



Call for Proposals

Innovation Window (W1)

Financial Innovation for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Solutions

Stage 1: Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

11 November 2025

Note to Candidates: This document must be read in conjunction with the SDG Impact Finance Initiative's Call for Proposals Innovation Window Framework. In case of discrepancies between the Framework and this document, this document prevails.

Expression of Interest (EOI) – Stage 1

Reference: EOI SIFI-W1-C5

Procedure: Two-stage (Stage 1: EOI / shortlisting; Stage 2: Full Proposal by shortlisted Candidates)

Introduction: The SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI) is a Swiss non-profit association founded in 2021 by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), UBS Optimus Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In 2024, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg joined as a member. Since 2025, SIFI has welcomed the Ursimone Wietlisbach Foundation and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as new partners. SIFI's mission is to design and support Financial Innovations that mobilize private capital for impact-driven financial mechanisms and investment vehicles. Learn more at sdgimpactfinance.org.

Through its Innovation Window (W1), SIFI launched its fifth Call for Proposals (C5) in November 2025. This Call focuses on Financial Innovation to deploy climate adaptation and resilience solutions such as data-driven risk analytics, resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions, instruments for risk transfer, as well as climate adaptation products, services, and technologies. For the latter, i.e., financial vehicles with an investment focus on technological innovation solutions for climate adaptation, the assessment will also consider the maturity level of the underlying technologies. There will be a strict assessment on how directly and strongly proposals align with climate adaptation targets, notably in terms of reducing the climate hazard, mitigating the exposure, and reducing the vulnerability. Please refer to the taxonomy in the Annex. W1 C5 must contribute to at least one of the following SDGs:

- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Who Can Apply: SIFI invites impact-focused organizations, e.g., investment managers, NGOs, and similar entities (hereafter “Candidates”), to submit an EOI.

Use of Grant Funds: Candidates may apply for one or more of the following:

- **Feasibility Studies** (to assess viability of a proposed mechanism)
 - Validate private investor interest
 - Assess potential for intended impact
 - Design the mechanism (capital structure, financial model)
- **Expansion** (to scale an existing mechanism toward financial viability)
 - Fundraising/marketing to meet capital-raising targets
 - Produce key legal documents
 - Conduct due diligence on initial pipeline and deploy capital
 - Hire key personnel needed for expansion

Grant Category: Candidates may select one or more of the following:

- **Ecosystem Builder:** Addresses systemic challenges (e.g., currency/liquidity/credit risk mitigation; frameworks/tools to improve efficiency and access in impact finance).
- **Fund Seeder:** Pioneers new mechanisms/vehicles (e.g., strategies/instruments targeting specific SDGs; vehicles addressing underserved sectors).
- **Other:** If not fitting the above, specify.

Type of Financing Instrument: Candidates may select one or more of the following:

- Traditional grant
- Convertible grant
- Repayable grant

- Other (specify).

Funding Available: SIFI will allocate up to CHF 2,000,000 under this CfP, supporting up to five (5) Innovators. Each Innovator may receive up to CHF 500,000. Candidates must state minimum and maximum requested amounts (in CHF) required for viability. Requested amounts are not guaranteed; SIFI reserves sole discretion over allocations.

Eligibility: Candidates must operate in countries listed in the OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients (current list). Low-income countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) are also strongly encouraged.

Tender Management: This CfP procedure is managed by Broadpeak Advisory AG (hereafter "Broadpeak").

Format:

- Language: English
- File: Single PDF (max 10 MB) combining the EOI (max 8 pages including cover sheet) plus all Stage-1 Forms and required corporate documents (forms and corporate documents do not count toward the 8-page limit).
- File naming: EOI_SIFI-W1-C5_[CandidateShortName]_[YYYYMMDD].pdf
- Page limit: Any EOI content beyond 8 pages (including cover sheet) will not be reviewed.
- Structure: Candidates must structure their EOI according to the criteria and address each one comprehensively. If a Candidate is unable to provide information for a specific criterion, this must be explicitly stated and justified.

Submission:

- Submission portal: EOIs must be submitted exclusively via the submission portal on the SIFI website. Submissions by any other means, including email, will not be accepted.
- Deadline: 11 December 2025 at 12:00 (noon) CET (Switzerland local time).

EOIs are considered submitted only once the file has been successfully uploaded to the SIFI portal before the deadline. Late submissions will not be possible and will not be considered.

Required Stage-1 Forms (to be included in the single PDF):

- Form 1: Executive Summary
- Form 2: Declaration of Undertaking
- Form 3: Declaration of Tax Conformity
- Form 4: Sample Declaration on Conflict of Interest
- Form 5: Sample Declaration of Association
- Form 6: Power of Attorney
- Form 9: Pre-Screening Checklist
- Form 10: Due Diligence Checklist
- Form 11: Self-Declaration Form
- Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Incorporation (or equivalents).

