

## OUTCOMES ACCELERATOR: COHORT 4 FOREST AND NATURE CALL FOR PROPOSALS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*This will be a living document updated continuously as questions are received through the virtual informational Webinar or to the Outcomes Accelerator inbox ([OutcomesAccelerator@levoca.org](mailto:OutcomesAccelerator@levoca.org)).*

### APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Who can apply?**
  - The Outcomes Accelerator invites applications from individual organizations or consortia, including, but not limited to:
    - **Outcome funding organizations** including multilateral and bilateral funding organizations, private philanthropy, and domestic governments, which will be the primary end-clients of the Outcome Accelerator.
    - **Service delivery organizations** including non-profit and for-profit organizations that implement outcomes-focused programs.
    - **Market support providers** including deal developers, intermediaries, advisory firms, research organizations, law firms, and evaluators; and
    - **Impact Investors** including funds, development finance institutions, foundations, institutional and other investors, or providers of risk or working capital.
  - Both individual organizations and consortia are eligible to apply.
- **Does the application need to be submitted in English?**
  - Yes, however, supporting documents such as letters of support or MOUs may be provided in other languages.
- **Is there an offline or downloadable version of the EOI form?**
  - No. EOIs must be submitted through the online portal. Applicants can register, begin drafting their submission, and save progress at any time. Information remains saved until final submission.
- **Can organizations that applied in previous cohorts apply again?**
  - Yes. Organizations that applied in past cohorts are welcome to apply again. Each cohort is reviewed independently, and past outcomes do not affect current eligibility.

- **Can organizations submit multiple proposals? Can organizations be eligible for multiple awards?**
  - Yes, organizations can submit multiple EOIs however, please note that each organization may submit or be affiliated with up to **five** EOIs, whether as a lead applicant or a partner organization. Organizations may want to prioritize which proposal(s) would be the best fit for Accelerator support based on the eligibility criteria.
  - In the event an organization is involved in more than one successful proposal, there is nothing stipulating that an organization couldn't receive multiple awards. Please consult with the Outcomes Accelerator Secretariat for further guidance. Applications will be selected by the Governing Committee based on a holistic view of the project proposal against the defined criteria and will be carefully selected to ensure a complementary portfolio balanced in theme, region and levels of novelty.

## ELIGIBILITY / SCOPE / THEMATIC FOCUS

- **What makes a strong proposal for this call?**
  - A strong proposal for this round will show how the project can deliver measurable, lasting outcomes in forests and nature while proving that OBF is the right tool. The most competitive submissions will:
    - **Make the OBF case:** Clearly explain why outcomes-based financing is needed for your challenge (and why a grant or carbon credit mechanism alone would not suffice).
    - **Go beyond carbon:** If your project involves carbon, show how it generates additional biodiversity, social, or resilience outcomes that traditional carbon finance would not deliver.
    - **Show traction:** Provide evidence of interest or support from governments, outcome funders, or other partners that signals readiness to launch.
    - **Center local and Indigenous communities:** Demonstrate how communities are engaged in design, governance, and delivery, with clear benefits for them.
    - **Lay out financial sustainability:** Show credible pathways beyond donor funding — for example, blending outcome payments with supply-chain finance, eco-tourism revenues, or other diversified income streams.
    - **Be rigorous on measurement:** Integrate cost-effective and credible MRV systems to verify results.
    - **Demonstrate potential to scale or replicate:** Explain how your approach could grow across geographies, partners, or ecosystems.

