



Mekong Australia Partnership (MAP) – Call for Proposals Guidelines, Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Instructions for Organisations:

Please read the MAP – Call for Proposals Guidelines, Eligibility and Selection Criteria before completing the Invitation to Submit an Activity Proposal.

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Section 1 - Background

- 1.1 The second phase of MAP (\$222.5 million over five years, 2024-25 to 2028-29) builds on the achievements and lessons of MAP's first phase to progress the goal of a more resilient and inclusive Mekong subregion that pursues joint solutions to shared and transboundary challenges. The purpose of MAP is that Australia is a trusted and visible partner in supporting a resilient, inclusive and sustainable Mekong subregion. The second phase of MAP was announced at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit on 4 March 2024.
- 1.2 This Call for Proposals focuses on four of the five MAP EOPOs, each of which align with DFAT's forthcoming Southeast Asia Regional Development Partnership Plan:
 - a. Mekong subregion partners reduce vulnerability to impacts of climate change.
 - b. Mekong subregion partners manage water resources in a more coordinated and sustainable way.
 - c. Mekong subregion partners increase leadership and economic opportunities for women, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups.
 - d. Mekong subregion partners enable strengthened economic resilience and subregional integration.

- 1.3 MAP will be delivered through long-term partnerships with a diverse range of partners, including with local organisations and, where possible, through locally led architecture in thematic priority areas of climate resilience, water security, economic resilience and sub-regional integration, gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI).
- 1.4 It will invest in subregional and/ or multi-country activities that respond to shared and transboundary challenges and seeks opportunities for collaboration with likeminded partners. Please refer to the MAP Portfolio Logic (Annex 1) and the [Portfolio Design Framework](#) for MAP's second phase for further information.

Section 2 - Eligibility Criteria

Organisations should meet the following criteria:

- 2.1 Operate as international, regional or national non-governmental organisations (NGO), civil society organisations (CSO), universities, research institutions, foundations or social enterprises.
- 2.2 Based in Australia and/ or the Mekong subregion and demonstrate an ability to operate in proposed countries of implementation through established offices, partnerships and/ or networks.
- 2.3 If shortlisted, be expected to meet [DFAT due diligence requirements](#) through assessment undertaken by DFAT and/ or third-party assessor.
- 2.4 Eligible organisations may form consortia and submit proposals with two or more delivery partners.
- 2.5 All eligible organisations and consortia must demonstrate sufficient financial and organisational capacity to deliver the proposal.

Proposals are requested that:

- 2.6 Are subregional and/ or multi-country in nature and address shared and transboundary development challenges.
- 2.7 Involve two or more countries in the Mekong subregion, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and/ or Vietnam.
- 2.8 Respond to one or more of the MAP EOPOs.
- 2.9 Focus on one or more MAP thematic areas, including climate resilience, water security, economic resilience and sub-regional integration, and GEDSI.
- 2.10 Mainstream approaches to strengthen gender equality, disability and social inclusion outcomes, outputs and activities, including indicators to measure GEDSI outcomes.
- 2.11 Require multi-year funding of between AUD 2m - 10m.
- 2.12 All proposals must have an end date no later than 30 June 2029.

Proposals are not requested for:

- 2.13 MAP thematic areas of transnational crime, or cross cutting leadership and skills.
- 2.14 Investment values of under \$2m, or bilateral (one country) in nature.
- 2.15 Implementation by managing contractors or other commercial service providers.
- 2.16 Implementation by international, regional or national governmental organisations, government aligned unions or mass organisations, or development banks.

Section 3 - Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on:

- 3.1 Activity effectiveness:
 - a. The extent the proposal demonstrates specific, measurable and achievable pathways to achieving one or more MAP EOPOs.
 - b. The extent the proposal demonstrates relevant, timebound and sustainable plans, strategies, approaches to achieve intended outcomes.
 - c. The extent the proposal responds to GEDSI priorities, including outcomes, approaches and reasonable accommodations.
- 3.2 Organisational Effectiveness:
 - a. Extent proposal demonstrates sufficient organisational capacity and capability to efficiently implement and manage the proposal. Roles, responsibilities and resources are clearly defined.
 - b. Extent the Organisation(s) have demonstrated impact in implementing similar investments in the Mekong subregion.
- 3.3 Value for Money (VfM)
 - a. Extent proposal represents value for money (VfM) as assessed against [DFAT VfM principles](#).

