**Clarification Note: CDKN Innovation Fund (Round 2)**

**Issued 13 July 2012**

Following great interest in the launch of Round 2 of CDKN’s Innovation Fund, CDKN has received some questions from potential applicants requesting clarification on some issues. As such, CDKN has issued a Clarification Note to further clarify the scope and conditions of the Innovation Fund. If you are unsure of any of these points or wish to ask additional questions, please contact the Innovation Fund at [innovationfund@cdkn.org](mailto:innovationfund@cdkn.org). Please note that the Clarification Note supersedes the Applicant Guidelines. In statements that differ between the two documents, please follow the Clarification Note.

CDKN would like to emphasise and clarify the following points:

1. This support is for game-changing project ideas focused on Africa that require development and shaping through an innovation process over a maximum of 6 months. The outputs must include a proposal for the implementation of the full project. It is anticipated that the proposal would be ready for funding by any number of donors, of which CDKN could be one (see point 2 below). Round 2 of the Innovation Fund will support awards of up to GBP100,000 each, **excluding Value Added Tax [VAT], but including all other applicable taxes** in the country of the LEAD Applicant.
2. Subsequently, CDKN may provide awards of up to **GBP200,000 each**[[1]](#footnote-1) to support the implementation of the project proposal output. The allocation of this subsequent funding is not guaranteed. It will be based on an assessment of the quality of the innovation process, the proposal and any other outputs produced once the project has been delivered[[2]](#footnote-2). Projects that demonstrate strong proposals, implementation roadmaps and other high-quality outputs from these innovation processes will be more likely to receive the subsequent funding.
3. The applicant group must include **at least two (2) partners**. **Lead Applicants must be African institutions** (and not international institutions based in Africa). **Additional partners can be African or non-African institutions**. The majority of the funds (at least 60%) must be allocated to African institutions.
4. The applicant group should **ideally** include government institutions**.** If not, you must be able to demonstrate significant government buy-in including and beyond a letter of demand[[3]](#footnote-3).
5. Projects can focus at regional, national and/or sub-national in African countries, and may involve **one or more** countries of study.
6. Applications must align to **one or more** of CDKN’s thematic priorities, which are:

**CDKN’s thematic priorities:**

* Climate compatible development strategies and plans
* Improving developing countries’ access to climate finance
* Strengthening resilience through climate-related disaster risk management
* Supporting climate negotiators from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

**CDKN’s thematic priorities in Africa:**

* Improving access to clean energy solutions in Africa
* Addressing climate resilience in the water sector in Africa
* Strengthening African institutional capacity for implementing climate compatible development
* Supporting African leadership in climate compatible development research and practice

1. Project examples are provided in the Applicant Guidelines on page 9. Please notethat these are **illustrative examples only**. CDKN welcomes a range of varied applications that meet the thematic priorities outlined above.
2. Applications are welcomed from Anglophone, Arabophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa. Please note, however, that the project proposal and any other project deliverables **must be submitted in English**. Translation costs must be included in the project budget section of the Application Form.
3. CDKN requires organisations to have a UK Service Agent for contracting purposes. A Service Agent will ‘accept service of notices, proceedings or documents on behalf of their overseas clients in situations where, usually because of contractual obligations, it is not possible for them to be served abroad’[[4]](#footnote-4). CDKN will cover the costs of the service agent if included in the project budget (typically GBP600).
4. Please note the following clarification on the evaluation criteria related to ‘Fostering Partnerships and Networks’ (Annex 1, page18 of the Applicant Guidelines):

Under this criterion it states that ‘All projects must have at least two African partners and the Lead Applicant must be African’, which implies that if an international organisation is part of the partnership at least three partners are required to satisfy the criterion for two African partners. To clarify, all projects must include at **least two (2) partners** and the Lead Applicants must be an African institution (and not an international institution based in Africa). **Additional partners can be African or non-African institutions**.

1. Exclusive of VAT, but exclusive of other applicable taxes in the country of the Lead Applicant. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Decisions on further funding will be made in early to mid 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. CDKN must be able to be able to investigate this demand from the application form (i.e. contact details for government contacts to be supplied, as well as references to white papers, relevant scoping studies, national climate change strategy papers, ministerial statements, interviews, donor studies or reports and national assessment reports, etc., as appropriate). These documents should reference specific policies that link with project ideas outlined in the application. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Process\_agent [↑](#footnote-ref-4)