

Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines
for Accessing the Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-Fund

This paper sets out the governance arrangements and eligibility criteria for the Marine Debris Management and Innovation (MDMI) Sub-Fund.

Scope

The MDMI Sub-Fund supports APEC's strategic objective of supporting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth. The sub-fund aims to institutionalize and provide ongoing support to advance APEC's objectives of reducing marine debris to promote sustainable development. It will support initiatives related to improving management of land and sea based sources of marine debris and promoting development of technical and financial innovations to prevent and reduce marine debris.

The APEC Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) will undertake the duties as the Responsible APEC Forum as set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects with respect to the MDMI Sub-fund.

Criteria for Accessing the Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-fund

Any interested economy, within any APEC fora, may submit Concept Notes (CNs) which fall within the scope and eligibility criteria of the MDMI Sub-fund.

To be considered eligible for the MDMI Sub-fund, CNs must:

- 1) Deliver capacity building activities that inform efforts to reduce and prevent marine debris in one or more APEC developing economies, with lessons applicable for APEC members more broadly.
- 2) Build capacity of individuals, local businesses, non-governmental organizations, business associations, civil society organizations, and/or government officials and institutions charged with implementing programs or policies focused on managing land and sea based plastic waste and reducing the impact of marine debris.
- 3) Support initiatives that inform the development of solid waste management infrastructure including stakeholder dialogues on policy and regulatory issues that impact private investment in marine debris and waste management infrastructure.
- 4) Support initiatives that inform the development of policies, regulations and practices to improve solid waste management systems and marine debris management technologies.

- 5) Promote and build capacity of individuals and non-government organizations to develop technical innovations that create value from plastic waste or that create secondary products from plastic waste in order to incentivize plastic waste collection and recycling to prevent and reduce marine debris.
- 6) Increase access to financing and facilitate private sector engagement to promote investment, trade and market creation in industries and activities that enable marine debris management and prevention, and encourage innovative financing mechanisms to fund waste management systems and infrastructure.
- 7) Promote innovation in land and sea based plastic waste management and new technologies for reducing the prevalence and environmental impact of marine debris.
- 8) Demonstrate an evidence-based case for implementation, using data from internationally recognized data sources.
- 9) Take a multi-stakeholder approach, either through partnership and/or participation, by providing clear evidence that relevant private sector stakeholders and/or civil society are included in the project planning and implementation, such as through funding and/or in-kind contributions and expertise.
- 10) Be otherwise assessed as eligible by the Assessment Group (see below).

Priority will be given to CNs that reflect APEC's priorities for its engagement on marine debris, as identified in the OFWG Work Plan and the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris. No single CN shall request in excess of US\$150,000 from the MDMI Sub-fund but there is no restriction on the scale of any self-funding that is applied to any single CN.

Procedures to access the Sub-Fund:

Endorsement and Scoring

CNs originating from outside OFWG must first seek endorsement from the proposing forum, and secure a minimum of 2 co-sponsors, as per the Guidebook on APEC Projects. Any externally-generated CNs submitted to OFWG without the endorsement of the proposing forum or without the required minimum co-sponsorship will not be considered. Once the proposing forum has endorsed the CN with the requisite co-sponsorship, the Project Overseer will submit the CN to the APEC Secretariat Program Director for the proposing forum. The Program Director of the proposing forum will then submit the CN to the OFWG Program Director.

All CNs must be submitted to the OFWG Program Director by the OFWG Internal Submission Deadline. Similarly, CNs originating within OFWG must be submitted for endorsement no later than the OFWG Internal Submission Deadline. All endorsement of CNs seeking access to the MDMI Sub-fund by OFWG is expected to occur intersessionally, coordinated through the OFWG Program Director.

Endorsed CNs must then be submitted to the APEC Project Management Unit by the advertised Final Submission Deadline that applies to the Project Session in question. CNs will then be provided to OFWG, which will consider the CNs against the MDMI Sub-fund eligibility criteria and decide whether each CN is eligible to access the sub-fund. Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

CNs that are deemed eligible will be scored by OFWG using the APEC Scoring Template. Consistent with the Guidebook on APEC Projects, the Secretariat will then calculate which CNs can be funded, based on order of scores (highest to lowest), and in consideration of the total amount that is available under the MDMI Sub-fund, for the APEC Project Session in question. In line with the rules that apply to all APEC project funds, if a CN is found to be ineligible, the CN may not proceed any further in the APEC Project Session in question, either under the MDMI Sub-fund, or any other APEC project fund (including the ASF General Fund).

CNs will be considered eligible for the MDMI Sub-fund unless there is a dissenting view raised by one or more OFWG members. OFWG members with dissenting views must provide their reasoning based on the eligibility criteria in writing to the APEC Secretariat. The APEC Secretariat will share the reasoning with the proposing economy so that the CN may be improved, as required, for re-submission in a subsequent project session. If there is a dissenting view, the CN will be considered ineligible for the Sub fund.

Developing the Full Project Proposal

At the Project Proposal stage, OFWG will be given the opportunity to comment on all Project Proposals to be funded under the MDMI Sub-fund, including those proposed by fora other than OFWG. The draft Project Proposal will be submitted to OFWG through the OFWG Program Director and comments sought prior to its submission to the APEC Secretariat. The Project Proposal shall incorporate collaboration with OFWG during project implementation and sharing of project outcomes, as appropriate.

Administration of the Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-fund

The APEC Secretariat will be responsible for the administration of the Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-Fund. It will be subject to the procedures and timelines governing the APEC Support Fund, as set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects and the APEC website. Refer to <http://www.apec.org/Projects/Applying-for-Funds.aspx>