

Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) (2018-2021)

Final Grants Round FAQs No 2

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides responses to common questions from organisations considering applying for a grant in the FGMC Final Grants Round. The purpose of these FAQs is to assist applicants in the preparation of their concept notes and clarify the information provided in the Concept Note Guidance documents.

All questions and the answers will be available publically on the DFID FGMC Funding Webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/forest-governance-markets-and-climate-2015-grants-round> .

The FAQs document will be updated periodically during the Concept Note stage, at least once per week. New questions should be sent to the FGMC-Applications mailbox at FGMC-Applications@Kpmg.com.

New FAQs

Consortium?

New.Q1 From the guidelines, it is stated that “Only one proposal per organisation will be supported”.
It is however not clear if this condition applies only for lead organization in a consortium, or also when an organization is member of a consortium.

New.A1 Only one award per organisation will be finally supported. However:

1. Organisations can submit more than one Concept Note. If more than one Concept Note was accepted they would be brought together at the award stage into a single overarching Grant Award.
2. This refers to the Lead Organisation. Organisations can be part of more than one different consortium.

New.Q2 **Can you confirm (or deny) that an organisation cannot be part of two different consortiums**

New.A2 No – This is not correct. Organisations can be in more than one consortium.

New.Q3 **DFID expects strong coordination between FGMC partners. Is it mandatory for organisations to work in a consortium?**

New.A3 No. The overarching focus is on securing results. Where appropriate, strong coordination (which may include working in consortia) is important, as a means of achieving results with maximum efficiency and value for money.

Hence:

1. It is not mandatory for organisations to form consortiums to receive funding from the FGMC programme.
2. Applications from consortia, partnerships or networks of two or more not-for-profit organisations or from organisations are also welcomed.

New.Q4 **The guidance says that only one proposal per organisation is supported. To clarify, does this refer to one organisation being allowed to *lead* one proposal, but allowed to be involved in multiple proposals as implementation partners? Or is an organisation only allowed to be involved in one proposal in any form – either as the lead or as a sub-grantee?**

New.A4 See **New.A1** above.

New.Q5 **Does not including work related to China undermine a proposal's chances, as it seems you put a lot of emphasis on China work?**

New.A5 No – The focus is not just on China. Applicants should focus on how their project links to the broad range of FGMC results.

New .Q6 **If we wanted to include an information sharing meeting between some FLEGT countries, can we only work with those in our geographical focus area (West Africa) or can we involve those from other focus areas as well?**

New.A6 Lesson learning activities can involve any timber producing countries engaged in the FLEGT agenda, and is key to fostering a community of practice that maintains momentum for change. However, "information-sharing" is not a result per se. Applicants will need to explain the process through which such activities will lead to FGMC results.

FAQs No 1

Shape of the FGMC grant portfolio

Q1 Our understanding is that there is a minimum request of £800,000, could you please clarify if there is also a maximum request threshold?

A1 The minimum grant size is £800,000. There is no upper limit threshold. No upper limit has been defined. We will assess each project on its contribution to FGMC results. We expect to construct a portfolio of between 15-25 grants. We recognise that some grants will be closer to the minimum. Grants may be awarded to consortia of organisations wishing to work together, which might have a bearing on average grant size.

Finally, in constructing our portfolio of grants we will look carefully at the individual outputs proposed in the concept note. We would not advise consideration of the total cost of the proposal as a useful starting point to frame your concept note.

Q2 Has the focus of the FGMC programme shifted in this final phase?

A2 No - The focus of the FGMC programme remains the same. However, as this is the final phase of a 10-year programme, there is a particular emphasis on closure, institutionalising processes and sustaining gains. While opening up new areas or new themes is not ruled out, the goal of the overall portfolio will be to secure existing and pipeline gains.

Q3 What does “standalone projects” mean?

A3 A “standalone project”, from the FGMC perspective, is a project which delivers specific benefits to specific groups, but which does not engage in processes that promote national, regional or global change.

Each project will need to demonstrate the theory of change / pathway through which their outputs will contribute to such processes.

All FGMC grants must also engage in clearly defined policy processes that focus on institutional and policy changes that promote forest governance and legal trade such as, but not limited to, Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs).

Q4 Would you consider funding activities related to other drivers of deforestation, for example expansion of commodities such as oil palm and rubber?

