants are encouraged to present their ideas during the Project Concept Phase even when future Project Partners are not entirely defined. If the Project Concept is selected to progress to the next assessment phases (i.e. the Outline Phase and ultimately, the Proposal Phase), the Technical Support Unit (TSU, the Mitigation Action Facility secretariat) will assist the Applicant to ensure that a suitable consortium is identified.

What is the average funding volume per project across all Calls for Projects of the Mitigation Action Facility?

Please check the [website of the Mitigation Action Facility](#) to learn more about the individual projects in the portfolio and their respective funding volume.

Is there a minimum and maximum number of projects that can be funded by priority sector?

The Mitigation Action Facility does not earmark the funding available in the Call by sector.

How many projects do you expect to fund under the Call for Projects 2023?

The limitation is the total funding available (up to EUR 100 million), not the number of projects to be funded. Applicants may apply for a funding volume between EUR 5-25 million for the duration of the project (Implementation Phase).

Must the implementing team be able to speak English/German?

The project team should be able to demonstrate the skills needed to deliver the project. This includes being able to report to and hold meetings with the Technical Support Unit (TSU) in English and understand any communications circulated by the Mitigation Action Facility 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.

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](#).

New!

If a project successfully passes through the Project Concept, Outline and Proposal Phases, could it still fail to be approved for implementation?

Yes, this is correct. The final decision whether the project will be approved for implementation is taken by the Board of the Mitigation Action Facility based on the assessment of a full-fledged Project Proposal (incl. corresponding Annexes) which is a result of a Detailed Preparation Phase (DPP) having duration of either 10 or 15 months.

Will the Call for Projects 2023 of the Mitigation Action Facility consider projects that integrate revenues from the sale of carbon credits with the grant funding provided by the Facility?

At this time, the Mitigation Action Facility is in the process of refining its position on collaborating with carbon markets. To better understand the level of interest from potential Applicants in combining the Facility's funding with carbon credit revenues, we are using the Project Concept Phase as an opportunity to explore the various approaches that are available. As such, we are welcoming all project ideas, including those that engage with carbon markets, during the Project Concept Phase. At this stage, Applicants are invited to present their ideas without limitations as the Mitigation Action Facility looks forward to seeing what innovative concepts may emerge.

2 Selection criteria

Where can we find out more information about the assessment criteria?

Please review Section 5 (Project Selection Process) of the [GID](#).

Since the ambitious enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) will be an assessment criterion, how exactly will NDCs be assessed?

The assessment of NDCs is anchored with the Ambition criteria. For more information on the assessment of Project Concepts, Outlines and Proposals please review Section 5 (Project Selection Process) of the [GID](#).

New!

Are projects supposed to address the topic of social inclusion to the same extent as gender equality?

Yes, the projects are expected to apply intersectional analytical framework and propose concrete measures to address the issues identified in regard to both social inclusion and gender equality as applicable within the project boundary and considering the specific sector- and country-context. For more, please refer to [GID](#), chapter 4.1.

Does investment from end-users (e.g., households) qualify as leveraged private funding?

Yes, this qualifies as private funding mobilised, if the investment benefitted from the support of the project financed by the Mitigation Action Facility.

What is the expectation of the Mitigation Action Facility with regard to the project alignment with NDC? Is there any specific requirement with regard to NDC submission by a national government?

A project should be explicitly included in the partner country's NDC. This is to affirm the alignment of the project with national priorities, to ensure that the project supports the implementation of the NDC, is aligned with LTS and contributes overall to the UNFCCC process. The Call for Projects 2023

does not feature any eligibility requirements linked to the submission of the first updated or second NDCs by national governments. For more information see [GID](#), chapter 4.1.

To which level of detail are the Applicants expected to address the topic of upscaling potential at the Project Concept Phase?

The Applicants are advised to follow the guiding questions in the [Project Concept template](#). Specifically, the topic of upscaling can be anchored with the description of the financial mechanism (e.g. how the market is supposed to operate sustainably after the end of the project), the TA measures (how the proposed measures can lead to long-term behavioural change of the main target group and / or main beneficiaries) and the project's potential for transformational change (e.g. activities and / or expected and justified spill over effects leading to further replication and upscaling of the project approach).

What are the expectations of the Mitigation Action Facility from the projects with regard to policy support and further technical assistance (TA)?

