

GLOBAL EbA FUND

Small Grant:

Funding and duration

- Grant Size: each grant up to USD 250,000
- Submission Window: 28 September to 26 October, 2026
- Project Duration: up to 24 months

<https://globalebafund.org/small-size-grants/>

Medium Grant:

Funding and duration

- Grant Size: each grant up to USD 500,000
- Submission Window: 12 October to 16 November 2026
- Project Duration: up to 24 months

<https://globalebafund.org/medium-size-grants/>

Grants Procedure Manual — Summary

Full document available on this link: <https://globalebafund.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Global-EbA-Fund-Grants-Procedure-Manual.pdf>

Disclaimer: Potential applicants should consult the full Grant Procedure Manual

1. About the Fund

The Global Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA Fund), implemented by IUCN and UNEP with funding from Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI/BMUKN), is a funding mechanism for catalytic, innovative, and inclusive projects that aim 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

Strategic Objectives (choose one)

- Objective 1: Build awareness, evidence, and institutional capacity to mainstream EbA into national plans and policy.
- Objective 2: Close governance and regulatory gaps to make EbA more attractive and feasible to scale.
- Objective 3: Expand sustainable finance and private-sector investment for EbA.

Action Pillars (choose up to two -see rules below)

- Pillar 1 – Levers for catalytic change: policy instruments, education/capacity building, financing mechanisms, or value-chain interventions.
- Pillar 2 – Functional Data and Science: evidence-driven work (risk assessments, modelling, cost-benefit analysis, MEL frameworks).
- Pillar 3 – Innovation for Adaptation: untested approaches, tools, or partnerships with strong scaling potential.

Rule: projects may select two options within Pillar 1, OR one Pillar-1 option plus Pillar 2 or 3 — never Pillar 2 and 3 together. Projects must not focus primarily on field implementation; field activities are allowed only if clearly justified.

2. Selection Criteria & Eligibility

What Gets Funded

- Creates an enabling environment for EbA, aligned with FEBA's 5 EbA Qualification Criteria: (1) reduces climate vulnerability, (2) generates societal benefits, (3) restores/improves ecosystem health, (4) is policy-linked at multiple levels, (5) supports equitable, gender-responsive governance.
- Delivers catalytic or innovative impact rather than routine implementation.
- Adds value to / scales existing work — not a standalone field project.
- Includes a costed sustainability and exit strategy from the outset.

Grant Size & Duration

Grant Size	Max Fund Contribution	Max Duration
Small-size	USD 250,000	24 months
Mid-size	USD 500,000	24 months

Who Can Apply

NGOs, INGOs, IGOs, community-based and Indigenous Peoples' organisations, universities, research institutes, private-sector companies, and consortia (may include government partners as non-funded members). Local/community organisations are strongly encouraged to apply.

- Not eligible for direct funding: government entities and UNEP/IUCN offices (sub-granting to either is also prohibited).
- Private sector applicants: only for strictly non-profit, non-income-generating project activities.
- Geographic scope: country-specific projects must target ODA-eligible countries (OECD-DAC list); regional, multi-country, and global-focus projects are also eligible.
- Projects rated High-Risk under the Fund's Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) are not eligible.

3. Applying, Selection & Award

Application Package

- Eligibility screening questionnaire
- Due Diligence & Financial Capacity Questionnaire + governing documents
- Application Form (small- or mid-size template), incl. theory of change, logical framework (1 outcome, ideally 1–2 outputs, max 4; ≤5 activities/output) with ≥3 indicators from the Fund's Core Indicator Framework
- Detailed budget (Excel template), signed Applicant Declaration (+ Co-Applicant mandate for consortia)
- Gender analysis input and CVs of key personnel — all documents in English

Review, Award & Disbursement

Applications are reviewed by expert reviewers; shortlisted applicants submit an ESMS questionnaire and remaining due-diligence documents before signing the Global EbA Fund Grantee Agreement (IUCN signs first).

- Disbursement: 30% on signature; further instalments twice yearly (with interim financial/narrative reports due 15 Jan & 15 Jul, once 80% of the prior tranche is spent); ≥10% withheld until final financial/audit report is accepted (due within 90 days of project end).
- Reporting: 6-monthly narrative + financial reports; final report within 30 days of project end; Core Indicator reporting annually by 15 January.

4. Administrative & Legal Requirements

- Legal status: recipients must be a recognised legal entity able to contract in its own name.
- Accounting: software-based system, dedicated/outsourced accounting staff, and traceable staff time-recording.
- Eligible expenditures: indispensable, verifiable, and within the project period; ineligible items include undocumented costs, expenses outside the grant period, and business/first-class flights.
- Controls & audit: internal controls required; an external audit of Fund-financed expenditure is mandatory and must be budgeted.
- Compliance: grantees adhere to IUCN's Code of Conduct, Anti-fraud/Anti-corruption Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Whistleblowing Policy; an ESMS Grievance Mechanism is available for concerns.
- Procurement: goods/services purchased with grant funds must follow IUCN's Policy and Procedure on Procurement of Goods and Services.

This is a condensed summary for quick reference. The binding version is the full Grants Procedure Manual at www.GlobalEbAFund.org