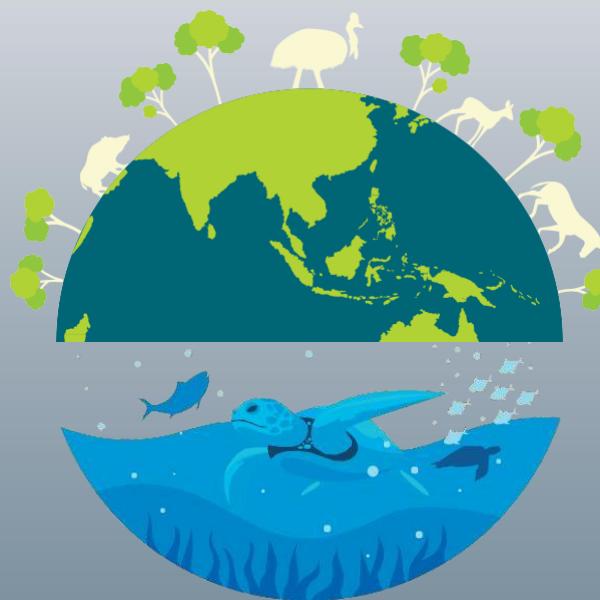




PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE FUND



SIXTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 16 APRIL 2025

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION ACTIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

