

ISEAL Innovations Fund

FAQ on the landscapes grants

Eligibility and application process

Who can apply for a landscape grant?

All ISEAL members (full and associate) can lead applications for our landscape grants. Other organisations should contact ISEAL members to explore potential collaborations. If you're interested in becoming an ISEAL member, please visit our website for more information - <https://www.isealalliance.org/get-involved/join-iseal-community>

Can the lead applicant on a proposal be the country office of an ISEAL member?

The lead organisation applying to the fund must be a member of ISEAL. In the case where the ISEAL member is an umbrella organisation or secretariat with national or regional organisations, it must be the international / umbrella organisation that leads the project and submits the application.

Are we allowed to submit multiple proposals?

ISEAL members are welcome to submit more than one proposal. However, given the small number of grants available, please note that it is unlikely that our Grant Decision Making Committee will award more than one grant to an ISEAL member in this round of funding. In light of this, we advise our members to submit no more than 3 applications as lead organisation.

Are there any restrictions to working with existing jurisdictional and landscape approaches?

Not at all! We encourage our members to engage with organisations and initiatives already exploring landscape and jurisdictional approaches. There are no restrictions to working with existing approaches, or through these.. However, the question of additionality applies, and applicants partnering with existing initiatives will need to demonstrate that the grant will support new activities.

When does all matching funding need to be secured?

We ask successful applicants to submit letters of commitment from all organisations that are providing matching funding by the end of May 2020. We will only be able to sign grant agreements in June 2020 with projects that have secured matching funding..

Will only 4 projects be invited to the contracting and project design stage?

The committee will award up to four grants to ISEAL members at the end of April 2020, based on funding applications submitted. We hope to see all of these projects start on 1 July 2020. If for any reason any of these projects is not able to complete the project design or contracting requirements, we will consult the committee on next steps.

Funding theme

Is the focus of this funding round more on landscapes or on jurisdictions?

We appreciate that the terms landscape, jurisdictional and regional are sometimes used interchangeably, and this can be quite confusing. It would seem that jurisdictional approaches (where the boundaries of an intervention match a jurisdictional boundary), are gaining more traction as a workable model for interventions at scale as they're best able to engage local governments, and leverage the external data sources that match these boundaries.

Ultimately, this funding round is about driving improvement at scale, recognising that these improvement approaches need to involve multiple different stakeholders and tackle issues at an appropriate scale. If you are working at a scale beyond production unit, and your project will yield learnings on how to incentivise, measure and communicate improvement at this broader scale, we would consider this a suitable project for this funding round.

Is this landscape theme focused solely on environmental issues?

We haven't specified the sustainability issues that projects should seek to tackle for this funding round. For the fund, what is more important is that the issues projects or pilots are seeking to tackle are the most important issues for the given landscape or jurisdiction. These can be environmental issues but also we also welcome applications that seek to address social issues at a landscape or jurisdictional scale, particularly those that look at how such social issues might be measured.

Should proposals focus on a single crop?

Proposals can look at single or cross-commodity impacts within a given landscape. As our members are often focused on one commodity or supply chain, they can become building blocks for landscape approaches that span across multiple commodities. Similarly, a 'single commodity' landscape approach can complement other initiatives and approaches. Collaboration and coordination across single commodity approaches are encouraged.

What level of outputs does the fund expect in two years?

We realise that outcomes or impacts at a landscape level need long time to materialize and do not expect your project to effect significant material change within a two year period. Instead, we're interested in what we can learn about different strategies being implemented at a landscape level – what worked, what didn't work, and under which conditions. As a learning community, we're looking for outputs that are of value and can be shared with the broader ISEAL membership and community.