- **Can high income countries apply?**
  - Projects or services must be delivered in or be provided for the benefit of countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance according to [OECD-DAC List of ODA Recipients](#). However, a high-income country could apply (for example, a bilateral aid agency), so long as the project will serve countries and territories eligible to receive ODA and meet the other eligibility criteria outlined in the EOI Guidance document.
- **Can organizations apply if they have already received funding from a different source for another phase of the project?**
  - There are no stipulations against organizations applying if they have already received funding from a different source for other phases of the project. It will be important for proposals to demonstrate how Outcomes Accelerator funding will provide additionality, both financial and non-financial, to the project. The budget section of the EOI should also specify details on the sources/uses of funding for the project, timeline for when those resources were received, and provide a rationale for additional support from the Outcomes Accelerator.
- **What are some examples of the existing market traction proposals that need to be demonstrated?**
  - It will be important for the proposals selected for the Outcomes Accelerator to have a demonstration effect on the market and be able to launch relatively quickly. Existing market traction can be evidenced by having key partners/stakeholders engaged (including service providers), outcome funding having been identified, and other practical measures that could demonstrate the project could launch within a relatively short time frame.
- **Can projects adjust or refine their OBF model after approval?**
  - Yes, for scoping or early-stage projects, where the project's scope includes finalizing the selection and design of the OBF instrument.
- **What types of projects will be considered ineligible?**
  - Proposals will be ineligible if they:
    - Lack a clear outcomes-based financing mechanism
    - Do not enhance forest ecosystems or sustainable land use
    - Cannot show a pathway to financial sustainability
- **What is the likelihood of a project in non-priority geographical area (e.g. not in Amazon Basin, Congo Basin, Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea) will be selected?**

- We will balance geography as much as possible. For non-priority regions, if the applicant can demonstrate that it is an OBF project and has clear biome restoration or conservation benefits, the project is eligible and will be considered.
- **If a project delivers multiple outcomes (environmental and social) but is still exclusively reliant on carbon credits as the payment mechanism, is it eligible? Or must it have other revenue streams in addition to carbon?**
  - The project will be eligible; however, priority may be given to those that also measure additional environmental benefits such as biodiversity and water.
- **Can additional revenue streams come from established markets (e.g., sale of fruits from agroforestry)?**
  - Yes, but regarding the environmental benefits, please refer to the question above.
- **Would biodiversity credits qualify as an additional OBF revenue stream?**
  - Yes
- **What percentage of revenues from carbon credits would be considered “exclusively reliant”? What share of revenue should come from non-carbon sources?**
  - There is no fixed percentage; the most important thing is to demonstrate that you are bringing an innovative financial tool for the conservation space and sufficiently differentiate from what is already being done.
- **If a project integrates agroforestry and cattle, is it eligible—or is cattle work excluded?**
  - Yes, we are open to Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forestry Systems.
- **If a project focuses on setting up an outcomes fund (investing vehicle) specifically to support outcomes-based projects within one or more of the thematic areas, would it be eligible? If yes, under what conditions?**
  - Yes, if you clearly have a pipeline with forest and biodiversity benefits and are willing to measure those.
- **Would a biochar project be eligible if it uses invasive species such as feedstock (restoring grasslands for communal use) and applies biochar to agricultural fields to improve smallholder yields?**
  - Yes, potentially. The project aligns with Cohort 4’s scope if it clearly links to outcomes such as forest/land restoration, improved soil health, and smallholder resilience. Eligibility depends on demonstrating outcomes-based financing potential and strong community benefits.

- **Does land ownership matter — private vs. communal/public?**
  - No, land tenure type does not in itself determine eligibility. What matters is that rights are respected, stakeholders are meaningfully engaged, and the project demonstrates clear governance arrangements to deliver outcomes.
- **Must projects work specifically with indigenous communities, or are vulnerable local communities also eligible?**
  - Projects must demonstrate inclusive engagement. Indigenous communities are a priority where relevant, but proposals that work with other vulnerable local communities are equally eligible if they ensure participation and benefits.
- **What constitutes a “clear pathway to financial sustainability”?**
  - A realistic plan for how the project can sustain itself beyond donor funding. This could include:
    - Revenue generation through carbon credits, ecosystem services, or sustainable value chains.
    - Long-term commitments from governments, investors, or offtakers.
    - Blended finance structures or partnerships that unlock private capital.
    - Replicable models that attract continued investment.
- **Can projects outside forests (e.g., agriculture or tourism) apply?**
  - Yes – provided they are linked to measurable forest and nature-positive outcomes. For example:
    - Agroforestry systems that improve forest connectivity
    - Tourism enterprises tied to conservation KPIs (charismatic species, key biomes)
    - Agricultural supply chain interventions that reduce deforestation (preferentially measuring impact)
- **What does “sustainable land use” cover in practice?**
  - Applicants often ask whether agricultural interventions qualify. The answer is: yes, if tied to forest outcomes. For example:
    - Regenerative farming models that reduce pressure on forests
    - Agroforestry that increases connectivity between fragmented habitats
    - Integrated land-use systems that combine production and conservation
- **How do we interpret “nature-positive recreation and tourism”?**