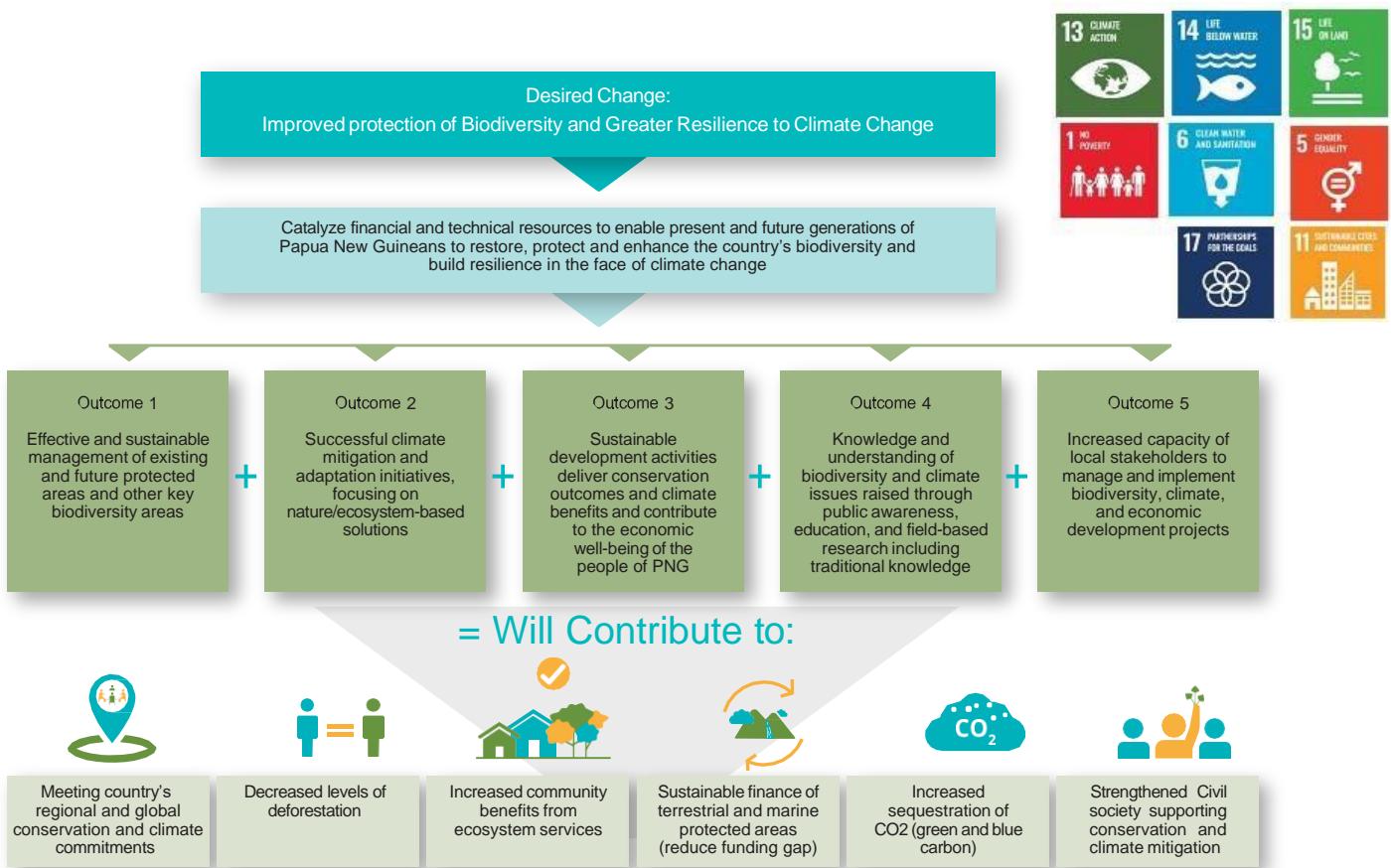
Background

The mission of the Papua New Guinea Biodiversity and Climate Fund (BCF) is “*... to catalyze financial and technical resources to enable present and future generations of Papua New Guineans to restore, protect, and enhance the country’s biodiversity and build resilience in the face of climate change*”. The Fund’s purpose is to mobilize and manage funding and channel financial resources and technical assistance to conserve biodiversity and address climate change, by:

- Promoting and supporting effective and sustainable management of existing and future protected areas and other key biodiversity areas through effective conservation measures;
- Fostering climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, focusing on nature/ecosystem-based solutions;
- Supporting sustainable development activities that deliver conservation outcomes and climate benefits and contribute to the economic well-being of the people of PNG - including customary landowners - while lessening the dependence on activities that degrade the environment;
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and climate issues by raising public awareness, promoting environmental education, and supporting field-based research;
- Building the capacity of local stakeholders to manage and implement biodiversity, climate, and economic development projects carried out in harmony with conservation objectives; and
- Supporting the country’s efforts to meet its national, regional, and global conservation and climate commitments.

The BCF offers grants to Papua New Guinea-based projects that contribute to the achievement of these objectives. The goal of the BCF is to competitively grant at least PGK 3.5 million (USD 1 million) annually to support the achievement of the Fund’s Theory of Change. The Fund hopes that these grants will help stimulate greater financial resources for conservation and climate action, creating stronger collaboration and coordination between partners and make a systemic change in PNG’s natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations.





BCF's Theory of Change

The BCF has received grant funding from the New Zealand Government to support the implementation of Outcome 5 under the Fund's Theory of Change. The PGK 12 million (NZD 5 million) allocated is available until 2026. The funding is managed in partnership with UNDP under their grant implementation rules¹. This funding stream specifically focuses on Training and Capacity Building of local stakeholders supporting biodiversity conservation and climate change efforts and initiatives in PNG. This contributes to the achievement of Outcome 5: Building the capacity of local stakeholders to manage and implement biodiversity, climate, and economic development projects carried out in harmony with conservation objectives. In addition to outcome 5, this call also provides opportunity for certain activities which fall within outcome 3 and 4 to also be considered within the broader thematic area.

The main focus will be to address the lack of capacity of key local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to design projects, prepare project proposals, manage and monitor the projects, and account for the funds. These constraints limit access to financing for many organizations in the country and the amount of funding the BCF can provide to grantees. Targeted support for training and programs will be designed to cater for the different stakeholders to eventually become grant recipients and to support efforts to increase their absorptive capacity. Initial training programs will be linked to helping prepare entities to request and manage funding for PA management and climate change activities.

