

## Rules for the Climate and Forest Funding to Civil Society – Chapter 166.73

These rules have been drafted pursuant to section 6 of the Regulations on Financial Management in the Central Government, and chapter 6 of the Provisions on Financial Management in the Central Government. The rules apply to Norad's management of grants to climate and forest funding to civil society according to chapter 166.73.

### 1. Objective of the scheme

This scheme is part of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, the object of which is to contribute to attaining essential, cost-effective, early and measurable emission reductions through reduced deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The funding scheme is intended to support the climate goals of the initiative<sup>1</sup>.

The specific goals of the funding scheme for civil society are to:

- Contribute to advocacy, systematic promotion of and debate on the need for a new international climate agreement that includes efforts against deforestation and forest degradation.
- Contribute to increased knowledge and new innovative solutions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.
- Contribute to the increased participation and influence of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities on the management of resources affiliated with forest.

Support must be considered in conjunction with overall Norwegian strategies for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Support for civil society actors is provided within the framework of current policy guidelines. Support is subject to annual fiscal budget allocations.

### 2. Target groups

*Target group for the funding scheme:* Civil society actors working for increased knowledge and innovative solutions within the field of reduced deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

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<sup>1</sup> - To work towards the inclusion of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a new international climate regime.

- To take early action to achieve cost-effective and verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- To promote the conservation of natural forests to maintain their carbon storage capacity.

*Target group for the initiatives:* Vulnerable social groups, indigenous communities, local societies and civil society in developing countries living in and of the forest.

### **3. Criteria for achievement of objectives**

In order to be able to aggregate information on the results from the various projects under the scheme to the overall objectives of the scheme, reporting of the results of the individual projects must be at the highest level possible.

Annual reports shall mainly refer to the most important products and services (output), deviations and risk management. Final reports shall consider the effects achieved for the users (outcome), sustainability, cooperation patterns and lessons learned from the initiatives. The reporting shall be kept at an aggregated level, thus showing current trends and tendencies for the development efforts. In addition, the organizations shall select one or more representative examples at project level for an account of results achieved for the users. The long-term impacts of the projects shall be included if possible.

### **4. Allocation criteria**

#### Who can apply for support

Norwegian, national and international coalitions, institutions and non-governmental organizations can apply. Research institutions, competence centers or think tanks with an idealistic, non-commercial purpose can apply.

For-profit commercial actors, enterprises and consultancy firms can not apply.

A grant recipient is required to:

- be an independent legal entity with its own articles of association and a responsible board. The board must normally be administratively separate from the day-to-day operations of the organisation
- have established ethical guidelines for its activities
- have an adequate economic base for the work to be carried out, and the necessary technical and administrative competence to implement the projects
- have an established cooperation with local partners for its field-based operations in the countries that at any given time are included in the OECD/DAC list of ODA recipients

#### Who can be a local partner

The allocation shall principally be used for cooperation with voluntary civil society actors. Local or central authorities and commercial actors may upon exception be cooperation partners when this is considered to be consistent with the purpose of the scheme.

### Where projects can be implemented

Projects that receive support under the scheme shall be implemented in countries that at any given time are included in the OECD/DAC list of ODA recipients. Exceptions from this may be made in cases where an isolated project is implemented outside the countries referred to here if the project as a whole is assessed as being consistent with the purpose of the scheme.

The support shall principally contribute to efforts in countries that have an active REDD+ engagement through cooperation with Norway or through the multilateral channels that receive funding through the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative.

### Which thematic areas can be supported

In principal the allocation can be used for all thematic areas that are conducive to the promotion of essential, cost-effective, early and measurable emission reductions through reduced deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Which themes that are prioritized will be dependent upon current policy guidelines, described in the annual budget proposition (Proposition No. 1 to the Storting) and the annual letter of allocation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Norad. In addition the allocation can be used to support methodology development, analysis, studies, reviews etc, and upon exception, to preliminary appraisals to assess the possibility of turning new initiatives into applicable development assistance.

