

# British Embassy Guatemala City: call for proposals 2021/2022

World news story

The call for project proposals that directly support open societies and climate change & biodiversity in Guatemala and Honduras is now open. Deadline is the 18 June 2021.



## **Call for Bids**

The British Embassy in Guatemala City is now accepting project and activity proposals for the 2021/2022 financial year.

### **Thematic areas**

This year, the British Embassy is seeking to support short- term projects in Guatemala and Honduras that focus on the following thematic areas:

1. Open societies (democracy, human rights, media freedom) – for example: strengthened democratic governance and rule of law; increased equality and non-discrimination for women and vulnerable groups and strengthened media freedom.
2. Climate change and biodiversity- for example: strengthened efforts to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss and strengthening resilience to the effects of climate change.

We are particularly interested in short- term interventions aimed at the following outcomes:

### **Climate change and biodiversity**

- Capacity building and preparation ahead of COP26, including in climate negotiations and implementation of NDCs.

- Contributing where possible to update countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and adaptation plans in preparation to COP26.
- Tackling biodiversity loss/deforestation, with a particular interest on tackling this issue in vulnerable communities and contribute to poverty reduction.

## **Open societies (democracy, human rights, media freedom)**

- Building the conditions for a peaceful, transparent and inclusive election processes in Honduras (2021).
- Reduced gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment towards women, LGBT+ community and other vulnerable groups.
- Promoting and supporting the empowerment of girls through education.
- Reduction in reported harassment of and violence against journalists; improved enabling environment in which media freedom is protected and respected.
- Supporting Business and Human Rights in Guatemala or Honduras. Focusing on the development of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.
- Supporting the private security company environment in Guatemala through the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.
- Increased accountability and transparency, demonstrated, for example, through improved Transparency or Integrity Index scores or stronger mechanisms for checks and balances in institutional frameworks, leading to greater alignment of policies and practices with international standards.
- Strengthening civic organisations and leaderships in Guatemala or Honduras for the construction and consolidation of rule of law.

## **Funding Terms**

### **Guatemala**

- For Guatemala, proposals must be submitted in Guatemalan Quetzal (GTQ) currency. Implementers will be asked to provide a GTQ bank account.
- Project budget is from GTQ 35,000 to GTQ 65,000.

### **Honduras**

- For Honduras, proposals must be submitted in United States Dollars (USD) currency. Implementers will be asked to provide a USD bank account.
- Project budget is from \$4,000 to \$8,000.

### **Guatemala & Honduras:**

- Full project spend should ideally be completed by early to mid-December 2021. Proposals with a completion date of 28 February 2022 will be considered as long as 90% of the project spend is completed by 1 December 2021.
- Projects are funded under a quarterly reimbursement scheme (against completed activities) with no expectations of continued funding beyond the agreed period.

- All expenditures must qualify as ODA eligible. ODA is a term created by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This term serves as a measurement of international aid. ODA projects have, as a primary objective, the promotion of economic development and welfare.

## Project assessment

Project bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the above mentioned priorities and outcomes.
- Evidence of urgent or priority need.
- Activities are value for money (VfM) and cost-efficient.
- Clear and achievable deliverables within the funding period.
- Sustainability – project benefits continue after the funding ends.
- Good project design, which includes established monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Project feasibility, including capacity of implementing organisation and ability to deliver under current circumstances.
- Identification of risks and established mitigation strategies.
- The organisation's safeguarding policies which ensure gender equality and the protection of beneficiaries.
- Administration costs for delivering a project do not exceed 10% of the total project budget.

## Important milestones

Date	Activity
01 June 2021	Call for proposals opens.
18 June 2021 (23:55 PM Guatemala Time)	Call for proposals closes.
5-9 July 2021	Confirmation to participants.
July 2021	Grant agreements are signed.
August 2021	Projects initiate.
1-15 December 2021	Projects should ideally reach a 100% spend or a minimum of 90% spend if activities will be completed by 28 February 2022. For completed projects, a Project Completion Report (PCR) must be submitted.
28 February 2022	Projects must reach 100% spend, activities must have been completed and Project Completion Report (PCR) submitted.