This call for proposal is targeting Training and Capacity Building of local CSO stakeholders besides climate change

¹ NOTE: During this phase of BCF's operations and for funding provided by the NZ Government, the proposal submission process will go through the UNDP established grant process. The PNG BCF will be responsible for the review and approval of the grants following UNDP procedures.

adaptation and mitigation. It will include activities such as providing professional development, training, and upskilling programs, organizational strength training, peer exchange programs, mentorship programs, training on grant development process, financial management training and similar activities apart from climate change adaptation and mitigation proposals.

Strategic approach of the sixth call for proposals

This sixth call for proposal under the NZ Government Funding is addressing the need for capacity building of key local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to manage and implement biodiversity, climate, and economic development projects carried out in harmony with conservation objectives. This involves activities or initiatives focusing on institutional and organizational strengthening to equip key stakeholders with the knowledge, information, tools and support required to design projects, prepare project proposals, manage and monitor projects, and account for the funds. The overall objective being the increased capacity of key stakeholders particularly in most vulnerable provinces to eventually become grant recipients and to support efforts to increase their potential absorption of funds which ultimately contributes to *Outcome 5* of the Fund's Theory of Change. Initial training programs will be linked to helping prepare entities to request and manage funding for Protected Area (PA) management and climate change activities as well as initiatives to engage in sustainable development projects. However, it also broadens its interest to consider cross-cutting activities under Outcomes 3 and 4 that directly contribute to Outcome 5 (please see the Theory of Change above).

Specifically, the call for proposals considers proposals that include one or more of the following:



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: actions or initiatives that demonstrate climate change mitigation or adaptation outcomes such as reforestation, sustainable forest management practices, sustainable land use planning/spatial planning, building climate resilience or contribute to disaster risk reduction as well as innovative options for nature-based solutions and the inclusion of women and youth. Proposals should clearly demonstrate that they have the potential to become or are discreet projects by the end of the project activities.



Livelihood initiatives: Livelihood projects that contribute towards sustainable financing of PA management, biodiversity conservation and climate change outcomes as well as innovative options for nature-based solutions and the inclusion of women and youth. Initiatives that generate an income or in-kind contributions towards implementation of the country's conservation and climate change objectives would be considered favorable.



Research: Under this call for proposals, conducting research that aims to understand or solve an existing challenge or impediment to the increased capacity of local stakeholders within PA management, conservation and climate change and is considered if it is focused on a specific, applicable site. The research should be action-orientated and lead to an actual intervention at the site.



Capital expenses and equipment: Applications including equipment or capital expenditure costs are accepted but need to be clearly linked to institutional and organizational strength training and capacity building initiatives and demonstrate how it will be maintained beyond the funding period.

Capacity building: Capacity building of local stakeholders to manage and implement biodiversity, climate, and economic development projects carried out in harmony with conservation objectives. Capacity building activities should be site specific, action-orientated and based on capacity needs that will lead directly to institutional and organizational strengthening, increased knowledge, skills, information and tools required to design relevant projects, prepare project proposals, manage and monitor projects, and account for project funds as part of the overall aim to increase absorptive capacity.

Applicants are encouraged to articulate the following within the funding proposal:

- How proposed measures will actively protect and/or restore biodiversity and how results will be monitored.
- How women and youth are actively engaged and directly benefit from the project.
- How the actions will be continued beyond the period of the funding, to ensure sustainability.

Successful applicants will receive the following support from the Fund during the implementation of the project in addition to the grant:

- Training and mentoring in financial management to ensure applicants are able to manage and account for the grant funds received.
- Capacity building on the collection of geo-located conservation and biodiversity data, using the Lukim Gather mobile app, to improve biodiversity and management effectiveness monitoring in PNG protected areas.
- Support to produce digital maps using the PNG Biodiversity and Climate geo-portal to support the development and implementation of management plans.

Grant amount

The BCF will provide grants up to a maximum limit of PGK 350,000 (approximately USD 100,000) to be utilized and acquitted within 12 months of signature of grant agreements. The Fund aims to fund as many initiatives as possible within the funding window and will select applications based on their cost-effectiveness and impact. Applications should not exceed the established maximum amount and should demonstrate that the funds can be spent in the designated time period.



