



ADAPTATION FUND

Climate 

**Innovation
Accelerator**

SMALL GRANTS. BIG IMPACT.



Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator

About the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

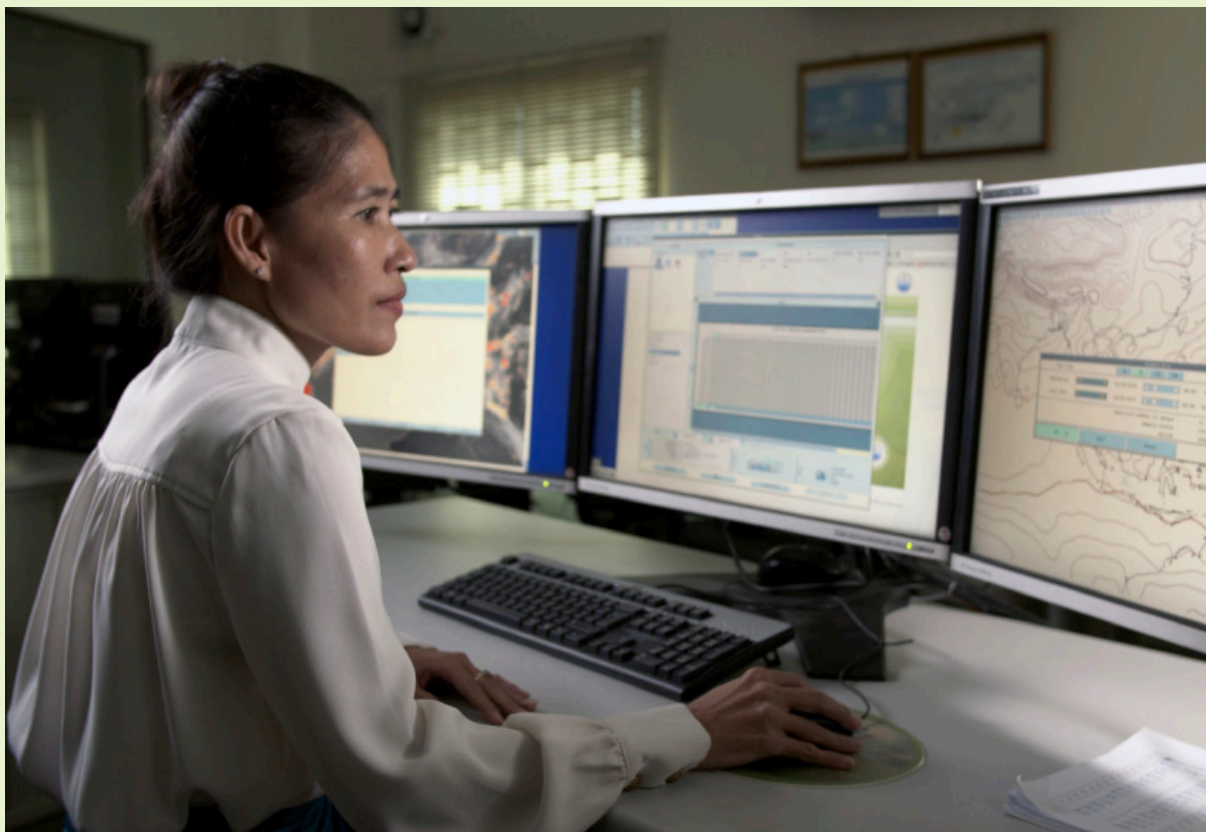
The Adaptation Fund has launched a new USD 10 million pilot small grants programme (Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator, AFCIA) to foster innovation in adaptation in developing countries at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid. The AFCIA targets a broad range of potential finance recipients, including governments, non-governmental organisations, community groups, young innovators and other groups.

The AFCIA will provide small grants to developing countries to support innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change and is part of the [Adaptation Fund's Innovation Facility](#). Two of the Adaptation Fund's accredited [Multilateral Implementing Entities](#) (MIEs), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), receive USD 5 million each to administrate and aggregate a project of

small grants (up to USD 250,000 each). The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), which is the operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism, works in conjunction with UNEP as an executing entity in the AFCIA.

The AFCIA will focus on producing two of the expected results of the 'Strategic Focus 2 (Innovation)' in the [Adaptation Fund Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022](#), which are:

- **New innovations encouraged and accelerated:** Development of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies encouraged and accelerated; and
- **Evidence base generated:** Evidence of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated as a basis for implementing entities and other funds to assess scaling up.





Two different windows: Grant funding and technical assistance

UNDP and UNEP-CTCN provide different services to support innovation in adaptation to developing countries in the AFCIA.

(UNDP) Grant funding is provided to applicants on a competitive basis. Selected grantees will operate and manage their projects by themselves with support from UNDP.