The key expectation is that the policy support provided by the project as well as TA overall are linked to and enable investments in carbon-neutral technologies as well as facilitate behavioural change among the key stakeholders / the main target group. Specific interventions under the Technical Cooperation (TC) component are sector- and context-specific and should be tailored to address barriers preventing the dissemination of a mitigation technology and 7 or practice in the specific area (sectoral, technological and geographic) of the project implementation.

3 Eligibility of countries

Where can projects be funded?

To apply to the Mitigation Action Facility, projects must be implemented in Official Development Assistance (ODA)-eligible countries. More information about ODA can be found on the [OECD website](#).

Are cross-border and /or regional projects eligible for funding in the Call for Projects 2023?

Projects in the cross-border and regional contexts are eligible.

Please note that if the Project Concept in a cross-border / regional context is selected for the Project Outline Phase, the political commitment, readiness, implementation structure, etc. for all countries involved will be assessed at the Project Outline Phase. Endorsement letters from national ministries of all involved countries will also be required at this stage.

In addition, such cross-border or regional approaches would need to demonstrate a common “raison d’être”; for instance, several small island states of a region could join forces within one project in order to achieve a reasonable project size and scaling effects. However, it would be difficult to make a case for the common raison d’être simply because an organisation is active in three or four countries across a continent.

Does the Mitigation Action Facility have a preference towards cross-border / regional projects or single country projects?

There is no preference. Both cross-border / regional and single country projects are equally welcome and will be assessed against the same criteria. At the same time, the experience to date has shown that complexity of cross-border / regional projects is rather high which affects the overall feasibility of the project. Feasibility increases when a project focuses on a single rather than several countries at the same time.

New!**Are there any regional and/or geographic priorities in the Call for Projects 2023 of the Mitigation Action Facility?**

No, there are no regional and / or geographic preferences as part of the Call for Projects 2023. The Call is open to all ODA-eligible countries.

4 Eligibility of Applicants, Applicant Support Partners (ASP)² and Implementation Organisations

Can a project be developed by a partnership between public and non-public institutions?

Yes. As indicated in the [GID](#) (chapter 3.4) Applicants / Applicant Support Partners (ASPs) can form a partnership to prepare and submit a Project Concept. In this case, profiles, roles and responsibilities of partners must be well-defined and clearly described in the Project Outline at the latest. Since both public and non-public institutions can serve as Applicants and/or ASPs, Project Concepts / Outlines can be submitted jointly by a public and non-public institution.

According to GID, Applicants / ASPs must demonstrate at least 5 years of experience in the respective sector. Does this experience need to have been acquired in the country of implementation?

Projects which are implemented in the relevant sector but in other countries / regions can be referenced. However, sufficient experience in the country of implementation independent from the sector of intervention is another capacity requirement that Applicants / ASPs need to demonstrate at the Project Outline Phase.

What type of organisation can submit a Project Concept?

Project Concepts can be submitted by all types of organisations. In case a Project Concept is selected for the Outline Phase, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) will assist individual Applicants and/or ASPs shall there be a need in identifying additional partners (e.g. to form a partnership in case of insufficient individual capacities or for a national ministry to define an ASP).

Can a government agency submit a Project Concept? Would an endorsement by the national ministry/-ies be required in this case?

Yes, a government agency is a legal entity and can therefore serve as an Applicant, Applicant Support Partner and an Implementation Organisation. All legal entities have to fulfil certain capacity and eligibility requirements as further detailed in [GID](#), chapters 3.4, 5.1.1, 5.2.2 and Annex 3. If the Concept

² For Glossary, please check the [General Information Document \(GID\)](#), Annex 2 or the [website of the Mitigation action Facility](#)

is selected for the Project Outline Phase, a legal entity will have to demonstrate sufficient endorsement by the national government institutions relevant for the potential implementation of the project.

Can a non-governmental organisation (NGO) apply?

Yes, a non-governmental organisation is a legal entity and can therefore serve as an Applicant, Applicant Support Partner and an Implementation Organisation. All legal entities have to fulfil certain capacity and eligibility requirements as further detailed in [GID](#), chapters 3.4, 5.1.1, 5.2.2 and Annex 3. If the Concept is selected for the Project Outline Phase, a legal entity will have to demonstrate sufficient endorsement by the national government institutions relevant for the potential implementation of the project.

