Kunming Biodiversity Fund - Call for Proposals 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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What is the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF)

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) is a multi-partner trust fund administered by the United Nations to support developing country Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The fund is designed to help developing countries accelerate the development and implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) was established through a partnership between China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Supported by a pledged contribution of ¥1.5 billion (approximately US$220 million at the time of the agreement) from the Government of China, the Fund assists developing countries in accelerating and scaling up actions under their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

It also promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to biodiversity conservation, fostering broad stakeholder engagement and integrated efforts to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Who can apply for funding?

The submission of proposals is to be made through UN Participating Organizations (PUNOs). The list of eligible UN agencies can be found on this link – MPTFO Gateway. Through these UN agencies, governments, NGOs, and communities participate in the call for proposals.

Why is KBF launching a 2026 Call for Proposals?

Although momentum for biodiversity action has grown worldwide, progress is still falling short of what is needed to deliver the ambitions of the KMGBF. Assessments show that improvements in financing, capacity development, technology transfer, and scientific collaboration have not yet translated into the transformative change required. Persistent gaps in governance, whole-of-government and whole-of-society implementation, and biodiversity data and monitoring systems continue to hinder effective and accelerated action.

What can the KBF fund in this call for proposals?

Country-level or sub-national implementation of the KMGBF and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Align to the Global Review of Collective Progress (latest draft) in the Implementation of the KMGBF.

Projects which contribute to multiple thematic areas will be viewed favourably. Details on thematic areas are described in greater detail in the guideline.

1) Restoring and protecting ecosystems to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services
2) Mainstreaming biodiversity effectively into policies, regulations, planning and strategies
3) Strengthening resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation
4) Sharing benefits from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources

What is the maximum project budget for a proposal?

- Single-country projects: up to **$500,000**
- Multi-country (regional) projects: up to **$800,000**

What is the project duration?

Project duration can be between 12 and 24 months.

How many projects will be funded?

The exact number will depend on the Executive Councils for final approval of projects.

What is the submission timeline?

Project proposals can be submitted on the following deadlines:

- 1st deadline: 15 September 2026 — approved projects announced/launched during COP 17
- 2nd deadline: 15 November 2026 — reviewed later in the year; evaluation and announcement completed within the current calendar year

The two stages are separate. In Stage 1, applicants submit full project proposals together with the budget using the templates made available. This will be reviewed and the outcomes announced at the COP17.
In Stage 2, the same steps and process used in stage one will be followed.

There is no concept of note stage under this call.

Is there a limit on the number of project proposals that a participating UN Agency (PUNO) can submit?

The Guidelines do not establish a formal limit on the number of proposals that a UN agency or institution may submit.

However, the Executive Council determines the annual budget allocation and the approximate number of project proposals that can be supported each year.

There is no formal cap on the number of submissions; agencies are strongly advised to ensure that only their highest-quality proposals are put forward.

Are there other important requirements for project proposals?

Yes.

All proposals should be supported by an endorsement letter(s) signed by the CBD national focal point or Designated Official in the Lead Ministry and submitted together with Project Proposal. Endorsement letters from multiple ministries are an advantage. For multi-country projects, each country should provide an endorsement letter.

What are the application requirements?

The project should be relevant to at least one of the Thematic Areas (Annex 1) and respond to the findings of the Global Review

Projects should provide complete project information requested in the template of full project proposal (Annex 2).

Projects must fit within the indicated duration and budget windows and provide a clear budget breakdown in the template （Annex 3).

The proposed project should be compliant with criteria of the Risk Management Strategy of the KBF (Annex 4).

The project must be co-developed between the country and any United Nations Participating Organization of the country's choice to implement the project. For this Call for Proposals, the KBF will only directly fund UN agencies. Beneficiary countries will access funding through the participating UN organization. Non-UN Organizations may be considered sub-partners in all proposals, as appropriate. The programme support costs (PSC) of the participating agency should be no more than seven percent (7%).

All proposals should be supported by an endorsement letter(s) signed by the CBD national focal point or Designated Official in the Lead Ministry and submitted together with Project Proposal. Endorsement letters from multiple ministries are an advantage. For multi-country projects, each country should provide an endorsement letter.

Proposals that do not meet these requirements will not be evaluated

How are proposals reviewed?

The KBF Secretariat conducts initial assessments to ensure that criteria outlined in the guidelines are met.
It then carries out a completeness review against the project proposal outlines before the Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG) carries out the technical review. All project proposals will be evaluated against feasibility in the context of the countries the project intends to target. It will also be assessed against project management cycle guidelines like sustainability, alignment, risks management, rationale, project logic, and how it addresses the gaps and challenges identified.
The recommended list of reviewed project proposals are then submitted to the Executive Council (EC) for final review and approval.

Applicants may be invited to present or clarify their proposals before final selection.

Who makes the final funding decision?

The KBF Executive Council (EC) makes the final decision. And the possible outcomes of an application are as follows:

- Approval
- Approval with recommendations — proponents must demonstrate within 14 days how they will incorporate the recommendations (no re-submission required)
- Rejection

Can I check the status of my application during the review?

No. The KBF Secretariat does not respond to status or feedback requests during the review process. Nominated focal points will be notified of the EC's final decision by email.

Where can I find the full application guidelines?

All documents are available on the following link:

Funding call for proposals | MPTF Office

2026 Call for Proposals — Kunming Biodiversity Fund

Who do I contact with questions?

You can send your questions/ queries to kbf@un.org