Duration

The implementation period is up to 12 months from the date of signing the grant agreement.

Who is eligible to apply?

Please read the eligibility criteria carefully. If your organization or site does not meet all the criteria, please do not submit an application. Your organization or site may be eligible for future calls for proposals.

Type of Organisation: In line with the BCF's grants manual and UNDP, locally registered non-governmental organizations or community-based organisations are eligible to apply. Public and private entities are not entitled to apply under this call for proposals. NGO's or CBO's must have legally existed and operated in Papua New Guinea for at least two years. The BCF actively supports partnerships and collaborations. Organisations based outside PNG may be proposal partners but may not be the lead organization. A copy of Investment Promotion Authority certificate will be required as evidence.

Existing BCF Grantees: An organization currently implementing a BCF grant may not apply for this call for proposals. If your organization applied for a grant under the first call and subsequent calls for proposals but were unsuccessful, you may apply, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and scope of fifth call for proposals.

Scope of the call for proposals: Proposals submitted that do not directly relate to the Strategic approach of this call for proposal will not be considered. If you are unsure whether your initiative meets the scope, please contact the BCF Secretariat directly. Please note, confirmation that the project meets the scope is not a guarantee of funding. The funding window is limited and the call for proposals is a competitive process.

Endorsement: At the full proposal stage the applying organization will be required to submit endorsement that this project is supported from both the proposed beneficiaries as well as relevant government entity.

NOTE: The BCF's due diligence requires us to screen the legal status of applicants. It is recommended to check that your application fully satisfies the screening procedures before submission.



Submission process

There is a two-stage submission process.

Stage 1: Submission of short Expression of Interest applications from eligible organisations. The template for the Expression of Interest is provided in Annex A.

At this stage, each applicant will be required to submit supporting documentation to demonstrate that your organization meets the eligibility and screening criteria. If your organization does not meet all the criteria, please do not proceed with a submission as it will not be considered beyond the pre-screening stage. Future calls for proposals will have different project and eligibility criteria. Initial criteria against which proposals will be determined eligible include the following:

- The lead organization is legally registered and operational for at least two years in Papua New Guinea. **A copy of Investment Promotion Authority certificate will be required.**
- The importance for capacity building, enhanced management and organizational training and development related directly to the grant recipient can be clearly communicated.

Stage 1 screening and selection: The Secretariat will screen applications according to a fully completed Expression of Interest (Appendix A) and eligibility criteria. Applications that meet the criteria will be invited to send one representative to a 'proposal development workshop' held in Port Moresby. This workshop will explain the proposal development process and will assist applicants to begin to formulate their proposal. Invitation to this workshop **does not imply or represent any commitment of funding.**

Stage 2: The full application template, guidance and required supporting documentation will be shared with successful Stage 1 applicants. Funding decisions will be subject to the Stage 2 selection process and final Board approval.

Timeline for submission process and dates

- Launch of call for proposals: 16th April 2025
- Opportunity for project development calls with the Secretariat team: 30th April – 05th May 2025
- Submission deadline for Stage 1 proposals: 7th May 2025
- Pre-screening by Fund Secretariat team: 19th May 2025
- Stage 2 full proposal workshop: Port Moresby – 9th June 2025. (Only successful stage 1 applicants will be invited to attend)
- Submission deadline for Stage 2 full proposals: **7th July 2025**

The Secretariat is available for a one-on-one zoom meeting to discuss your project idea and provide some guidance on the application process.

Information on Call for Proposals, and detailed requirements can be found at BCF site:

[Grants and Opportunities - PNG Biodiversity Climate Fund \(pngbcf.org\)](http://pngbcf.org)

Applicants should send the set of documents via email to admin@pngbcf.org with the following subject: 'Call for Proposals for BCF'

All inquiries should be addressed to admin@pngbcf.org.

Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. The UNDP reserves the right to reject the application without any explanations.

IMPORTANT: Please note that projects are evaluated based on their technical merit and the cost-effectiveness of their budget. Some of the criteria that the Funds' Board will use in deciding whether full proposals are approved are:

- **Eligibility:** projects, activities and outcomes must meet eligibility criteria under the terms of the call for proposals;
- **Project Impact:** evidence that the project will deliver one or more important climate mitigation or adaptation outcomes;
- **Viability:** evidence that the expected outcomes are likely to be achieved within the budget and timeframe, and that proposed activities are within the competence of the applicant;
- **Sustainability:** evidence that critical elements of the project have the potential to become or are discreet projects by the end of the PNG BCF funding support;
- **Engagement:** evidence of local community or stakeholder benefit, ownership, contribution and participation;
- **Inclusivity:** evidence that the interests of vulnerable or targeted groups (including traditional landowners, women, youth, elderly, etc.) will be safeguarded or advanced;
- **Integrity:** absence of conflict of interest on the part of project implementers and a determination that they will implement necessary safeguards to avoid potential conflicts arising from project activities;
- **Compliance:** evidence that the project will not have any adverse environmental and social impacts, or where they exist, mitigation measures are sufficient to reduce any environmental or social risk.

Ineligible actions

- Actions that do not contribute to a key biodiversity area or involve a nature-based approach;
- Activities with potentially significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that, individually or cumulatively, are hard to mitigate or reverse or are unlikely to be mitigated or reversed;
- Activities with potentially significant adverse impacts on vulnerable groups, particularly with respect to displacement, loss of livelihoods or cultural resources, which are unlikely to be compensated to the satisfaction of those affected;
- Activities which do not provide potentially impacted stakeholders, in particular vulnerable groups, opportunities to participate in consultation and decision-making during the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities;
- Activities with potentially significantly adverse impact on sites of significant archaeological, cultural or religious importance;
- Activities which do not have any measurable conservation or climate benefits, or which will not contribute to improved conservation and climate outcomes.



Appendix A: Expression of Interest Template - Stage 1

Name of the applying organisation and its legal address.

Name and position of applicant.

Email address and contact details of applicant (phone number, website, facebook page, if any).

Name and contact details of alternative contact person:

Organisation's history and mission (Provide a brief description of your organization's history, mission, including experience relevant to the proposed project)

Title of the project (for example: "Institutional Strengthening of XXXX").

Project duration (start and end date of project; approximate duration of your project's expected start and end date).

Project Location (provide a map if possible).

Summary of the project

(The Project Summary should describe the project context, including the key environmental problem to be addressed, and the proposed approach, including the rationale/justification for the project. **Rational/justification** should cover areas of current threats, challenges, issues you attempt to address or improve, past interventions and include a brief description of why your organisation is best suited to undertake this project. This section should describe a profile of the project site, as well as the target community (ies) involved, and the specific outcomes expected from the project).

Proposed Approach of the project (main goal, objectives and activities).

Project Impacts (describe the expected results of your proposed project).

Target (*Describe the target group and indicate the benefits that it will receive from the implementation of your application. Please ensure that the target group is gender- sensitive, indicate the number of men and women who will directly benefit from this application*)

Project Risks (identify and list the major risk factors that could result in the project not producing the expected results). Please include a risk rating and mitigation measures.

Risk	Risk rating*	Mitigation measures

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Project Partners and Stakeholders (Identify and list all partners who will be directly involved in implementing the project and describe their anticipated role).

Proposed budget (in PGK, please provide a breakdown of your proposed budget. The purchase of equipment and capital expenditure may not exceed 50% of the total requested grant, admin/overhead is limited to 7% of the total requested grant).

General Category of Expenditures	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expense
Personnel		
Transportation		
Premises		
Training, Workshops, etc.		
Contracts (e.g., Audit)		
Equipment/Furniture (Specify)		
Other [Specify]		
Miscellaneous		
TOTAL		