

This document will be updated continuously so please check back regularly to see answers. Questions can be submitted using [this form](#) and will be answered in this document within 72 business hours.

Clarification Questions

Are the Pacific Islands countries eligible in this call? Thank you

Yes we would welcome applications from this region.

Do the concept notes need to address modern slavery, migration etc?

No, this is not required and will not have a bearing on the evaluation.

What size funding is available? And do you have a guide on the amounts we should propose for our project?

Good question, thank you. We anticipate the highest cost-to-impact projects receiving the higher end of funding, which is currently capped at \$1m per initiative. However we also want to fund a large number of other initiatives with lower funding levels, all the way down to a few thousand.

Our goal is to achieve the highest possible impact for cost across a range of initiatives. That means at the Concept Note stage, it is less important to propose a definite amount. Instead we would encourage you to propose the cost structure at various scale points. This will then allow us to assess your concept note for inclusion in the programme at various scales and costs - maximising your chances of funding and inclusion.

Is it better if I apply as an organisation or an individual if I have a concept note?

If you are an individual without an organisation sponsoring/partnering with your concept note, we recommend you apply as an *individual with a concept note*. Whether you are partnered with an organisation is unlikely to have an impact on our assessment of the merits of the concept itself.

Does it make sense to present a proposal for a project in Portugal? Is Portugal considered a middle or high income country?

Portugal is considered a high-income country by global standards.

We welcome Concept Notes in high-income countries for the following categories:

- Low carbon regenerative plant-based agriculture and/or Biocyclic Farming
- Industrial Vermicomposting
- Permanent carbon sequestration
- Supporting populations to adopt low-animal product diets
- Removing plastic from supply chains
- Mobilising communities for environmental initiatives
- Low-tech water desalination
- Moonshots

However, the most important evaluation criteria for all concept notes is the initiative's impact-to-cost ratio. So if your concept is in a category not mentioned above but it has a high impact-to-cost ratio, then the chances of it receiving funding are much higher and you may wish to submit the Concept Note on that basis.

Is there a standard format for concepts notes?

No, there is no standard format. However each category clearly lists the page limit and minimum questions to answer.

How much budget for organisational concept notes?

Funding up to \$1m is available. However at this stage we ask you where relevant to provide indicative cost structures at different levels of scale. This will in practice, give your organisation more chance of funding.

What is the anticipated project period?

It depends on the amount, generally the higher the amount the more timeframe restrictions we have passed on from our funders. So the larger amounts are likely restricted to two year projects

Is there a provision for co funding?

We welcome concept notes that are already partly funded by other sources.

Call states "Organisations that progress to the next stage may need to undergo a more extensive due diligence assessment prior to funding agreements being signed." Can you kindly provide details on this due diligence process, including all areas of inquiry (to ensure this is allowed according to our internal by-laws)?

Our funders, banks and various laws require us to ensure that organisations we fund are 'fit and proper'. This is standard process in the industry and we conduct due diligence in a risk-based way where for example, the size of the grant/contract; size of the organisation; and brand of the organisation are key factors in determining the risk level and need for due diligence.

Due diligence may not be required where the applicant can demonstrate they have completed a similar process with a well known funder already.

Noting due diligence is risk-based, it can include:

- Ensuring that appropriate policies are in place, such as procurement, financial management, harassment etc
- Financial or credit checks to confirm solvency
- Not funding terrorism or money laundering and/or has processes in place to ensure it does not do this
- Its directors and members have not been convicted of, or been publicly linked to, criminal activity.

To elaborate further on the risk-based approach, we offer these broad examples:

- A large well known organisation will need to submit to very little due diligence.
- A small unknown organisation seeking a small grant and not intending to procure services will only require basic due diligence.
- A small or medium sized organisation seeking a larger grant may require a higher level of due diligence.

There are few circumstances where a due diligence process results in exclusion. Instead, a poor result in the due diligence process is more likely to result in a higher level of support and oversight on issues such as project financial reporting.

Are United Nations organizations eligible to apply for these grants? Thanks!

Yes.

Under the category 'Mobilising communities for environmental initiatives', would you consider concepts from organisations that have the ability to mobilise communities as well as existing partnerships to enable environmental initiatives (i.e. matching with other applicants would not be necessary to achieve the impact stated)?

Yes absolutely provided the environment initiative(s) explicitly fits in one of the categories of the call. If you do not believe the initiative does, then we suggest you submit in the 'mobilising communities' category referencing your experience on environment initiatives. This will ensure you are not excluded from that category.

Under the 'How it can be scaled' requirement for the concept note, what are the ways in which you would look for an organisation to scale?

This is up to your organisation to describe, and the method will of course be different for each category and initiative. A good description of how to scale might include references to the land the organisation has access to; any environmental restrictions and opportunities; the technology and costs; or the unique methodology.

Some initiatives by their nature may not be scalable, which is okay provided they still have a high-impact-to-cost ratio.

Would you consider concepts submitted in one category that also has element(s) of other categories?

Yes. Organisations can also submit multiple applications, including multiple applications per category.

Would you consider a concept that could be implemented by the applicant in more than one country?

Yes.

What about Institutions that have not created a web page yet. Are they still eligible to apply?

Yes organisations without a website are eligible.

Please define further the high - impact to cost ratio, and what are the key indicators for it

This is an assessment of the Concept Note's cost to achieve each [stated or derived] unit of impact, taking account of the unique approach of each concept.

Evaluation time for concept notes?

This will depend on the volume and complexity of responses.

Any preferred outline template for the concept note

No, there is no standard format. However each category clearly lists the page limit and minimum questions to answer.

Any preference for budget allocations for general concept? how detailed it should be?

Our preference is to provide costs for various levels of scale. The budget does not need to be more detailed than this.

We are an established registered company, with an interest to upscale. We want to develop/legitimize a small-scale composting farm to a mid-size business. Kindly advise on the best legal form to apply in given that the farmer's current business is not yet established legally, but well established technically? Can we represent the farmer's initiative as it is still an individual non-formal activity?

At this stage the entity structure is not very important, provided you make clear in the Concept Note all of the parties involved.

How many applications from the concept note phase are going to be selected for the next proposal development phase?

This will depend entirely on the composition, volume and diversified impact of the Concept Notes.

Would you recommend having a European partner for North - South collaboration?

This is not required.

Are there more detailed eligibility criteria for lead partners in consortium?

The eligibility criteria are listed on page 14 of the Call for Concept Notes.