



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM



## Greater Mekong Subregion Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (GMS CCESP)

# Final Call for Proposals: Pilot Demonstrations

To support the implementation of the *Greater Mekong Subregion Core Environment Program Strategic Framework and Action Plan* endorsed in 2018 by the GMS Ministers of Environment, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) established the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP).

GMS CCESP seeks to support the six GMS countries in realizing economic development that is environmentally sustainable and climate resilient, enhancing the environmental quality of the subregion. To learn more about the Program and each of the priority themes, [click here](#).

**GMS CCESP is now accepting applications for demonstration projects under five of its six priority themes:**

- » Climate and disaster resilience
- » Low-carbon transitions
- » Transboundary climate-smart landscapes
- » Digital technology for climate actions and environmental sustainability
- » Financing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure and technology

# Pilot Demonstrations

Pilot demonstrations are one of the main activities of GMS CCESP to help enhance climate resilience, green growth, and environmental quality in the GMS. The Program plans to carry out at least 27 demonstrations under the six priority themes, demonstrating innovative measures, approaches and technologies and showing high potential for scaling up or leading to wider investments. The first and second batches of proposals were collected in 2022. This final call was initiated to ensure a richer pool of ideas that closely aligns with the priorities of GMS countries and thematic areas.

The CCESP team is currently not seeking proposals for theme 4 (environmental quality through pollution control and waste management), as the theme received a sufficient number of relevant applications in the first and second rounds.



## Theme 1: Climate and disaster resilience

### Gender-responsive community resilience projects

Rural communities in the GMS are on the frontline of climate change and most vulnerable to losses and damages, and many communities lack the resources and capacity to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change. These are manifested largely at the local level which require resilience solutions at the community level that are tailored to the local context.

Climate resilience builds the capability to cope with and adapt to specific climate and disaster risks and vulnerabilities that brings transformational changes to the lives, livelihoods, and well-being of the vulnerable.

Women and girls are impacted differently due to pre-existing gender inequalities; thus, efforts are needed to transform unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for women's empowerment.

The proposal must clearly set out specific climate and disaster risks and vulnerabilities under current and future conditions of climate change that the project aims to address, articulating a clear narrative between specific activities and their objective of reducing climate risk at the community level.

At least twelve (12) demonstrations are expected to be funded under this theme



## Theme 2: Low-carbon transitions

In GMS countries significant efforts have been put into developing Nationally Determined Contributions coming out of the Paris Agreement. These have been further updated as new agreements have come out of subsequent COP meetings. GMS countries have committed to ambitious carbon mitigation goals and are now in the process of planning and implementation of these goals.

Mitigation measures are influencing the fundamental structures of countries and people as they require long and lasting paradigm shifts within reduction, capture, utilizing, and storing of carbon. Theme 2 is focusing on demonstration projects within low-carbon agriculture and green freight.

In the first and second calls for proposals we received a number of quality proposals for low-carbon agriculture. We are still open for proponents with innovative project concepts to submit an application for a demonstration project within **low-carbon agriculture**.

However, Theme 2 is **primarily requesting for more demonstration project proposals within the sector of green freight**. In the proposal application, it is important to keep the descriptions concise and clearly state the outputs and outcomes resulting from the project, as well as the upscaling opportunity, and the expected impact on climate mitigation.

At least three (3) demonstrations are expected to be funded under this theme



## Theme 3: Transboundary Climate-Smart Landscapes

Climate-smart landscape management aims to reduce existing environmental impacts, improve biodiversity, provide benefits to communities, and eventually mitigate climate change. It includes multisector issues and integrates a multi-stakeholder process.

ADB defines **climate-smart landscapes** as landscapes that operate on the principles of integrated landscape management, while explicitly incorporating adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation into their management objectives. Two examples of climate-smart landscapes management that have been implemented worldwide are REDD+ scheme and community-based forest management (CBFM).

Examples of activities in demonstrations for theme 3 are improving land-use management for selected transboundary landscapes through nature-based solutions, designing innovative compensation mechanisms for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and building capacities for inclusive and climate-smart management of landscapes.

**Innovative demonstration proposals in transboundary landscapes** (such as Cardamom Mountains, Central Annamites, Eastern Plains Dry Forest, Mekong Headwaters, Sino-Viet Nam Karst, Tenasserim Mountains, Triborder Forest) will be prioritized.

At least three (3) demonstrations are expected to be funded under this theme



## Theme 5: Digital technology for climate actions and environmental sustainability

### Blockchain-enabled climate action monitoring

Today transparency is a rare aspect of the supply chain, especially when it comes to the environmental footprint of production. We want to provide the user with the necessary knowledge and encourage the consumer to take climate action, by using the functionality of blockchain for recording, storing, and transacting climate action activities.

### Artificial intelligence enabled pollution monitoring

By utilizing AI combined with other tools, we can provide better tracking of pollution at a town, city, or regional scale, and enhance the livability of cities.

