

Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) 2026 Grant Program Guidelines for Application

It is the policy of KNCF to support activities that contribute to Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework (GBF) targets, and to contribute to the realization of the GBF. There are four grant categories including grant for first time applicant as well as for least developed countries. Please refer to 4. Grant Categories, below.

1. Application Period

From 9:00am October 1st to 5:00pm December 1st. (Japan Standard Time)

Submission will be conducted through the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund Management System (Hereinafter, 'the System')

2. Activity Requirements for Application

Region: Activities that are based in developing countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region or inside Japan.

Fields:

- (1) Activities that involve the preservation of biodiversity.
- (2) Activities intended to solve social issues that contribute to biodiversity preservation and that are applicable to Goals of SDGs.
- (3) Activities to support human resource development to preserve biodiversity, including environmental education.

All of the above activities should support to realize GBF.

Note: This policy will remain effective until 2030.

[昆明・モントリオール生物多様性枠組 | 生物多様性 -Biodiversity- \(biodic.go.jp\)](https://biodic.go.jp/)

▷昆明・モントリオール生物多様性枠組（英文）(332KB)PDF

Other Requirements:

Confirm that you have satisfied the following requirements.

- (1) Appropriate cooperation has been obtained from the government organizations, related international organizations, non-governmental organizations and residents in the locations of the target projects.
- (2) The results do not benefit any organization or individual.
- (3) The project is implemented by experts with scientific knowledge, or the advice and cooperation of experts with scientific knowledge has been obtained in implementing the project.

In case of projects in Japan, refer to Japanese version of the Guidelines

(<https://www.keidanren.net/kncf/fund/project> ←See 「募集要項」).

Note: Case Studies of Support Decisions

<https://www.keidanren.net/kncf/en/fund/projects>

https://www.keidanren.net/kncf/en/fund/projects/fund_2025

3. Requirements for Applying Organizations

1) Applicant must be an organization that satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) It can appropriately report its activities, budgets and financial status of granted projects, when requested by KNCf.
- (2) It has incorporated status or is a voluntary organization with societal credibility equivalent to an incorporated organization.
- (3) It has a record of conducting nature conservation projects for 3 years or more

2) Applicants must submit the documents listed below.

- (1) Financial statements or certified audits for the past 3 years.
 - (2) For incorporated organizations, documents that show proof of such incorporation
- (However, this does not apply to the Basic A Grant and Basic B Grant.)

4. Grant Categories

(1) Basic A Grant

Grant for small-scale projects of 1 million Yen or less for the first-time applicant to the KNCF Grant Program. While basically a single-year grant, applicants may be consecutively accepted for three years. Note that to reduce the burden of the applying organizations, application and reporting documents have been simplified.

(2) Basic B Grant

Grant for small-scale projects of 1 million Yen or less for local grass roots organizations conducting activities in countries designated by the UN as Least Developed Countries. While basically a single-year grant, applicants may be consecutively accepted for three years. Note that to reduce the burden of the applying organizations, application and reporting documents have been simplified.

(3) Standard Grant

Mid-sized grant that follows the conventional KNCF Grant Program. The upper limit is 10 million Yen. KNCF expects these projects to either be in their initial stages or to offer new approaches to solving problems. Applications may be made each year for a consecutive 3- year period.

(4) Collaboration Grant

Large-size grant with an upper annual limit of 20 million Yen with the requirement that applying projects are collaborative projects involving multiple non-governmental organizations. KNCF especially wishes to support projects that involve cooperation with local society and businesses and that serve as models for other organizations. The grant is designed for a continuous period of three years. The framework in which two or more organizations, each playing an important role, aims to complement each other's activity areas through mutual collaboration and synergy, with the expectation of higher-level results.

However, if the Grant Review Committee determines the status of the progress of the

project is insufficient, funding may be stopped even in the middle of the project.

5. Grant period

The grant period will be a 1-year period from April 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2027. However, the period for the Collaboration Grant is in principle, a three-year period ending March 31st, 2029.

6. The Scope of Grants

1) Applicable Expenses

(1) Purchase and rental of goods/materials, purchase and installation of lots/structures, as well as the expenses to repair the above items

(2) Personnel costs (labor costs for temporary staff directly involved in the project, rewards for experts)

(3) Travel, transportation, and lodging expenses including utility charges for local offices, food

(4) Communication and printing expenses include translation and publishing-related costs

2) Non-Applicable Expenses

(1) Personnel costs (labor costs for permanent staff)

(2) Outsourcing costs (outsourcing of all project work to a third party)

Moreover, even in the case of partial outsourcing, no more than 10% of the total grant amount may be applied to the outsourcing costs.

7. How to Apply

1) Schedule

Refer to the “Annual Schedule and Project Funding”.

2) Application Period

From October 1st, 2025 (Wed), 09:00 to December 1st, 2025 (Mon), 17:00 (The applications that are completed by 17:00 Japan Standard Time will be valid)

3) Application Procedures

(1) Access the System

Application can only be conducted by using the System during the period stated above

(2) Conduct user registration

To log into the System, obtain the necessary User ID and password by conducting the registration process in the URL below referring to “User Manual”. User registration is available from October 1st, 2025(Wed), 09:00, JST.