Would a commercial organisation based in the EU be eligible under the Call for Projects 2023, if their application is for a project to be implemented in an ODA-eligible country?

Yes, a commercial organisation (national or international) is a legal entity and can therefore serve as an Applicant, Applicant Support Partner and an Implementation Organisation. It holds true even if the commercial organisation is located in the EU / other non-ODA country as long as a proposed project is to be implemented in an ODA-eligible country.

All legal entities have to fulfil certain capacity and eligibility requirements as further detailed in [GID](#), chapters 3.4, 5.1.1, 5.2.2 and Annex 3. If the Concept is selected for the Project Outline Phase, a legal entity will have to demonstrate sufficient endorsement by the national government institutions relevant for the potential implementation of the project.

Considering the mandatory public benefit purpose of each project, national and international commercial organisations are encouraged to submit Project Concepts, Outlines and Proposals in a partnership / cooperation with a not-for-profit organisation, e.g. a national NGO, regardless of the possibility to also submit such Project Concepts, Outlines and Proposals on their own. It is also important to keep in mind that any possible funding through the Mitigation Action Facility will be granted following and in accordance with an appropriate legal review, in particular concerning the public-benefit purpose of each project and the non-violation of the EU state-aid law (where it applies).

Can the Applicant Support Partner (ASP) be different to the Implementation Organisation if the project progresses to the Detailed Preparation Phase (DPP)? How is the Implementation Organisation selected when the project proceeds to DPP?

The Project Concept and Outline Phases are open to Applicants and ASPs that do not necessarily need to qualify as Implementation Organisations. If the Applicant / ASP for DPP and the intended Implementation Organisation(s) for the Implementation Phase of the project are different entities, the Implementation Organisation(s) must be identified and confirmed within three months of starting the DPP. Implementation Organisations need to fulfil certain capacity and eligibility criteria as stipulated in [GID](#), chapter 3.4 as well as in chapter 5.2.2 and in Annex 3. The Implementation Organisation(s) must be endorsed by the national government to ensure the successful implementation of a project.

Are past or current Mitigation Action / NAMA Facility grantees eligible to apply for funding again?

Yes, past and current Mitigation Action / NAMA Facility grantees are eligible to apply for funding again. The Call will be run using an open and competitive process. Therefore, there is no guarantee that

existing or previous Implementation Organisations will be successful or be allocated new funding. No advantage will be given to existing or previous Implementation Organisations.

Do projects need to have a UK / German Partner?

No, projects do not need to have a UK / German partner. Consortia (partnerships) can be constructed from Applicants / ASPs in any country. However, there is an expectation that either individual Applicants / ASPs or consortia proposed have strong networks and experience in the project implementation country, receive endorsement from the national government and possess necessary expertise in the context of a proposed project. For formal capacity and eligibility requirements to Applicants, ASPs and Implementation Organisations please refer to [GID](#), chapters 3.4, 5.1.1, 5.2.2 and Annex 3.

New!

Can an Applicant submitting a Project Concept also potentially serve as an Implementation Organisation?

Yes, an Applicant can serve as an Implementation Organisation if the Project Concept successfully passes the Project Outline Phase and is selected for a Detailed Preparation Phase (DPP). Please note that an Applicant in this case shall be able to fulfil certain capacity and eligibility criteria applicable to Implementation Organisations (see [GID](#) chapters 3.4, 5.2.2 and Annex 3).

5 Eligibility of sectors and technologies

Would an AFOLU or waste project be eligible if it is linked to one of the priority sectors of the Mitigation Action Facility?

As indicated on the [current Call](#) webpage of the Mitigation Action Facility, projects from non-priority sectors that are cross-sectoral and linked to one or more of the priority sectors (energy, transport, industry) are eligible under the Call for Projects 2023.

Would climate adaptation projects be eligible to receive funding from the Mitigation Action Facility or should the projects primarily focus on mitigation?

The focus of projects should be on mitigation, not adaptation. However, in certain situations, adaptation measures could be a relevant co-benefit of the mitigation project and as such be considered a driver for transformational change. Each project will be assessed on its mitigation potential and potential for transformational change. For details on the assessment criteria, see [GID](#) chapters 5.1.3 (Project Concepts) and 5.1.7 (Project Outlines).