## Process to apply:

- Proposals must be received by 23:55 PM (Guatemala time) on 18 June 2021. Proposals submitted after the set date and time will not be considered.
- All documents must be submitted in English. Ensure that the project proposal form (PPF) and the activity based budget (ABB) have the organisation's name at the beginning of the file name. Example: OrganisationName\_Project Proposal or Organisation Name\_Activity Based

Budget.

- Proposals must be submitted to: [Projects.GTHN@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Projects.GTHN@fcdo.gov.uk) with the subject line "FCDO Programme Funds 2021-2022 – [Name of Organisation] – [Country].
- Due to the high number of bids we receive, we are unable to provide detailed feedback to unsuccessful bids.
- Please direct any queries to: [Projects.GTHN@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Projects.GTHN@fcdo.gov.uk)

## What to expect after?

Both successful and rejected bids will receive notice in due course. Selected proposals will go through a Due Diligence Assessment (DDA). The Embassy will save the right to decide whether it should maintain or reject a proposal depending on DDA outcomes. Implementing partners will be expected to sign a standard FCDO grant agreement with the Embassy. The terms of agreement are not negotiable. All implementers must also commit to a consistent financial management, regular monitoring and reporting back when requested; including discussing and updating any changes to the Activity Based Budget with the assigned Projects Officer.

## Additional information and documentation

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## [The need for pension funds to invest in a clean, green and prosperous future](#)

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to join you to close this vital summit.

I want to thank Richard Curtis and Make My Money Matter for hosting it.

As well as my friends and colleagues Mark Carney, and Nigel Topping for all the work they have done to get private finance going green.

The challenge the world faces today is critical and it is urgent.

When the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, they committed to limit global temperature rises to well below 2 degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees, because the science showed that this would avert the very worst effects of climate change.

But since that Agreement was signed the world has not done enough.

And today, we find ourselves at a crunch point.

To keep the 1.5 degree target within reach, we must halve global emissions by 2030.

And we must reach net zero emissions by the middle of this century.

That requires action now.

We cannot kick the can down the road any further.

If we do not take this chance to keep 1.5 degrees alive, it will slip from our grasp.

And so will our best hope of building the future we want to see.

So COP26, the United Nations climate conference that will be held in Glasgow in November, must be the moment that every country, and every part of society, embraces their responsibility, to protect our precious planet.

And, very importantly, that includes finance.

Because without it, the task ahead is near impossible.

That is why one of my key aims for COP26 is to get finance flowing to climate action – both public and private.

And with \$47trillion in pension funds globally, this sector plays a major role.

We need to get our savings for the future, shaping the future.

The good news is that there is not a choice to be made between private profit, and protecting the planet.

One needn't be sacrificed for the other.

Because the economics have changed.

Today, green investments are smart investments.

In the majority of the world, renewables are cheaper than new coal and gas.

Putting your money in fossil fuels creates the very real risk of stranded assets.

And a recent report from Imperial College London found that, over the past five years and, indeed, the past ten years, renewable investments generated higher returns than fossil fuels in both advanced economies and emerging markets.

New global markets are also emerging to help people and nature adapt to the

effects of our changing climate.

From drought resilient seed technologies, to energy efficient cooling.

Creating new investment opportunities for investors.

So it is not surprising that we are seeing progress.

One hundred and sixty financial firms have signed up to the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, committing to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest, and to robust targets, based on the science, to get there.

This includes banks with balance sheets of nearly \$30trillion.

Asset owners worth \$6trillion.

Including major pension schemes, such as Aviva, BT Pension Scheme and the Church Commissioners of England.

And asset managers responsible for \$37trillion worth of assets, which represents around 40 percent of the industry.

Ahead of COP26, I am urging all financial institutions to join them.

And commit to a net zero future.

As well as to taking four other key steps to protect our planet:

First, commit to exit coal finance.

So that, together, we make COP26 the moment we consign coal power to the past where it belongs.

Second, increase investments in climate action in developing and emerging markets.

Thirdly, protect nature.

By 2025 ensure none of your investments contribute to deforestation.

And by 2030 ensure your investments are contributing to the restoration of the natural world.

Finally, disclose your climate risk in line with the Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosures, or TCFD.

