



Global EbA Fund

8th Call for Proposals for Small-Size Grants



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Contents

What is the Global EbA Fund?	2
Small-size grants call for proposals	3
<i>Funding and duration</i>	3
<i>Background</i>	3
<i>Scope of the call</i>	4
<i>Expected outcomes</i>	5
<i>Target grantees</i>	5
<i>Important dates and information</i>	6
<i>Endnotes</i>	6

What is the Global EbA Fund?

The Global EbA Fund aims to create an enabling environment for the implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

The Global EbA Fund has been operational since 2020 and supports innovative initiatives that create enabling environments for the uptake, scaling, and mainstreaming of the EbA approach. As of June 2026, the Fund has supported 75 projects across 41 countries, with 29 projects completed and 46 currently at various stages of implementation. Funded projects address a wide range of barriers to EbA –including financial, governance, knowledge, and awareness-related gaps. The current portfolio spans diverse ecosystems and landscapes, including coastal and marine areas, drylands, grasslands, forests, mountains, urban areas, river basins, and wetlands, demonstrating the broad applicability of EbA approaches across different environmental and socio-economic contexts.

The Fund aims to finance innovative approaches to overcome systemic barriers to upscaling EbA through three strategic objectives and three action pillars (Fig 1).



Figure 1. Global EbA Fund Strategic Objectives and Action Pillars

Small-size grants call for proposals

Funding and duration

- **Grant Size:** 10 grants up to USD 250,000.
- **Project Duration:** between 18 to 24 months.

Background

As climate change impacts escalate globally and nature remains under pressure from unsustainable practices, the need to adapt becomes increasingly imperative to ensure socioeconomic development, water, and food security. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) offers a robust, comprehensive approach to reducing the climate vulnerability of both people and nature through the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of ecosystems.

Although there are many EbA initiatives worldwide, this call will focus specifically on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

- **SIDS** are a distinct group of 39 states characterised by small landmasses, remoteness, close interlinkages of ecosystems, oceans, people, and cultures (Secretariat of the CBD, 2014ⁱ). They are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and are increasingly affected by the growing frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, storm

surges, temperature rise, heatwaves, droughts, coastal and riverine flooding, changing precipitation patterns, and sea level rise, among others.

- **LDCs** are a group of 44 states widely affected by climate impacts due to their limited capacity to recover from climate stresses and their economies are highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. While LDCs contribute less than 4% of global emissions, they bear some of the most severe climate impacts (UNCTAD, 2024ⁱⁱ).

These countries are among the most vulnerable to intensifying climate risks, yet they frequently face severe institutional and financial constraints to driving effective climate action. Key barriers to impactful adaptation include insufficient data and evidence generation, as well as capacity gaps that limit their ability to translate national priorities into bankable investment pipelines. Furthermore, many of these nations experience limited success in mobilizing private sector investments and partnerships required to sustain and scale these efforts (NDC Partnership, 2025ⁱⁱⁱ).

Despite this urgent need, SIDS and LDCs continue to receive a disproportionately small share of global adaptation finance. This shortfall is particularly critical because their local economies remain deeply dependent on natural resources and functional terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, which are further compromised by unsustainable management and accelerating climate impacts (Adeoti et al., 2020^{iv}).

Scope of the call

The Global EbA Fund invites innovative and catalytic proposals that address systemic barriers for EbA scaling¹ by enhancing institutional and technical capacities, quality data and evidence generation, learning networks, and investment readiness.

Aligned with the [IKI Strategy up to 2030](#) –specifically its focus on socio-ecological transformation through technologies, business models, or climate friendly infrastructure– the Fund invites proposals that address critical EbA gaps.

While the primary geographic focus on this call is on **ODA-eligible SIDS and LDCs**, applications from other ODA-eligible² countries will be considered where the proposal demonstrates exceptional ambition and unique opportunities to scale EbA.

To align with this scope, proposals should focus on:

- Overcoming upstream barriers for EbA uptake and scaling: addressing institutional and technical capacity constraints, improving evidence generation, and fostering systematic knowledge exchange and learning.
- Clear adaptation chain: Proposals must be grounded in a detailed impact chain analysis that identifies climate hazards and risks, addresses socioeconomic and ecological sensitivity (including maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services), and

¹ **Scaling** refers to expanding successfully tested EbA solutions, replicating proven approaches across new sectors, geographic regions, or country settings, as well as integrating them across administrative levels. It encompasses driving systemic impact through institutionalization, increased financing, and the introduction of new implementation pathways or financial instruments.

