

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): The SGP on plastic waste

1. WHAT IS THE SGP ON PLASTIC WASTE?

The 'SGP on plastic waste' refers to projects to be undertaken within the framework of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions' Regional Centre Small Grant Programme (SGP). The SGP channels bilateral donor funds and aims at identifying and implementing low cost high impact projects submitted by Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres. The 'SGP on plastic waste' is part of the project '*Further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention*' ([BRS-Norad-2](#)), funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Projects will build, where relevant, on the results of the project '*Marine litter and microplastics: promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic waste*' ([BRS-Norad-1](#)).

2. HOW DOES THE SGP ON PLASTIC WASTE LINK TO COP DECISIONS AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK?

- In May 2019, the COP adopted decision BC-14/12, by which it amended Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention in relation to plastic waste. The COP also adopted decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention.
- In decisions BC-14/18 and SC-9/14, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of regional, subregional and national projects based on the business plans or workplans of the regional centres through the SGP.
- Activity 19 of the programmes of work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for the biennium 2020-2021 contains a component on strengthening regional delivery of technical assistance by regional centres through the SGP.

3. WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE SGP ON PLASTIC WASTE?

Project proposals are exclusively solicited from Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres. Proposals received from any other stakeholders will not be considered. If your country is eligible and interested in receiving support from the regional centres in the results areas described under question 7, please contact the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres ([here](#)) or the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres ([here](#)).

4. WHAT ARE THE OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

Only proposals meeting the following eligibility criteria will be considered:

- The proponent and lead implementing entity is a Basel Convention regional and coordinating centre or Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centre.
- The proponent that is a Basel Convention regional centre confirms that the project is based on their business plan and was consulted with and agreed to by the steering committee; the proponent that is a Stockholm Convention regional centre confirms that the project is based on their workplan and takes into account the needs of all countries.
- For country-level activities, the proposal is accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the focal points of the beneficiary Parties. For projects to be implemented in several Parties, endorsements must be obtained from each of the respective focal points.¹
- The country/ies in which project is to be implemented is/are among those eligible to receive funding under the technical assistance programme and are listed on the [development assistance cooperation \(DAC\) list of overseas development assistance \(ODA\)](#).

¹ This endorsement modality is limited to the Parties that are the primary beneficiary of the project, i.e. where a regional workshop or similar activities are organised, no formal endorsements need to be obtained from the Focal Points of the Parties participating

- The proposed project budget falls within the specified budget range of approximately USD 120,000 for national projects and approximately USD 180,000 for regional projects;
- The proposed project falls within the scope of projects to be funded under the SGP on plastic waste as specified in section IV of the [modalities](#) document.

Applicants must submit proposals using the template provided on the website. Applicants are free to submit one or several project proposals in each round. While regional centres may collaborate with regard to a proposed project, one centre must be indicated as the lead implementing entity (this is the entity with which the legal agreement would be concluded). Completed project proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat (suman.sharma@brsmeas.org).

5. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE AND HOW MANY ROUNDS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

The first call for proposals is open from 15 April 2020 to 15 July 2020. The screening and selection processes are scheduled to take place between July and September 2020. The duration of the project implementation is one year. In total, two to three calls for proposals may be made.

6. WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

Projects will fall under either one or several of the following four results areas:

- 1) Controlling the transboundary movements (TBM) of plastic waste
- 2) Improving the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste
- 3) Preventing and minimizing the generation of plastic waste
- 4) Reducing the risk from hazardous constituents such as POPs in plastic waste

Projects may feature activities at municipal, national and regional levels. The projects should, where relevant, build on the [BRS-Norad-1 project](#). The projects may implement activities such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Review the legal or institutional framework and draft adjustments to fill identified gaps to facilitate TBM and ESM of plastic wastes under the Basel Convention;
- Identify plastic waste management pathways, including in the informal sector, and develop recommendations for infrastructure requirements;
- Develop a national inventory of plastic waste;
- Develop and implement a national ESM strategy on plastic waste;
- Undertake trainings of custom authorities in the control of TBM of plastic waste;
- Implement a financing scheme for the ESM of plastic waste;
- Implement a collection and recycling scheme (e.g. extended producer responsibility) for plastic waste;
- Pilot test best practices and technologies for reducing plastic waste in the packaging, fisheries, wastewater and/or other relevant sectors;
- Develop and disseminate educational and outreach materials to promote behavioural change;
- Undertake activities, including to explore new technologies and processes or to improve existing technologies, to eliminate hazardous constituents over the life cycle of plastic products, including during the recycling process;
- Address the regional aspects of controlling TBM;
- Develop a regional strategy towards the ESM of plastic waste;
- Share experiences and lessons learned in tackling sources of plastic waste.

7. HOW ARE THE PROJECTS SELECTED?

The Secretariat shall review the proposals with respect to the eligibility criteria and prepare a screening of the proposals using the appropriate template. It shall prepare a ranking of the project proposals

based on the result of the screening. The Secretariat will select the projects to be funded under the SGP on plastic waste, taking into account the recommendations of the Steering Committee and the funding available. In total, the projects will be selected in such a way as to ensure that at least 10 Parties to the Basel Convention are supported to make changes to regulations, policies and strategies for ESM of plastic waste, including in the informal sector and at the national or municipal level. The selection of the projects will take due account of regional balance as well as balance in the scope of the projects.

8. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT?

In addition to the selection of projects, the Secretariat will also be responsible for providing within available resources scientific and technical assistance as well as legal and policy advice; monitoring and overseeing implementation of the projects; evaluation; and various other administrative tasks.

9. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE?

The Steering Committee – composed of a representative of Norad²; the Executive Secretary of the BRS Secretariat; and staff from the Governance Branch, Science and Technical Assistance Branch and Funds Management and Human Resources Branch of the BRS Secretariat – shall be responsible for reviewing the screening of proposals and providing recommendations on the selection of the projects to be funded. It shall also monitor their implementation and provide guidance where necessary.

10. HOW WILL THE PROJECTS' IMPLEMENTATION BE EVALUATED?

A consultant will be engaged to undertake the evaluations, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, based on an evaluation template and the final report of the implementing partner.

11. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, please visit the SGP on plastic waste [website](#). You may also contact the Secretariat (suman.sharma@brsmeas.org).

² In case other donors contribute to the SGP, the Steering Group may be adapted accordingly.