This will become mandatory across most of the UK economy in 2023.

And the government will shortly introduce regulations on what this means for pensions, to ensure trustees take account of climate change risk in each and every decision.

There is a real advantage in getting your house in order. And early.

Awareness of the climate crisis is growing all the time, and consumers and shareholders increasingly want their investments to align with their values.

So, when they start to look at whether they should be moving their pension, give them the best possible reason to stay with you.

Show them that you have understood the urgency of the situation.

That you stepped up to the plate.

And that in this vital year for climate action, the year of COP26, you are playing your part in keeping 1.5 degrees alive.

Show them, in short, that by investing with you, they are investing in the clean, green and prosperous future we all want to see.

Thank you.

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## Councillors visit vital Northumberland river bank repairs

Press release

Work has started to repair a heavily eroded section of river bank on the River South Tyne in Haydon Bridge, Northumberland.



Image shows (L-R) Colin Hall, Environment Agency; David Graham, Esh Site Manager; Tom Pitman, Environment Agency; Esmond Faulks, Haydon Bridge Parish Council Chair; Avril Kirsopp, Haydon Bridge Parish Council, and Haydon Bridge Flood Warden; Jonathan Keyte, Haydon Bridge Parish Council.

The bank, downstream of the road bridge, is not a formal flood defence but if further erosion occurs it could impact the riverside footpath and gardens to the rear of Rocksprings Crescent, as well as flood defences further

downstream.

On Wednesday, 26 May, Haydon Bridge Parish Council visited the site to see how the work is progressing.

They met with Environment Agency project manager Tom Pitman to find out more about the repairs and how they will protect the village's flood defences. The project involves strengthening the river bank below the riverside footpath and then re-planting with trees to further stabilise it.

It's expected to be completed in mid-summer if weather conditions remain fair.

The Environment Agency is also taking precautions to minimise disruption to the local environment. Fish were safely removed from the affected area prior to the work taking place and fish passage is being maintained at all times.

Once the river bank repairs are completed the Environment Agency also plans to raise the existing flood wall and replace the flood bank to better protect properties at Brigwood.

### **Important for work to be completed**

Tom Pitman said:

We recognise it's important for residents of Haydon Bridge for this work to be completed as soon as possible and we've been keeping the community updated with progress.

I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the parish council to show them the work taking place on site, explain what is happening in more detail and how it will protect the flood defences, as well as discuss planned work to take place in the future at Brigwood.

The restricted access to the area means much of the repair work will have to be done from within the river. This presents a risk to our team, who have already had to temporarily pause work for a time due to the unseasonable weather in May, which we've explained to the parish council.

Also on site was Flood Community Engagement Officer Colin Hall who spoke to councillors about the importance of flood resilience and being prepared for flooding.

Flood resilience measures, such as signing up to the free Flood Warning Service and creating a personal flood plan can reduce the impact of flooding on residents and businesses.

For more information visit the [check your flood risk](#) pages or email [colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Government launches search for new research agency leadership

Announced in February, [ARIA will empower some of the world's most exceptional scientists and researchers](#) to identify and fund transformational areas of research to turn incredible ideas into new technologies, discoveries, products and services – helping to maintain the UK's position as a global science superpower.

The chief executive will shape the vision, direction and research priorities for the agency – independent of ministers – while instilling this high-risk, high-reward culture within the organisation from the outset.

Science Minister Amanda Solloway said:

Getting ARIA up and running is one of my main priorities, so I am delighted to see it take another step towards launching with the start of this recruitment round.

We want to recruit a chief executive who will provide the creative, inspiring leadership that the organisation will need – building an exceptional team and embedding the high-risk, high-reward culture to ensure that ARIA thrives.

The Bill currently before Parliament will also purposefully streamline the agency's operating structure and minimise bureaucratic processes so it can focus all its efforts and resources on transformational research – essential to the agency's design and ultimate success.

The UK has a long and proud history of inventing that dates back centuries, and the creation of ARIA will continue this tradition, backed by £800 million, to fund the most inspiring inventors to develop technologies at speed that could create profound positive change for the UK and the rest of the world.