- This area is not about general tourism development. Proposals should tie tourism or recreation revenue directly to conservation outcomes, for example:
  - Community-managed eco-lodges with outcome payments linked to biodiversity indicators
  - Outdoor recreation infrastructure tied to forest protection KPIs (e.g., maintaining trails contingent on conservation outcomes)
- **Is biodiversity conservation limited to flagship species?**
  - No. Proposals can embed biodiversity outcomes in broader ecological health (e.g., restoring corridors, improving habitat connectivity, or measurable ecosystem indicators).
- **How do “coastal forest ecosystems” fit in?**
  - Projects in mangroves, peatlands, or other forest-water systems are eligible if they can show measurable carbon sequestration, resilience, or water security outcomes. Applicants sometimes ask if pure marine projects qualify—the answer is no, unless they are forest-linked ecosystems.

## **BUDGET & FUNDING**

- **Is there flexibility if a budget does not fit within the indicative amount for a product type listed in the EOI guidance?**
  - The budget limits provided in the EOI Guidance are intended to be a guidance but the upper ceiling is fixed. Proposed budgets will be assessed with consideration for realism and price reasonableness.
- **What level of information about the budget is required at the EOI stage, given that a full budget breakdown is not required?**
  - The EOI should include the total amount of funding requested, the expected use of Outcomes Accelerator funding (for example, design studies, capacity building, legal and professional services, other), and the other funding sources for the project. A more detailed budget will be required at the full proposal stage.
- **What are the payment terms of the grant?**
  - Funds are disbursed in **two tranches** — the first at project start and the second at the midpoint of the 12-month period, contingent on submission of a satisfactory midterm progress report. Payments are milestone-based and not reimbursed retrospectively.

## **SIZE OF FOURTH COHORT**

- **How much funding is available for the call for proposals? How many organizations do you plan to shortlist?**
  - The Outcomes Accelerator plans to select several high impact projects to serve in its fourth cohort. There's no pre-specified number of proposals or funding cap defined, as it will ultimately depend on the number and type of applications received. The EOI also includes guidance on funding ranges eligible based on the type of proposal.

## TIMELINE

- **When and where can submit my Expression of Interest (EOI)?**
  - Applicants can create an account to submit EOIs on [the online portal](#). All EOIs must be submitted no later October 31, 2025, by 11:59 PM EST. **Applications that are not submitted through the online portal will not be considered.**
- **When will full proposals be due?**
  - The Full Proposal submission deadline (invite only) is January 23, 2026, by 11:59 PM EST.
- **After the grant allocations are made, when does funding need to be spent by?**
  - For the fourth cohort of projects, the Outcomes Accelerator is seeking projects that have some existing market traction to be able launch within a relatively short timeframe. It will be important for projects to act as a demonstration effect for the broader market. It is expected that most grants allocated will need to be spent within 12 months or less from the start of the grant. However, the Secretariat will work with each applicant to determine the most feasible and appropriate timeline – also taking into consideration donor timeline requirements.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

- **What should be done if applicants have concerns about sharing sensitive information or confidentiality when applying?**
  - Any potential applicants with concerns on sharing highly sensitive information should reach out to us as the Outcomes Accelerator Secretariat to discuss options and their specific concerns. In cases of very highly sensitive information, there could be possible non-disclosure arrangements or an option to redact highly sensitive information in their proposals with a short justification explaining why information was left out.

- **The request to share information such as feasibility studies through the Outcomes accelerator might pose some challenges with outcome payers or investors. Can you please clarify this?**
  - In general, sharing knowledge as a public good is an overarching goal of the Outcomes Accelerator. It will be important to share the outputs and deliverables of the Outcomes Accelerator wherever possible. However, individual cases and sensitivities can be discussed with the Governing Committee.