² ODA (Official Development Assistance) is an internationally recognised measure of public development performance agreed in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Only services to countries included in the DAC country list are eligible for ODA. The country list is regularly revised by the DAC.

builds adaptive capacity to reduce overall vulnerability and climate risk –delivering tangible benefits for both people and nature.

- Social and Environmental Considerations: Integration of gender responsiveness; respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and local participation; and adherence to environmental and social safeguards, equitable benefit-sharing, and the prevention of maladaptation.
- Robust sustainability and exit strategies: demonstrating long-term viability, local ownership, or institutional continuity beyond the Fund's investment lifecycle.

Initiatives focusing on the following topics are encouraged:

- Investment readiness and project pipeline preparation: designing investable, scalable concepts tailored for large-scale climate financing.
- Innovative technologies for EbA: adapting and/or scaling tested technological solutions across specific socio-ecological systems to inform practitioners and decisionmakers³.
- Applied and functional research: deploying targeted and practical research to resolve specific barriers to EbA implementation and investment.
- Synergies with other EbA or Nature-based Solution (NbS) initiatives: aligning with existing related initiatives and facilities to capitalize on operational synergies and expand co-funding pathways.

Expected outcomes

A successful project will facilitate strengthening the enabling environment to make changes towards EbA uptake and investment –mainly in SIDS and LDCs.

- Facilitate EbA scaling in highly vulnerable countries through catalytic small grants.
- Strengthened locally led EbA interventions and documented replication pathways through targeted knowledge management and exchange.
- Enhanced technical and institutional readiness to unlock policy uptake, build investment-ready concepts, and narrow the adaptation finance gap.
- Expanding the network of EbA expertise among practitioners across diverse sectors and geographies through dedicated projects, contributing to a global community of practice.

Target grantees

The Global EbA Fund seeks to catalyse new partnerships and collaborations and unlikely matches between new and non-traditional partners. The Fund seeks to reach out beyond traditional conservation actors and constituencies to attract all actors and constituencies relevant to EbA and climate change adaptation. The Fund seeks diverse applicants with relevant experience and presence to support addressing specific gaps in EbA implementation and uptake. Categories of eligible recipients include:

- International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)

³ Aligned with Technologies for Adaptation under the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme.

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Community-based organisations (CBOs)
- Indigenous People's Organisations
- Universities and other academic institutions
- Research institutes and think tanks
- Private sector companies and specialized organizations working on climate change adaptation.

Priority will be given to organizations operating in ODA-eligible SIDS⁴ and LDCs⁵. For projects with country-level activities a consortium with one or more local organizations is required with at least 25% of the budget allocated to local partners, subject to full compliance with all standards and due diligence requirements. These partnerships should demonstrate clear mechanisms for capacity transfer, shared decision-making, and long-term institutional strengthening to foster local ownership, sustainability, and effective knowledge transfer. Government entities, as well as IUCN and UNEP offices can be a part of the consortia as long as they do not receive funding from the Global EbA Fund.

Important dates and information

Official Launch of the Call for Proposal: **24 August 2026**

- Application forms and details are available on the Global EbA Fund website.

Submissions accepted through the online platform: **28 September to 26 October 2026**

- The application form is for drafting purposes only – all applications must be submitted on the online platform.
- We strongly encourage applicants to work on the application form offline before transferring the application to the online platform for submission.

Please read through the **Grants Procedures Manual** before applying.

Endnotes

ⁱ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014). *Island Biodiversity – Island Bright Spots in Conservation & Sustainability*. <https://www.cbd.int/idb/image/2014/idb-2014-booklet.pdf>

ⁱⁱ UNCTAD (2024) *Least developed countries report 2024 – Leveraging carbon markets for development*. <https://unctad.org/publication/least-developed-countries-report-2024>

⁴ OECD DAC identifies 32 SIDS as [ODA-eligible](#): Belize, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Montserrat, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

⁵ OECD DAC identifies 44 LDCs as [ODA-eligible](#): Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

ⁱⁱⁱ NDC Partnership. (2025, November 10). *Country-led approaches: A pathway to scaling adaptation finance*. <https://ndcpartnership.org/news/country-led-approaches-pathway-scaling-adaptation-finance>.

^{iv} Adeoti, T., Fantini, C., Morgan, G. *et al.* (2020). **Infrastructure for Small Island Developing States**. UNOPS, Copenhagen, Denmark. [https://content.unops.org/publications/Infrastructure SIDS EN.pdf](https://content.unops.org/publications/Infrastructure%20SIDS%20EN.pdf)