A4 Yes - FGMC Output 4 of the [FGMC Logframe](#) relates directly to other drivers of deforestation. However, there are other funding sources for projects in this area. The focus in Output 4 is on promoting FGMC's approach (such as; trade levers, multi-stakeholder deliberative processes that ensure national ownership and legitimacy to legal and institutional reforms, etc.).

Q5 **For current grantees, will it be possible to “carry forward” the unspent balance of a current grant into a new one?**

A5 If an existing grantee is successful in the final phase, it will not be possible to “carry forward” any unspent balance of the existing grant into the new grant. Grantees with an unspent balance will be requested to return all unspent FGMC grant funds.

In the event an existing grantee believes they will have an unspent balance of existing FGMC grant funds by 31st March 2018, they need to contact the FGMC PMST at FGMC-PMST@Kpmg.com immediately.

Eligible applicants

Q6 **Are “national” NGOs eligible to apply for a grant?**

A6 There is no restriction on a “national” NGO applying for a grant. FGMC is a global programme and, therefore, it is not immediately apparent how a purely ‘national’ NGO, located in one country, would demonstrate a contribution to a global agenda. However, this is not ruled out. Our advice would be for “national” NGOs to seek partners in other countries or to join with an international NGO.

Q7 **Can Chinese NGOs apply for a grant?**

A7 Yes - However, it should be noted that the focus of any grant must relate to China's overseas “footprint” i.e. trade with other countries and sustainable investments in developing countries. DFID have no programmes directed at China's internal affairs or national development.

Focal countries

Q8 **Has the geographic focus changed?**

A8 The FGMC programme will retain the geographical focus established in earlier phases within regional clusters – so countries actively engaged in national governance reforms (such as through Voluntary Partnership Agreements) in South East / East Asia and the Mekong region, West Africa, Congo Basin and Guyana. Earlier phases of the programme have particularly focused Output 1 efforts in Indonesia, Myanmar, China, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Republic of Congo and

Guyana and proposals that aim to consolidate and complete reforms in those countries will be particularly welcome. Countries outside of the geographical focus may be considered if the applicant can show their project links to the FGMC results and the overall focus of the final phase of the programme. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

Q9 The guidance identifies specific regions (e.g. Mekong and Southeast Asia, Congo Basin) and particular countries (e.g. Cameroon and ROC within the Congo Basin). Are other countries within the same regions also eligible (e.g. DRC within the Congo Basin), or does DFID only want applications in the countries of focus?

A9 The FGMC programme will retain the geographical focus established in Phase I and Phase II. However, we will be considering the overall portfolio with regional clusters in mind. Countries outside of the geographical focus may still be included if the applicant can show how their project links to the FGMC results and to focus of the final phase of the programme. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and in the light of the contribution to FGMC results.

Q10 DRC is not included in the list of countries

A10 As a VPA country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is not excluded. However, applicants will need to make the case as to how their project will contribute to delivering results and securing forest governance gains in DRC as well as contributing to global effort.

Consumer and processor countries

Q11 Would activities related to non EUTR policy processes such as the Lacey Act and Chinese legislation still be considered?

A11 Yes to both the Lacey Act and to China legislation.

China remains central to the FGMC theory of change - given its dominant role in the global trade in forest products. We anticipate a significant proportion of the grant portfolio to be focused on China and China's trade with and investment in producer countries.

Q12 Countries – is this an exclusive list? The country list focuses mainly on producer countries with key processor/consumer countries such as US and Japan not included.

A12 The list of countries is indicative and not exclusive. FGMC is a global programme and overarching theory of change is based on eliminating the demand for illegal forest material in consumer / processor countries, thereby incentivising forest governance and trade in producer countries. We particularly welcome projects that make this connection between demand and supply.

As a global programme – countries such as the US, Japan and other consumer countries are not excluded. However, under OECD/DAC rules for ODA, applicants will need to demonstrate how their activities in consumer countries relate to changes and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Note that FGMC Output 2 and, as per the [FGMC Logframe](#), focuses on FGMC's support to demand side measures to stop illegal logging which may include work related to other consumer and processing countries. Please refer to the FGMC Logframe here: http://iati.dfid.gov.uk/iati_documents/4445967.xlsx for more information.