(UNEP-CTCN) Technical assistance will be provided to developing countries on a competitive basis. A selected application will be further developed to design a customised solution tailored to the need of developing country, and the solution will be implemented in the country by a technology provider selected by the CTCN. Please note that the application should be endorsed by the national focal points to the Adaptation Fund ([Designated Authority](#)) and the CTCN ([National Designated Entity, NDE](#)) prior to official submission via the programme webpage.

USD 10m
Funding available

100+
Countries eligible

50+
Entities receiving funding

USD 250,000
Maximum funding

2.1. Who to apply?

UNDP and UNEP-CTCN have different eligibility for supporting developing countries in the AFCIA.

- **(UNDP)** The programme is open to Not-for-profit, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Business Member Associations (BMOs), and other Associations, Cooperatives, or Community Based Organisations registered in a developing country.

- **(UNEP-CTCN)** The eligible countries in the programme include developing countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean under the UNFCCC that do not have [National Implementing Entities](#) (NIEs) accredited with the Adaptation Fund (114 countries in total as of 26 June 2020).

For developing countries with the Adaptation Fund's accredited NIEs, the Adaptation Fund provides a recently launched innovation grant funding window, and more information can be found by clicking [here](#). **Please note that an applicant cannot submit the same application to both UNDP and UNEP-CTCN.** As administrators of the AFCIA, UNDP and UNEP-CTCN will cross check applications to ensure there is no duplication.

2.2. When to apply?

UNDP and UNEP-CTCN have different timelines in the AFCIA.

- **(UNDP)** The first call for proposals will be open in late November, and final grantees will be selected in late December. The first cycle of projects will be implemented for two years from December 2020 to December 2022. The second call for proposals will be in late 2022 for another two-year project cycle.
- **(UNEP-CTCN)** There will be three-time opportunities to submit an application (technology concept) to UNEP-CTCN. The first, second and third calls for application submission are planned to be open in November 2020, February 2021 and February 2022, respectively.

2.3. Where to apply?

All applicants can download an application template or submit their application online.

Please check more details on the UNDP programme and the UNEP-CTCN programme through the web-links as below:

- **(UNDP)** <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/smallgrantaggregator/>
- **(UNEP-CTCN)** <https://www.ctc-n.org/afcia>



The AFCIA administrated by UNDP

3.1. Overview of the programme

AFCIA UNDP Grant Funding programme is designed to develop and diffuse innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies that will result in improved climate resilience of the target beneficiaries over the baseline or business-as-usual scenario. The programme has two cycles of funding, each run for two years.

3.2. Management of the programme

There are four main processes for each funding cycle: (1) Call for proposals, (2) Screening, and selection; (3) Implementation; and (4) Knowledge coordination and result aggregation. UNDP aims to provide 10-15 micro grants to promote new/pilot innovative adaptation practices, business models

and technologies (USD 60,000 for a two-year cycle); 5-10 small grants to accelerate innovative adaptation practices, business models and technologies with scaling up potential (USD 125,000 for a two-year cycle). Grantees could receive another round of funding for the second cycle if they reached the milestones proposed for the first cycle (therefore, a total USD 120,000 for micro grants and USD 250,000 for small grants for this four-year programme). Technical assistance from the network of UNDP and partners will be provided to grantees to enhance the results. AFCIA UNDP Grant Funding programme will also provide grantees a pathway to scale, either through public funding projects or through potential private funding channels brokered by UNDP and partners.



3.3. Guidance on application submission

Programme Process

Step 1

Call for Proposals. Applicants need to register and submit their basic information in the ISGAP IT portal. Please note the eligibility: Not-for-profit, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Business Member Associations (BMOs), and other Associations, Cooperatives, or Community Based Organisations registered in a developing country.

Step 2

Screening and Shortlisting (2 weeks). UNDP will conduct first around screening based on three key criteria: 1. Climate Change Adaptation, 2. Innovation, 3. Social and Environmental consideration. Shortlisted grantees will need to download a grant proposal template from the IT portal. This grant proposal will need to be completed within a one-week timeframe and uploaded onto the IT portal.

Step 3

Final screening and grantee selection (2 weeks). Successful grantees will be contacted to sign the grant agreement with UNDP.

Step 4

Inception Workshops. The programme will kick-off with a series of inception webinars, both aiming to build connections and conduct training. Training items will be focused on innovation, business strategy, climate risks, impact measurement and management, and safeguards.

Step 5

Grantees will need to assess key barriers for their operation or scale-up potential. Building on the grant proposal, each grantee will need to submit an acceleration workplan to UNDP. The UNDP Project board's experts will provide advice on suggested barriers and potential ways to overcome these barriers.

