

Mountains ADAPT

Small Grants Funding Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

⇒ Eligibility

Who can apply for the grant? Civil society organizations, preferably grassroots, community-based, youth or women organizations delivering, among others, community-based actions to adapt to climate change impacts in mountain communities of the East African Community and the South Caucasus.

Are individuals eligible, or only registered organizations? Only registered organizations are eligible to apply.

Do organizations need to be formally registered to qualify? Yes. Only formally registered organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants must upload their official registration certificate as part of the application form. If selected, the organization will also need to have an official bank account (not a personal/individual) to receive the funds.

Are there geographic or thematic restrictions (e.g., only organizations in certain regions or working on specific issues)? Yes. Eligible organizations must demonstrate experience working directly with the benefiting mountain community. Applicants should also show proven capacity to implement the proposed projects. A strong experience in implementing adaptation and/or environmental activities will be considered an asset during the evaluation process.

Do organizations need to have prior experience implementing international funds? No, organizations only need to demonstrate prior experience working with and in projects benefiting mountain communities, not necessarily from international funding sources.

⇒ Application Process

How to apply for the grant? Applicants must complete and submit the full application form available at [this link](#).

What documents are required with the application? Applicants must submit the organization's valid registration certificate. Additionally, if selected, applicant must present official banking details of the organization (must coincide with the organization's registry) and the national ID card or passport of the organization's legal representative.

Is there an application deadline? Yes, only applications received before **15th September 2026** at 11:59 pm (East African Time/South Caucasus Time) will be considered.

Can applications be submitted in languages other than English? Yes. Application form can also be accessed and filled in any of the following languages: Armenian, Azerbaijani, French, Georgian and Kiswahili.

⇒ Funding Details

What is the maximum and minimum grant amount available? The maximum grant amount available is USD 30,000. There is no defined minimum amount. However, applicants are encouraged to request sufficient funding to implement substantive, nature-based solutions and on-the-ground activities.

What kind of solutions can be proposed? Projects should empower local communities, respond to identified climate risks and impacts through ecosystem-based approaches and/or implementing Nature-based Solutions to, for example, restore ecosystems, harvest rain water, climate-smart agriculture, disaster preparedness, diversifying incomes among other. You can get some inspirations from the Booklets: [Mountains ADAPT: Solutions from East Africa](#) and the [Mountains ADAPT: Solutions from the South Caucasus](#)

What types of expenses can the grant cover? Grant funds may be used to cover a wide range of eligible expenses, including staff and hired experts' salaries, equipment and materials, training and capacity-building activities, operational and administrative costs, other project-related expenses directly tied to implementation.

Are there restrictions on how the funds can be used? All expenditures must: align closely with the approved project idea, be well justified in the application, demonstrate efficiency and sustainability in implementation.

The budget cannot include any direct salary payments or allowances to government officials (including local municipality representatives), in line with UNEP financial rules and regulations. Involvement of local officials in project activities (e.g., facilitation, oversight) can be included, but it must be covered through in-kind collaboration or government co-financing, and it should not involve direct payments from SGFS grants.

Is co-funding required? Co-funding is not a mandatory requirement. However, projects that have existing or anticipated co-funding (for example, from a local municipality or other partners) will be considered an asset during the selection process.

⇒ Selection Criteria

How will applications be evaluated? Applications will go through the simple eligibility screening phase to ensure they comply with the Eligibility Criteria (see more details in the Annexes section). After pre-screening, applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee using the **Evaluation Matrix** attached to the Annexes section.

What are the key criteria for selection? The key selection criteria are the proposed solution's relevance to local climate vulnerabilities, technical feasibility, inclusivity (gender/youth/etc.), innovation/scaling potential, community ownership and participation, safeguard compliance and sustainability (see more details in the Annexes section).

Who makes the final decision on grant awards? Selection Committees in the South Caucasus and East African Community will evaluate all shortlisted projects and makes funding decisions (see more details in the Annexes section).

Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback? Each applicant will receive a notification of outcome on whether the proposal was selected or not. Unsuccessful applications will also receive feedback.

⇒ **Implementation and Reporting**

What happens after successful projects are identified? Selected organizations will be asked to develop a detailed implementation plan, including key milestones and timelines. Grantees' capacities will be assessed, and tailored capacity-building support will be provided to ensure projects are technically sound, inclusive, and align with UNEP's social and environmental standards and safeguards.

What reporting requirements will grantees have? Grantees must report according to the defined timeline in their implementation plan. Reports should include: evidence of progress against milestones, budget spending and financial records, visual materials (e.g., photos, videos) documenting activities.

How often must progress reports be submitted? Two narrative and financial reports are required: A mid-term report and a final report upon completion of project activities. Other complementary monitoring activities can be requested as agreed during the development of the implementation plan.

Are site visits or audits part of the monitoring process? Projects will be randomly selected for field monitoring visits. Selected projects will be closely monitored to ensure compliance and accountability.

⇒ **Timeline**

When will successful applicants be notified? Third quarter 2026.

When should the project implementation start? Fourth quarter 2026.

What is the grant implementation period? 12 months.

⇒ **Support**

Is there technical assistance available during the application process? For technical assistance or any clarifications, please contact UNEP project team at unep-mountainsadapt@un.org

Will training or capacity building be provided to grantees? Yes. Tailored capacity-building support will be provided to grantees after their capacity needs are assessed.