The appointment will be an open and fair process, with all applications reviewed by an expert panel comprising the government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir Patrick Vallance, BEIS's Director General for Science, Innovation and Growth, Jo Shanmugalingam, former Director of DARPA, Arati Prabhakar, and Director of Stanford ChEM-H, Carolyn Bertozzi.

The recruitment campaigns for the chief executive starts today, and the recruitment of the chair will follow in the coming months. It is the

government's intention for both roles to be filled by the time the Bill to establish the agency is approved by Parliament.

If you would like more information or to apply, please visit the [Saxton Bampfylde site](#).

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## Government announces 10 councils to test the use of digital tools in planning process

- £1.1 million grant fund to implement a 'pathfinder' programme across 10 councils to test the use of digital tools in the planning process.
- New system to use digital tools so planning proposals are more accessible and interactive.
- Part of Planning for the future reforms to harness the latest technology through online maps and data.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP has today (1 June 2021) announced a £1.1 million fund to test the use of digital tools and data standards across 10 local areas.

The planning white paper '[Planning for the future](#)', published in August 2020, proposed reforms to the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process.

The pathfinder programme will look at the digital transformation of local plans which will increase community involvement and speed up the planning process.

By introducing a digital system that makes plans map-based and accessible online, local people will be able to engage with planning in their local area, which will help get homes built quicker.

Councils will test how existing local plans translate into the new system, including moving away from long text documents to an interactive map with accompanying annotation document, and the adaptation of existing site allocation policies into the proposed land categorisation format.

This will enable planners to understand the impact of proposed land designations and associated policy implications on land allocations and

inform a wide range of policies across the reform programme.

Community engagement will continue to play a key role for ensuring that the right levels of growth are identified to meet the needs of the community. In the new system digital tools will be key for making planning proposals more accessible and interactive, supporting the ambition for more effective community engagement.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said:

We are moving away from notices on lamp posts to an interactive and accessible map-based online system – placing planning at the fingertips of people.

Today's announcement will ensure the planning process will be brought into the digital age. Communities will be reconnected to a planning process that is supposed to serve them, with residents more engaged over what happens in their areas.

While the current system excludes residents, who do not have the time to contribute to the lengthy and complex planning process, local democracy and accountability will now be enhanced by technology and transparency.

Local Government Association Chairman Cllr James Jamieson said:

Councils want communities to be able to shape and define the area they live in, and support measures to enhance public participation in the planning process through a more digital service.

This will help to make the planning system more accessible and efficient, and we look forward to working with government to ensure that all residents can engage in the planning process.

Cllr David Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management at East Suffolk Council said:

East Suffolk Council is extremely pleased to be selected as one of 10 local authorities to test how existing local plans can adapt to a new approach.

We welcome this opportunity to engage directly with MHCLG and other local authorities to assist in informing and shaping a more digitised and interactive local plan process. We hope that this will not only increase community participation but will also speed up the planning process.

The 10 bids from local councils to be selected are:

1. Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council
2. Stratford upon Avon District Council and Warwick District Council
3. Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council
4. Dacorum Borough Council
5. Broxbourne Borough Council
6. Birmingham City Council
7. East Suffolk Council
8. London Borough Hounslow
9. Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
10. Ashford Borough Council

Bringing planning into the digital age will provide a range of exciting opportunities for PropTech companies to innovate and bring forward new ideas.

This project will build on the work of the United Kingdom government that has helped millions of people continue to provide for their families as part of its [Plan for Jobs](#) to protect, support and create employment.

The [planning white paper](#) committed to working with local authorities to test the proposals, and the use of digital to help.

## **Conversion of Local Plans**

Local councils will test how existing local plans translate into the new system, including moving away from long text documents to an interactive map with accompanying annotation document, and the adaptation of existing site allocation policies into the proposed land categorisation format.

This will help us to understand the impact of proposed land designations and associated policy implications on land allocations, inform a wide range of policies across the reform programme and help to provide evidence for our work on local plan data standards and structural templates.

## **Data standards and site selection**

Data standards within local plans are key for increasing accessibility, transparency and improved decision-making in the planning process and wider planning sector. Local authorities are going to work, with the support of MHCLG, to develop and test data standards through the site selection process.