Step 6

Implementation. Grantee will implement according to their workplan with the following activities:

- Project delivery against acceleration workplan
- Order contract to selected vendor (if UNDP support is required to source vendors)
- Check-ins with the Project Management Unit, UNDP Country Office (if needed)
- Fill in impact/results quarterly in the IT system. Annual project report to the Project Management Unit
- Attend National/International events (invited by UNDP)
- Annual grantee survey and feedback meeting to evaluate performance of PMU, vendors and partners
- Share learnings, stories with UNDP

Please check more details on the UNDP programme through the web-link: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/smallgrantaggregator/>





The AFCIA administrated by UNEP-CTCN

4.1. Overview of the programme

The primary objective of the AFCIA administrated by UNEP-CTCN is to support developing countries to test, evaluate, roll out and scale up innovative adaptation practices, products and technologies.

Based on technical assistance services, 25 micro-grants projects (up to USD 250,000 each) will be implemented for 5 years to enhance climate resilience and adapt to climate change in the countries. Moreover, the programme will facilitate knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices, strengthening opportunities of South-South and triangular cooperation on innovation in adaptation among the countries.

4.2. Management of the programme

The same operation and management process of the CTCN technical assistance

will be adopted, which is presented in Figure 1. Overview of the innovation micro-grants mechanism for 5 years includes:

- Submission of technology concepts (*technical assistance requests in the CTCN technical assistance process*) from developing countries
- Selection of 30 technology concepts and development of associated project concept notes (*technical assistance response plans in the CTCN technical assistance process*)
- Selection of 25 project concept notes for implementation of micro-grants projects (*technical assistance in the CTCN technical assistance process*)
- Selection of [Network Members of the CTCN](#) to implement 25 micro-grants projects in collaboration with stakeholders of the developing countries

Figure 1: Operation and management process of the programme



4.2.1 Submission of technology concepts

There will be three-time opportunities to submit an application (technology concept) to UNEP-CTCN. The first, second and third calls for application submission are planned to be open in November 2020, February 2021 and February 2022, respectively.

4.2.2 Selection of technology concepts

6, 12 and 12 technology concepts are planned to be selected in the first, second and third round. Evaluation criteria used in screening technical assistance requests in the CTCN technical assistance process are adopted, selecting the top-scoring technology concepts in each round. An additional point is given to the technology concept submitted by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the regional balance (Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean) is taken into account in selecting technology concepts.

4.2.3 Development of project concept notes

30 project concept notes in total are to be developed by selected Network Members of the CTCN. Duration of the project concept note development is planned to be up to 2.5 months per each. They should be endorsed by the NDE (or NDEs) of the country (or countries) prior to final submission to UNEP-CTCN. The scope of activities that the selected Network Members of the CTCN carry out includes:

- Initial scoping assessment (adaptation needs & gaps in the sector, feasibility of the proposed technologies)
- Stakeholder consultations (including youth and gender representatives) on the proposed technologies
- Development of the draft project concept note including a list of activities and deliverables

4.2.4 Selection of project concept notes

25 project concept notes in total are to be selected to implement micro-grants projects. The same evaluation criteria applied in selecting technology concepts are used, selecting the top-scoring project concept notes in each round.

4.2.5 Implementation of micro-grants projects

Open tender process is to be proceeded with in each round to select Network Members of the CTCN implementing the micro-grants projects. Duration of the micro-grants project implementation is planned to be up to 18 months per each. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy for the micro-grants projects includes:

- (Beginning period) Detailed work plan, M&E plan and impact statement, and minute of inception meeting
- (Implementation period) Deliverables (e.g. report, dataset, etc.) of each activity
- (End period) Project closure report

4.3. Guidance on application submission

An applicant (e.g. government, non-governmental organisation, community group, young innovator and other groups) should fill in an application template which can be downloaded via the programme webpage.

The applicant is required to develop an application (technology concept) in close consultation with its national focal points to the Adaptation Fund (Designated Authority) and the CTCN (NDE). It is also acceptable to develop an application in which multiple countries engage.

The application should be endorsed by the Designated Authority and the NDE of the country prior to official submission. The Designated Authority of the country needs to confirm the following statement included in the application template by checking a box next to the statement.

“The Designated Authority of the country has been engaged in the design of the technology concept and will be involved in the further process leading to the implementation of the micro-grants project.”

The NDE of the country needs to sign the application before online submission to UNEP-CTCN. **Please note that if the application does not have endorsement from the national focal points, it will not be evaluated in the selection stage.** Please find the national focal points of your country through the web-links as below:

- **(Designated Authority)** <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities/>
- **(NDE)** <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/support/national-designated-entity.html>

The NDE should submit the application via the programme webpage. It is requested to provide basic information online (e.g. name of the country, title of the technology concept, adaptation sector, etc.) when submitting the application.

Please check more details on the UNEP-CTCN programme through the web-link: <https://www.ctc-n.org/afcia>

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