



Scottish Government
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Background Information and Criteria for the Scottish Government Climate Justice Innovation Fund Grants Programme

What is Climate Justice?

The concept of climate justice is based on a simple and powerful message: the poor and vulnerable at home and overseas are the first to be affected by climate change, and will suffer the worst, yet have done little or nothing to cause the problem.

Climate change is an urgent, global and complex problem and arguably the greatest challenge to human rights in the 21st century. The negative impact of climate change is felt the most by those who are already vulnerable because of geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, and disability. The concept of climate justice, which links human rights and development, provides a new and progressive policy platform for a sustainable climate agenda.

Finding solutions to climate change challenges is often framed by economics and technology. But this can be limiting, ignoring intersectional inequalities between and within countries, as well as the multifaceted dimensions and impacts of climate change. The Scottish Government recognises that, in approaching climate change, solutions must focus on people and ensure their participation.

Climate justice puts people at the heart of decisions on equitable global sustainable development. Some nations are better equipped than others to respond to this global challenge, with 'contingency' capacity in health services, disaster emergency agencies, access to technology and a safety net of insurance services – they are climate resilient. Other nations however do not have this capacity, and their economic position means there has been little investment in infrastructure such as urban planning, water management, emergency planning, health services or in a strong legal framework that protect their rights.

From a climate justice perspective, governments, business and civil society must recognise the voices of those who are in the front line of the impacts of climate change, for whom climate change threatens basic human rights: to water, food, a home, an education, to economic development, and to life itself, acknowledging that climate change should not be allowed to roll back hard-won progress on human rights and development.

Scottish Government Climate Justice Fund

The Scottish Government has been championing climate justice since 2012, when the then-First Minister and Mary Robinson of the Mary Robinson Foundation launched Scotland's Climate Justice Fund on 31 May 2012. The Climate Justice Fund, alongside our other action on climate change, illustrates Scotland's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 13, and to other environment-related SDGs. Since 2012, the Fund has supported a wide range of water-related projects in sub-Saharan Africa, helping local communities build resilience to the worst effects of climate change.

The First Minister announced a continuation of the Climate Justice Fund at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris in December 2015, with a further £12m being made available from 2016-2021. The Climate Justice Innovation Fund (CJIF) has been developed as a core element of the Scottish Government's contribution to climate justice going forward.

Scottish Government Climate Justice Innovation Fund

The CJIF is open to any Scottish-based organisation, working in partnership with in-country partner(s), to support the delivery of climate justice-related projects which demonstrate innovation in the field. CJIF projects should be delivered in one or more of the Scottish Government's International Development sub-Saharan partner countries (Malawi, Zambia or Rwanda), with awards of up to £125,000 for project grants over a maximum 16-month period.

A key principle underpinning the CJIF is to enable the **piloting of new innovative approaches** to climate justice, which the Scottish Government will keep under continual assessment. Any approaches which seem particularly effective may be considered for replication or scale-up over time, including through future Climate Justice Fund grants.

This aspect of innovation is therefore particularly important for applications to this Climate Justice Innovation Fund – organisations seeking support for more general international projects which do not reflect truly innovative approaches would be better to consider applying to the Scottish Government’s International Development Small Grants Programme.

Projects must also support the beneficiary country’s own development priorities. Please refer to the full criteria below for more detailed information.

CJIF projects must support activities that are congruent with the Scottish Government’s Climate Justice and International Development policies and must contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 and/or other climate-related SDGs.

The core objectives of the Climate Justice Innovation Fund are:

- To contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to Goal 13 around climate action, as well as other climate-related goals.
- To innovate! This should be through testing new ways of addressing climate justice at the community level, with the aim of identifying or contributing to ‘breakthrough solutions’
- To address climate change and/or its impacts in-country, through any element or combination of food, energy or water provision, and to benefit the environment wherever possible.
- To empower poor and vulnerable people in decisions and access to resources, through linking human rights and development in the context of climate change.
- To help address the needs of climate vulnerable people, in particular women, children, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups, alleviating poverty and improving equality through increasing climate change resilience.
- To link communities with local government for the strengthening of civil society and improvement of governance, particularly in relation to environmental issues.
- To support transparency, participation, and access to information.

Scottish Government Climate Justice Innovation Fund: eligibility criteria

The CJIF is targeted at organisations aiming to deliver climate justice-related projects in Malawi, Zambia or Rwanda, and the following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicant organisations must constitute a “legal person”, meaning they need to be legally constituted and able to enter into contracts. Examples of legal personalities include SCIOs and registered companies. Unincorporated organisations, even with charitable status, are not eligible to apply. Private sector organisations are welcome to apply, subject to the project being delivered on a strictly not-for-profit basis. Evidence of delivery on not for profit basis may be requested.