### Drone-enabled sustainable forest management

By using drones, it is possible to monitor and manage the region's forests and boost biodiversity. Furthermore, this will also reduce workforce requirements and risk while providing access to rugged terrain.

### Mobile phone-based early warning system

The consequence of climate change is seen through the increasingly extreme natural hazards. Therefore, proposals showcasing innovative early warning systems using mobile phones that can detect and notify citizens of natural disaster events and aid in rescue and recovery operations, will be acknowledged.

At least four (4) demonstrations are expected to be funded under this theme - at least one for each of the four topics highlighted above



## Theme 6: Financing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure and technology

We are looking for demonstration projects on innovative **climate financing instruments** and **disaster risk financing instruments**. Potential demonstration projects could include improving financial mechanisms for the natural resources and environment sector (e.g., nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture), or financing for decarbonization of the transportation and energy sectors

(e.g., demonstration on the use of emissions trading mechanisms and carbon credits).

We invite proposals of innovative fin-tech solutions aiming at reaching people and companies that might not yet have access to such financial services. Ideas with a strong possibility for scaling up, or replication in other countries are preferable.

At least two (2) demonstrations are expected to be funded under this theme - at least one for each of the two topics highlighted above

## How will the applications be shortlisted and selected?

The demonstrations will be selected based on the criteria below. The assessment will be conducted by the thematic lead of each theme in collaboration with external experts, followed by an endorsement through a joint meeting with the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE) focal points and coordinators with a final review by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Lastly, ADB will provide approval and contractual agreements for implementation.

No.	Criteria	Score
1	Clarity of concept notes with clear outputs, implementation plan, and achievable within timeframe	10%
2	Having transboundary characteristics, and/or meeting the national needs and interest	10%
3	Building on previous achievements, successes, and supporting national policy/strategies	10%
4	Having sufficient capacity, staffing, commitment and institutional support for carrying out the demonstrations	10%
5	Resulting in increased capacity for up-taking innovative technologies and financing modality for enhanced climate resilience, green development, and environmental quality	10%
6	Gender inclusiveness and participation (at least 30% of women benefiting from demonstration)	10%
7	Collaboration of private sector or civil society organizations in project implementation	10%
8	Co-financing	10%
9	Regional upscaling	10%
10	High potential for large investment in the GMS Investment Framework	10%

Final selection of proposals will be made within June and July 2023. Winning applicants will be notified by email and the selected demonstration proposals will be announced on the [greatermekong.org](http://greatermekong.org) website.

## Who is eligible to submit proposals?

The call for proposals is directed at GMS countries including Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The proposals can be developed and submitted by any of the following entities:

- » Working Group on Environment (WGE) coordinators and relevant government departments and agencies
- » Development partners
- » Civil society organizations, national or international government organizations, and community-based organizations
- » Private sector
- » Academia and research institutes.

## Funding

Community-based resilience demonstration projects (theme 1) will be eligible for funding up to \$40,000. Themes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 demonstrations will be eligible for funding of up to \$100,000.

Applicants are encouraged to propose co-financing options in the demonstration proposals (see: Assessment criteria). Proposals mobilizing in-kind and in-cash contributions as cofinancing will be preferentially supported, if the technical quality is equal.



## How to submit and by when?

**Deadline for submitting proposals**

**1 June 2023**

Proposals must be submitted using [the proposal form](#). Proposals must clearly state contact information including name, email, designation, organization, website, etc.

Email the proposal to Ms. Qudisia Sadiq at [gms-ccesp@ramboll.com](mailto:gms-ccesp@ramboll.com)

If you have questions or clarifications regarding the demonstration proposal process, please email Ms. Qudisia Sadiq at [gms-ccesp@ramboll.com](mailto:gms-ccesp@ramboll.com).

## Contact

### TA TEAM

Ramboll Danmark A/S  
Hannemanns Alle 53 Copenhagen S  
DK-2300, Denmark

#### Co-Team Leader

Mr. Jens Christian Riise  
[jcri@ramboll.dk](mailto:jcri@ramboll.dk)

#### Co-Team Leader

Ms. Xi Jiao  
[xjiao@ramboll.com](mailto:xjiao@ramboll.com)

#### Assistant Team Leader, Expeditor

Ms. Qudisia Sadiq  
[qasc@ramboll.dk](mailto:qasc@ramboll.dk)

For all inquiries, please contact:  
[gms-ccesp@ramboll.com](mailto:gms-ccesp@ramboll.com)

### EXECUTING AGENCY

Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue  
Mandaluyong City 1550  
Metro Manila, Philippines

#### Project Officer

Dr. Srinivasan Ancha  
[asrinivasan@adb.org](mailto:asrinivasan@adb.org)

#### Project Analyst

Ms. Criselda Rufino  
[crufino@adb.org](mailto:crufino@adb.org)

