

BLUE CARBON ACCELERATOR FUND

READINESS SUPPORT CALL FOR PROPOSALS FAQS

8 April 2022



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



1. Does the project have to be in a country that is an existing member of the International Partnerships for Blue Carbon (IPBC) to be eligible to apply?

No. Projects in countries that are not members of the IPBC are also eligible to apply.

The BCAF eligibility criteria require the location of your project to be within a developing country as defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible, or recently graduated. This link provides a list of [ODA-eligible countries by region](#).

A 'link to the International Partnership for Blue Carbon' is a selection criterion (not an eligibility criterion). This means it would be beneficial (but not necessary) if your project can demonstrate a link with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC), such as through being located in a country that is an IPBC member and/or working with NGOs or other organizations that are [IPBC partners](#).

Note that the IPBC welcomes expressions of interest from government agencies, non-government organisations and scientific institutions to join the partnership at any time. Information on the IPBC, including current partners can be found at [International Partnership for Blue Carbon](#).

For any enquiries on the IPBC, please contact the IPBC Coordinator Team at ipbc@environment.gov.au.

2. What is a Developing Country?

For the purpose of the BCAF eligibility rules, the definition of 'developing country' includes OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defined Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries, or those that have recently graduated from ODA eligibility.

- **The DAC revises the list every three years.** This is the [current 2019 List](#), the next review of the DAC List will take place in 2023. Countries that have exceeded the high-income threshold for three consecutive years at the time of the review are removed.
- The inclusion of recently graduated countries extends BCAF eligibility to countries for which graduation is a significant challenge. This may be exacerbated by the economic impact of COVID-19, particularly for those countries heavily reliant on tourism.

3. How is 'recently graduated from ODA eligibility' defined?

For the purpose of the BCAF eligibility rules, the definition of 'recently graduated' includes those countries that have graduated from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defined Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries list, **within the last five years**, since the 1st January 2017.

Countries that fall into this category are: Chile, Seychelles and Uruguay (graduated 2018); Cook Islands (graduated 2020); Antigua and Barbuda and Palau (graduated 2022).

4. Can Government agencies apply for funding?

No. National or sub-national government entities (national or other jurisdiction government authorities) will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

However, a project proposal that can demonstrate linkages and engagements with, or sponsorship from, local authorities or other government entities will be more competitive.

Eligible entities are:

- Non-governmental organizations (NGO); and
- Private sector entities (small to medium type enterprises, including social enterprises, start-ups, project developers)

5. Can a project span multiple countries?

Yes, however the proposal must make strong and very clear reference to implementation efforts on-the-ground and how the proposed activities will help leverage investment into a well-defined project area.

For example, the development of a new carbon methodology only, without clear information on where it will be applied and how advanced the site on the ground is, will not be very competitive.