Are blue carbon and related projects eligible to apply to the Mitigation Action Facility?

Yes, but please keep in mind that a respective project would need to fit into / be combined with the priority sectors (energy, transport, industry) of the Mitigation Action Facility.

New!

Could you elaborate more on the eligibility of non-priority sectors?

For projects in non-priority sectors (e.g. waste and wastewater treatment; agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU); urban planning; etc.) it will be mandatory to demonstrate a link to one of the priority sectors (energy, industry or transport).

Projects targeting food processing as well as agricultural projects focusing on the entire value chain can be considered in the Call if the interventions also include an energy-related component (EE, self-supply RE, etc.) and/or a further optimisation of resource use and industrial processes that directly lead to emission reductions. Please note that such an intervention must be aligned with and ideally prioritised in NDCs.

6 Submission of Project Concepts

Is it possible to access a Project Concept template?

An [example of the Project Concept template](#) has been published on the website of the Mitigation Action Facility. Please note that this document serves as a guidance for Applicants and should be used for information purposes only. The template is not suitable for an actual submission of a Project Concept and may be subject to minor changes.

When will the Open Application Platform (OAP) be available?

The Open Application Platform (OAP) will be open for submissions of Project Concepts from 2 June until 31 July 2023, 3pm CEST. In order for Applicants to get an understanding of how OAP will be structured, the Mitigation Action Facility has published an [example of the Project Concept template](#). Please note, the template is not suitable for an actual submission of a Project Concept. The submission of Project Concepts will occur exclusively via an Open Application Platform (OAP).

Are there any restrictions in terms of the number of Project Concepts that can be submitted by one Applicant?

The number of Project Concepts per Applicant is restricted to 10 Project Concepts at maximum. Any concepts submitted in excess of 10 will be treated as ineligible.

New!

The number of Project Concepts that can be submitted by one Applicant (incl. regional structures and / or subsidiaries) is limited to 10. Is this limit cumulative (i.e. will also be applicable in the next Calls of the Mitigation Action Facility) or only valid for the Call for Projects 2023?

The limitation is only applicable to the current Call and not cumulative, i.e. has no impact on the ability of an Applicant to submit new Project Concepts in the next Calls for Projects of the Mitigation Action Facility (as soon as such Calls are announced).

What approach are Applicants advised to use in order to estimate the mitigation potential at the Project Concept Phase? Will the Mitigation Action Facility provide any additional guidance on this topic?

In the Project Concept Phase, Applicants are strongly advised to estimate the mitigation potential based on actual units that will be installed through the financial mechanism during the duration of the project. The [Mitigation Guideline for the Project Concept Phase](#) is available online and specifically catered to

the Project Concept Phase but also takes into account the necessary level of consistency and continuity to enable selected Project Concepts to further elaborate their calculations at the Project Outline and upon selection Project Proposal Phases.

The Project Concept looks very similar to the Project Outline as it has been used in the previous Calls of the Mitigation Action Facility. Could you please explain in more detail, how the Concept is different from the Outline?

The [Project Concept](#) features the same logic as the Project Outline but offers a much slimmer structure, particularly in sections referring to embedding into national policies as well as financial and mitigation ambition. A lower level of detail is also required with regard to topics such as business model, financial mechanism, target groups and technical assistance. At the same time, the Project Concept is designed in a way that would enable further elaboration of the idea if the project is selected for the Outline Phase. Contrary to the Outline, no Annexes need to be submitted along the Project Concept.

With regard to an Open Application Platform (OAP), is it possible to work on the Project Concept repeatedly saving progress before the submission?

Yes, OAP foresees the saving function so that Applicants will be able to work on the Project Concepts continuously, saving progress, logging in and out, and amending / filling out the template at their own pace before the final submission. Please note that after the submission, it will not be possible to make any changes in the Project Concept.

In OAP, would it be possible to share an account (e.g. between a few staff members of an organisation) or to create a single account with multiple users?

No, such function is not foreseen in OAP. Staff members of an organisation can share access details at their own risk and discretion, but it is not recommended since, if multiple staff members work simultaneously on a Project Concept, conflicts during saving will occur. It is advisable that only one person enters information on a Project Concept in OAP.