- Applicants must be able to evidence a **presence in Scotland**, including that they occupy premises in Scotland from where the grant will be managed.
- Applicants need to provide audited/examined accounts for their most recently completed financial year. Organisations formed too recently to be able to provide these are ineligible.
- Applications must clearly outline the **innovative aspect(s) of the project**, whether through the start-up and field-testing of innovations OR through support of innovations on their path to scale, and the innovative aspect(s) of the project must be detailed in the application.
- All grants must relate to projects that specifically support **climate justice aims**, i.e. helping build resilience to the worst effects of climate change and must relate to food, energy or water in some respect.
- Applicants may only apply for grants that will support projects in one or more of the sub-Saharan African partner countries identified in the Scottish Government's 2016 International Development Strategy: Malawi, Rwanda or Zambia.
- Applicants must present a project proposal based on partnership with a **locally-led organisation** based in the country of implementation.
- Applicants may apply for a grant where the Scottish Government will be the sole funder of such project OR where the application is for joint or match funding, where the funding split may be up to a maximum of 50:50 with another funder. In the latter case, the other external funder must be identified in the application and approved by the Scottish Government as part of the application assessment. Applications may also include the involvement of private sector organisations where support is to enable the sharing of expertise, but not for profit.

The Scottish Government will not fund a project which is simply the continuation of past work or projects. However, projects may be based on learning from past initiatives and demonstrate that they will develop the organisation's future abilities through innovative approaches.

Please note organisations may only apply for one project within this round.

What cannot be funded:

- The Scottish Government will not award funding directly to other Governments or to individual representatives of other Governments.
- The Scottish Government will not provide direct financial support solely for the transportation of goods to its partner countries as this often undermines local industries and economies, results in inappropriate goods being delivered and often getting held back at airports or borders. This can also create logistical problems for distribution and sometimes inequitable distribution that cannot be justified. Where the transportation of specific equipment is an essential and proportionate part of the activities of a specific project and where evidence can be provided that the equipment cannot be sourced in-country or in other parts of Africa such an allocation may be considered as part of the full project application.
- Scottish Government funding cannot be used for per diems/daily allowances.
- Scottish Government funding cannot be used for land purchase.

- The Scottish Government will not support predominantly capital infrastructure projects or capital spend which is primarily to create a fixed asset, such as building accommodation or new institutions. Please refer to assessment criteria for further information on capital expenditure.
- The Scottish Government will not fund the purchase of vehicles.

Scottish Government Climate Justice Innovation Fund: assessment criteria

Applications will need to demonstrate the following:

- Evidence of innovation in the project design, including clear explanatory justification of innovation in relation to the relevant technical or practice area.
- Evidence of how project will support climate justice objectives.
- A clear monitoring framework with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (“SMART”) outcomes that will deliver to identified need, and how these will be achieved. Although innovation can sometimes fail, you must demonstrate through the application (and specifically, the risk register) that there will be a minimum standard of no negative impact to the community.
- A clear and realistic budget which directly relates to the costs of delivering the objectives and outcomes in the monitoring framework. Please note that a maximum of 10% of the project budget can be spent out with the country of implementation for management of the grant.
- Where staff with specific expertise are being engaged for project implementation, these can be excluded from the 10% limit in the budget, as long as they are fully justified, including evidence that this expertise is not available in country. In such situations, regional sourcing of expertise is encouraged where possible and appropriate. These costs should be included in the staff costs tab of the budget, under ‘other staff costs’.
- Capital costs should not exceed 20% of the overall project budget, unless the cost relates directly to renewable energy access where the limit will be 50%. Capital costs should be kept proportionate and consistent with the overarching focus of the project. Strong consideration should be given to local sourcing of capital resources and of sustainability of the capital element, once the project ends.
- Clear plans for monitoring and evaluation of achievement against planned outcomes, appropriately detailed in the monitoring framework.
- How the aim of the project aligns with and contribute towards one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Established partnership(s) with NGO(s) or community-based organisations in the country of implementation and clear roles stated for partner(s) and applicant organisations.
- Evidence of need for project, involvement of partners and range of users in establishing priorities – explanation of how vulnerable groups (in particular those who are most disproportionately affected by climate change, such as women and girls, people with disabilities) have been consulted and involved in establishing project aims and plans and of how the men, women, girls and boys in the target communities will benefit from the project.

- Evidence of consideration and fit with local priorities, including how the project will work with other local agencies (e.g. in-country NGOs, local authorities, local businesses etc.) and will build on existing skills and experience in delivering the project.
- Evidence of consultation with other actors and relevant stakeholders in the relevant field or geographic area, and of steps to support meaningful collaboration where at all possible.
- Evidence that the project is designed with sustainability in mind, identifying methods for achieving sustainability in the longer term.
- Clear demonstration of how the project could be scaled up and/or replicated.
- Clear plans for how learning will be used to inform further development of the project, and what steps will be undertaken to share learning externally to benefit other relevant stakeholders.
- An assessment of risks and potential problems and how these would be mitigated against.
- Organisational capacity to successfully deliver the project by the lead and partner organisations, including evidence of solid organisational and governance systems, equality and diversity and safeguarding policies.

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