

GEF SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME GHANA

2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GUIDELINES

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has received core funds under the GEF-8 to support Ghana to implement its priority programmes. Accordingly, the GEF-SGP announces the 2026 "Call for Proposals" to award grants to a maximum of US\$30,000 to Civil Society Organizations and Community-Based Groups for the most innovative initiatives in the following GEF Strategic Initiative Areas:

- i. Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- ii. Sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food security
- iii. Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
- iv. Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management
- v. Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions through CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

The priority geographic areas are communities along the Black Volta Basin, particularly in the Wa-West district (Upper West Region), Banda district (Bono region), Bole, Sawla-Tuna-Kalba districts and the Central Gonja Municipal (Savannah Region).

The objective of this call for proposals is to support community-driven initiatives in the Black Volta Basin to address environmental challenges while promoting sustainable development and social inclusion. In addition, the GEF-SGP will provide strategic services to civil society and community organizations by enhancing their institutional, technical and financial capacities; develop platforms and networks; and expand partnerships and resource mobilization for scaling up.

Eligibility:

Applicants must:

- be local non-governmental or non-profit organizations operating in Ghana with valid Registrar General's Department and Social Welfare certificates; or
 - be a community group/ community-based organization, and/or social enterprise organizations recognized by the relevant District Assemblies and Environmental Protection Authority of Ghana;
- have at least two years of relevant experience and proven records in working with communities and groups in environmental, forestry and or agricultural related activities and should be based or already have a working presence in the Black Volta Basin landscape.

Submitted project proposals should:

- succinctly describe the problems related to the geographic area;
- explain how the proposed project objectives, outputs and activities would have a concrete impact and contribute towards the achievements of the identified problems;

- demonstrate how the project is aligned to the targets and objectives of the SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS);
- show that projects are innovative, impactful and sustainable.

Call for proposal process

The GEF-SGP “call for proposal” will follow **three steps** in the selection of the best proposal:

Discovery

- The call is open to all Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) registered to operate in Ghana, including Community-Based Organizations. All interested CSOs are to submit applications using the Proposal Template
- An internal team will meet to review the submitted proposals based on the eligibility criteria as indicated in the call for proposals guidelines.

Selection

- The Project Proposal (PP) template specifies the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of the Proposals.
- All submitted proposals will be reviewed and evaluated against the eligibility criteria. Only qualified and shortlisted proposals will be considered for the GEF SGP funding. The shortlisted project proposals will be reviewed for final selection and endorsement by the National Steering Committee (NSC), and the qualified applicants will be notified accordingly.

The scoring criteria is described below:

Simplified Technical Proposal	The criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of the Proposals are as follows:	
	Criteria	Points
	Adequacy of the Technical Approach and methodology	
	i. Alignment to the corresponding Priority Area as indicated in the call for proposal (CfP).	50
	ii. Clear definition of the problem as identified in the project area.	
	iii. Quality, clarity, and linkages between the identified issues and opportunities, and the objectives proposed to tackle them.	
	iv. Solutions (strategies) proposed related to the identified problems.	
	v. Work plan to implement the project strategies	
	vi. Monitoring and evaluation system	
	vii. Potential for scaling-up the results after grant completion	
	Institutional Capacity	
	i. At least 2 years experience in undertaking similar assignment.	25
	ii. Implementation capacity, both technical and financial management.	
	iii. At least 2 years experience of Team Leader in the related field being applied	
	iv. Demonstrated partnerships and collaborative working experiences with other CSOs on joint initiatives	
	v. General qualifications of other staff dedicated to the project.	
	vi. Experience of project team in innovative activities and working with local communities within landscapes.	
Finance and Budgeting		
a) Alignment of proposed activities to the project.	25	
b) Responded to the budget requirements.		
c) Raise the needed matching funds.		
TOTAL SCORE		100
The minimum technical score required to pass is: <u>70</u> points. At this point, the CSO is deemed to have the requisite experience to carry out the assignment. The applications scoring 70% and above would be sent to the National Steering Committee for evaluation and final selection.		
Documentation	For the purpose of the evaluation, all applicants are expected to attach photocopies of all relevant certificates and reports.	

	Negotiations and Signing of Agreement would be documented.
	Projects would be shortlisted and qualified applicants would be informed.
	Expected date for the completion of the project will be December 2027.
Total Estimated Budget	The estimated total grant budget of each project should not exceed US\$30,000.00. It includes monitoring and administration of the project.

Select the winner and contract

- The selected CSOs would be contacted to accept the grant offer.
- The National Coordinator will work with the selected CSOs to review and finalize project work plans, timelines and activity budgets.
- UNDP will sign grant Agreement with the selected CSOs/CBOs.
- Funding disbursement would be made in three tranches within the project implementation period..
 - First installment: 40% of the approved funds for NGOs and CBOs upon signing the grant Agreement.
 - Second installment: 50% of the approved funds for NGOs and CBOs upon submission and verification of progress and financial reports.
 - Final installment: 10% of the approved funds for NGOs and CBOs upon completion of project and submission of final activity and financial reports.

The project would be subjected to strict monitoring and meeting of timelines.

Time Framework:

Call for proposals are opened from the date of this advertisement **Monday 23 February 2026 until Friday 13 March 2026**. Applications should be submitted electronically to helpdesk.gh@undp.org and would be processed as and when they are received, and successful applicants would be notified after review on a first come, first served basis.

A virtual proposal workshop will be held to provide more details on the proposal.

The meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 2 March 2026 at 2pm GMT** on Teams <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3685093223253?p=AjuEckwiKUH0IjECHJ>

The full details on the eligibility criteria, preferred bio-geographic areas, country programme strategy, and guidelines for applications are attached to this call. For any further information, please send request to akosua.bireduaa.aninakwa@undp.org

