



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM



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

# Second Call for Proposals: Pilot Demonstrations

The GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP) is a programme supported by the Asian Development Bank, which seeks to support the six GMS countries in realizing economic development that is environmentally sound and climate resilient.

The program is now accepting demonstration applications for five of its six priority themes:

- » Climate and disaster resilience
- » Low-carbon transitions
- » Environmental quality through pollution control and sustainable waste management
- » Digital technology for climate actions and environmental sustainability
- » Financing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure and technology

## Pilot Demonstrations

Demonstrations are one of the main activities of the CCESP in order to help enhance climate resilience, green growth, and environmental quality in the GMS. The program plans to have 27 demonstrations relating to the different themes (such as demonstrations on gender-responsive community resilience projects, circular economy, pollution control, and waste management, etc.).

Through these demonstrations, the CCESP plans to pilot climate action practices, innovative technologies, and financing instruments. These demonstrations could eventually be scaled up or lead to wider investments.

The first batch of proposals was collected in May-June 2022. The current, second call for proposals 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 3 (transboundary climate-smart landscapes), as the theme received a sufficient number of relevant applications in the first round.



### 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 batch of calls for proposals we received a number of quality proposals for low-carbon agriculture. We are still requesting proponents with innovative project concepts to submit an application for a demonstration project within **low-carbon agriculture**.

However, Theme 2 is still **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 4: Environmental quality through pollution control and sustainable waste management

### Air pollution due to unsustainable agricultural waste management — burning of agriculture residues

Major sources of air pollution in the GMS include agricultural burning and wildfires. Many farmers are economically driven to agricultural burning of cropland, as it is a cheap and common method of preparing the land for the next harvest.

Stubble burning emits toxic pollutants in the atmosphere containing harmful gases like carbon monoxide (CO), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOC). These pollutants disperse in the surroundings and eventually affect air quality and people's health by forming a thick blanket of smog.

Any alternative to crop residue burning must be feasible, affordable, and capable of scaling to be adopted by thousands of farmers. The results of the application of an alternative approach must be measurable.

In general, the proposal must clearly set out the specific environmental risks and vulnerabilities that the project aims to address, articulating a clear narrative between specific activities and their objective of reducing the environmental issue at the community or transboundary level.

### Plastic pollution due to COVID-19

Plastic waste causes harm to marine life and has become a major global environmental concern. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increased demand for single-use plastic. Most of the plastic is from medical waste generated by hospitals that dwarfs the contribution from personal protection equipment and online-shopping package material. This poses a long-lasting problem for the ocean environment and is mainly accumulated on beaches and coastal sediments. We call for better medical waste management in more densely populated areas.

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



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

We are looking for innovative partners to submit proposals for pilot projects that use digital technologies to address critical climate change challenges in the region.

### 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

According to WHO, 99% of the world's population is surrounded by air that exceeds the WHO guideline limits. 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

Monitoring and tending are crucial for the health of forests. 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

As global warming occurs, the consequence of climate change is shown 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 would specifically like to receive 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 technical 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. Lastly, the Asian Development Bank (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 November and December 2022. 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 demonstrations (theme 1) will be eligible for funding up to \$50,000. 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

**23 October 2022**

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. Qudsia Sadiq at [gms-ccesp@ramboll.com](mailto:gms-ccesp@ramboll.com)

If you have questions or clarifications, please email Ms. Qudsia Sadiq at [gms-ccesp@ramboll.com](mailto:gms-ccesp@ramboll.com). [Sign up to the GMS CCESP newsletter](#) for more information and program updates.