Section 4 - Process

Eligible proposals:

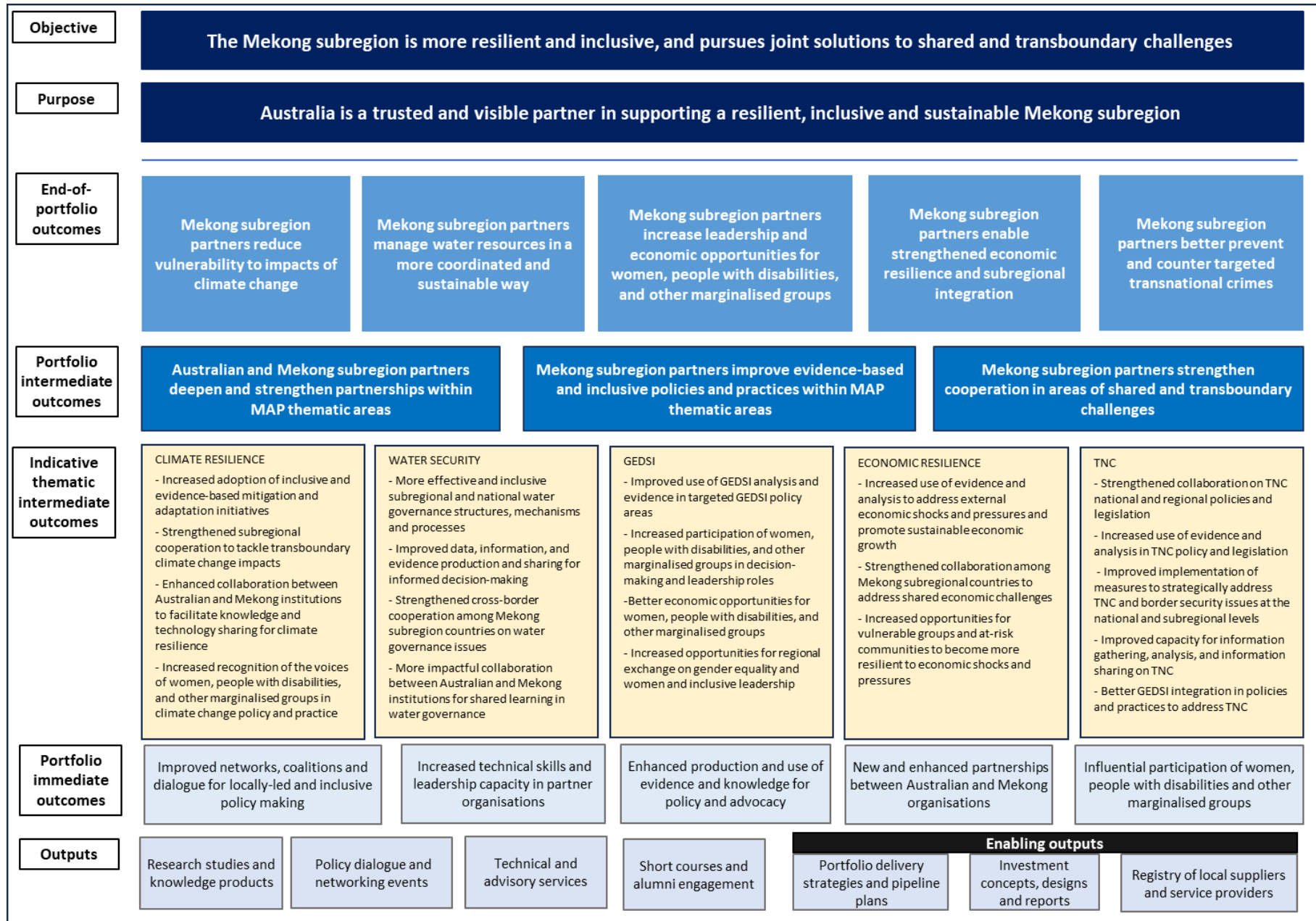
- 4.1 Will progress to evaluation stage and be assessed by an Evaluation Committee on selection criteria outlined in Section 3.
- 4.2 That sufficiently respond to selection criteria will be considered for recommendation to the MAP Steering Committee for Endorsement.
- 4.3 If endorsed by the MAP Steering Committee, proposals may proceed to further design, quality assurance, approval and arrangement stages.
- 4.4 DFAT will notify applicants if proposals are successful, retained or unsuccessful.

Section 5 - Timeline

5.1 Table 1 – Indicative Key Dates for Applicants

Date	Activity
06 Sept 2024	Call for Proposals launched on DFAT Business Notifications.
20 Sept 2024	Information/ briefing session and Q&A.
26 Sept 2024	Final day for applicant questions.
03 Oct 2024	Final date for DFAT response to questions.
11 Oct 2024	Closing date for proposals.
Oct – Nov 2024	Conformity checks and Evaluation Committee assessment
Dec 2024	MAP Steering Committee review and endorsement.
Dec 2024	Applicants notified of evaluation outcome.
Dec – Jan 2025	Due diligence assessments of endorsed (as required).
Jan – Feb 2025	Further design, feedback and quality assurance (as required).
Mar – Apr 2025	Grant arrangement negotiations, clearances, financial approval and agreement signing.

Annex 1 - MAP Portfolio Logic



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