URL: <https://knkf.jp/entry/top.html>

(3) Begin the application process

Refer to the “User Manual” for detailed explanation of the application process.

Note that the Application Entry button will automatically become inoperative after the deadline on December 1st, 2025, at 17:00, JST.

4) Upload necessary application information and documents

Regarding the Information/documents required for application and for reports after the grant implementation, refer to the “Application/Report Documents List”. All information and documents must be input and/or uploaded by using the System.

5) Enter your application using the Application Entry button.

8. Grant determination

1) Results of screening

The KNCF Grant Review Committee will conduct screening and selection in mid-March 2026 (tentative schedule).

After April 1st, 2026, 09:00, JST, the selection results can be viewed at the System "Check your Progress Status" page.

2) Plan revision

(1) For projects grants that have been approved, revise the project plan and budget to correspond to the approved grant amount. Submit the revised plan and budget by May 31st, 2026, 17:00, JST, using the System.

Changes to the basic elements of the original plan will not be allowed.

(2) Information/documents to be submitted

Refer to the “Application/Report Documents List” for detailed explanation of the revision process. Even if the approved grant amount is the same as the applied amount, be sure to conduct update procedures on the System in accordance with the User Manual. The pledge can be downloaded from the URL below.

URL: <https://www.keidanren.net/kncf/en/fund/program>

(3) If a major change arises in the original project plan or budget after a grant is decided, promptly contact the trustee (Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited). If the applicant fails to make contact or does not receive the approval of the trustee, the applicant may be requested to return part or all the grants.

3) Grant remittance

(1) Remittance of 1st Half grant

If the “Revised Project Plan” and “Bank account for remittance of grant funds” are submitted by the end of April, 50% of the amount of the grant will be transferred to the designated bank account by the end of May. If they are submitted by the end of May, 50% of the grant will be transferred to the designated bank account by the end of June.

Note: For the “Collaborative Project Subsidy,” 100% of the subsidy amount determined for the first year (annual amount) shall be transferred to the bank account designated by the applicant in principle.

From the second year and subsequent years, after the Grant Review Committee meeting in March of each year to discuss whether to continue the grant and (if necessary) submit

a revised plan, 100% of the amount of the grant decision (annual amount) for the that year will be transferred to the bank account designated by the applicant, in principle.

(2) Remittance of 2nd Half grant

The remaining half of the grant will be deposited in the designated account by the end of November after submission of an Interim Report.

9. Reporting Obligations

1) Schedule

Regarding the schedule, please refer to the “Annual Schedule and Project Funding”.

2) Interim Report

(1) Organizations that have received grants must submit an “Interim Report” by October 31st, 2026, 17:00 (Strictly adhere to the deadline).

(2) Documents to be submitted

Refer to the “Application/Report Documents List” and the “User Manual” for detailed explanation of the Interim report.

Note: For the Collaboration Grant, no interim report will be made, but an in-person annual report will be made at the March Grant Review Committee meeting.

3) Final Report

(1) Organizations that have received grants must submit a “Final Report” by April 30th, 2027, 17:00, JST (Strictly adhere to the deadline).

Note: Collaboration Grant must submit a “Final Report” (a summary in an optional format and details) by 17:00 (must be punctual), April 30, 2029.

(2) Documents to be submitted

Refer to the “Application/Report Documents List” and the “User Manual” for detailed explanation of the Final report.

4) Inquiries

After User Registration, inquiries may be made to the trustee and/or the trustor using the System menu [Contact/Message exchange].

(1) Please make any inquiries regarding Guidelines, Application and reports to the trustee, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Ltd.

(2) Please make any inquiries regarding nature conservation activity to the trustor, Keidanren Nature Conservation Council.

5) Onsite Inspection

Onsite Inspection may be carried out as necessary to confirm the progress and the results of the project granted. Organizations may also be asked to present the project results at symposiums or other events jointly held by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Council and KNCF.

10. Protection of personal information

1) Purpose of Use

Personal information submitted by applicants is used solely for the purpose of grant selection, grant administration, and inspection by authorities. The results of funded projects will be publicized on the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund website or other media.

2) Provision for Third Parties

When personal information of applicants is provided to a third party to achieve the purpose for use, a careful selection of vendors is made, and proper oversight is exercised to ensure secure management of the personal information.

11. Return of Grant

The return of a part or all the grant may be requested in the following cases:

(1) Discovery of a false declaration on the application.

(2) Use of the grant for non-applicable activities.

- (3) Failure to notify of changes in project plans.
- (4) Surplus at the end of the fiscal year.
- (5) Failure to carry out the planned project.
- (6) Identification as an anti-social force as described in “Representation and Covenants regarding an Anti-Social Force”.

Refer to “Representation and Covenants regarding an Anti-Social Force”.

In addition, when suspicion of unauthorized expenditure or unreported surplus arises during or one year after the granted period, the trustee may investigate the grant recipient regarding grant usage and /or confirmation of vouchers related to the project. Therefore, grant recipients are requested to maintain the documents related to the reports.