### Assessment criteria when considering applications

The application process may be carried out in two steps, whereby the first step is the presentation of a concept note. After an assessment of the concept note a selection of applicants are invited to submit a full application. In the assessment of the concept notes the relevance of the project to the Climate and Forest Initiative and the significance to the composition of the portfolio as a whole will be emphasized.

The criteria for assessment of the full application are in principal the same for all agreement forms; from one year to three year project agreements.

Decisions on support are to be made based on an overall assessment of the application. The criteria are mainly divided in two; those which concern the assessment of the organization and those which concern the assessment of the projects.

Key elements for assessment of the development assistance activity is provided in "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70", but the following apply to the climate and forest funds: To which degree the activities are conducive to attaining essential, cost-effective, early and measurable emission reductions by means of reduced deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. This is followed by an assessment of the organisation's strategic plan/action plan and its ability to implement, its value platform, ethical guidelines, competence and resources.

Requirements regarding the recipient's share of costs:

There are no requirements regarding the recipient's share of costs in connection with grants under this scheme.

Proportion of grant used for administration:

See the full provisions of "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70".

Requirements regarding applications:

See the full provisions of "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70".

## **5. Provisions concerning announcement of the scheme**

Criteria and deadlines for applications under this scheme are announced on Norad's website.

## **6. Processing of applications, follow-up and control**

See the full provisions of "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70".

### **a) Procedures for processing of applications**

Reference is made to the section above concerning assessment criteria for applications and concept notes. Applications for new agreements are for one or multiple years and are to be updated each year (annual plan). Applications can be sent to a board of technical experts consisting of representatives from the Climate and Forest Initiative in the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Development and Norad. Other relevant departments in the MFA and Norad as well as relevant embassies will in some cases also be contacted. An appropriation document will be developed based on an overall assessment of the application. The grant recipient will be informed about the annual grant in writing, including, if relevant, particular conditions connected with the grant.

Provisions concerning the content and format of the application will be described in an approved template for applications.

### **b) Appeals:**

See the full provisions of "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70".

### **c) Identification of risk and risk management**

See the full provisions of "Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70".

### **d) Assessment of and reporting on achievement of goals**

Norad requires that any program or project has an attainable goal. The goal has to be a result, not only a description of processes and activities. The goals must be supported by good indicators that reveal the progress towards the

goals. The application has to specify baseline data in order to enable reporting on changes and effects that result from the project/program. It is vital to have a clear separation between activities and results.

Requirements for reporting are provided in the agreement

For multiyear agreements there are two categories of reporting: an annual status report and a final report (submitted after the support period has ended). Section 3 describes on which level the reporting is to be.

The reporting is to relate to the agreement and the work plans, and include an assessment of goal achievement and, if relevant, reasons for lack of goal achievement, as well as an assessment of risks in and outside the project.

All grant recipients shall submit reports and summaries from reviews and evaluations of Norad financed projects/programmes. Instructions can be found at [www.norad.no](http://www.norad.no).

#### **e) Requirements regarding accounts and audit**

See the full provisions of “Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70”.

#### **f) Disbursement pace, reimbursement of earned interest, reimbursement of unspent funds**

See the full provisions of “Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70”.

In the case of international non-state actors, interest earned is not reclaimed, and may be used for purposes agreed upon between Norad and the individual grant recipient<sup>2</sup>.

In running, multi annual agreements the grant recipient may apply for a carry-over of unspent funds to the following fiscal/calendar year. Application for carry over is to take place at the latest in conjunction with submission of the final annual disbursement request. The grant recipient is to give reason for the request. Norad will approve or reject the request in writing.

After finalization of the agreement funds may be permitted to be spent into the following calendar/fiscal year upon application to Norad.

#### **g) Possible forms of sanction towards the grant recipient**

See the full provisions of “Rules for Support to Civil Society Actors – chapter 160.70”.

## **7. Evaluation**

The scheme is evaluated in connection with Norad’s real time evaluation of efforts included in the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative.

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<sup>2</sup> Reference is made to the annual parliamentary proposition