Cover Sheet (mandatory items):

- Reference "EOI SIFI-W1-C5"
- Candidate Name (full legal)
- Registered address
- Trading address (if different)
- Email

- Phone

Clarifications: All clarification requests must be sent in writing to Tenders@Broadpeak.ch no later than 30 November 2025 at 12:00 (noon) CET, i.e., 16 calendar days before the submission deadline. Responses (without identifying the source of the query) may be shared via the portal to ensure equal treatment.

Main Contact Person Registration: Send the details below to Tenders@Broadpeak.ch no later than 01 December 2025 at 12:00 (noon) CET, i.e., 10 calendar days before the submission deadline:

- Candidate Name (full legal name)
- Main Contact Person Name
- Main Contact Person Email Address
- Main Contact Person Phone Number

The designated person will be the only point of contact throughout the CfP.

Optional: Candidates may submit a pitch deck in addition to their EOI. Please note that it will not be evaluated.

Minimum Criteria (to confirm eligibility of Candidate and Financial Innovation¹)

The Minimum Criteria will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. To qualify, Candidates must meet all Minimum Criteria. Failure to meet any single criterion, or to provide clear evidence of compliance in the EOI, will result in disqualification.

#	Criterion	Rating Method	Guidance
M.1	Institutional Eligibility	Pass/Fail	The Candidate must not be a Development Finance Institution (DFI), Multilateral Development Bank (MDB), International Financial Institution (IFI), UN agency, or an individual (natural person).
M.2	Timely Submission	Pass/Fail	EOI must be uploaded on SIFI portal before the deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.
M.3	Required Forms	Pass/Fail	All Forms (F1-F6 and F9-F11) must be included and signed
M.4	Single PDF	Pass/Fail	EOI must be submitted as one consolidated PDF file
M.5	Page Limit	Pass/Fail	EOI must not exceed 8 pages (excluding annexes and forms)
M.6	Legal Entity	Pass/Fail	Certificate of Incorporation or Articles/Statutes/Bylaws must be provided
M.7	DAC Country Focus	Pass/Fail	Activities must target countries on the DAC List of ODA recipients (LICs/LDCs encouraged)
M.8	SDG Contribution	Pass/Fail	EOI must demonstrate relevance to at least one of SDGs 6, 7, or 13, only in the context of climate adaptation, not energy or mitigation
M.9	Capital Structure	Pass/Fail	EOI must include a schematic of the proposed mechanism's capital structure.
M.10	Grant Category	Pass/Fail	EOI must specify grant category (Ecosystem Builder / Fund Seeder / Other)
M.11	Grant Instrument	Pass/Fail	EOI must specify financing instrument (grant / convertible / repayable / other)
M.12	Adaptation Objective	Pass/Fail	EOI must map to at least one taxonomy domain defined in Annex 1.
M.13	Financial Innovation Eligibility	Pass/Fail	EOI must qualify as a Financial Innovation that advances impact finance (e.g., investment vehicle or financial mechanism). For existing vehicles, provide a Certificate of Incorporation, Fund Charter, Trust Deed, or Constitution. For solutions not yet established, include a confirmation that the proposed entity will be structured as a financial solution.
M.14	Private Sector Focus	Pass/Fail	EOI must target private investors. EOI must illustrate the proposed capital structure and identify a potential pipeline of target private investors.

¹ Financial Innovation means an innovative or new impact financial mechanism or investment vehicle that is eligible to receive a Grant from SIFI.

Selection Criteria (to establish a ranking among all eligible Candidates and their Financial Innovations)

The Selection Criteria will be evaluated using the scoring system outlined below to rank Candidates effectively.

Scoring Method

Rating	Description of Rating Scores	Score (% of Max. Score)
Excellent	Fully meets and exceeds requirements. Clear, comprehensive, and well-evidenced; offers added value or innovation.	100%
Good	Fully meets requirements with minor gaps. Clear and well-evidenced but limited added value.	75%
Satisfactory	Adequately meets requirements but with some gaps or limited evidence.	50%
Poor	Partially meets requirements; major gaps, weak evidence, or unclear relevance.	25%
Unacceptable	Does not meet requirements or provides no relevant or no information.	0%

Selection Criteria

#	Criterion	Max. Score	Guidance
S.1	Clarity & Completeness	5	EOI is logically structured, concise, and complete, enabling evaluators to easily assess all sections.
S.2	Thematic Relevance	8	EOI explicitly demonstrates fit with the Call theme: technology-driven solutions for adaptation in energy, infrastructure, or climate.
S.3	Adaptation Contribution (taxonomy-based relevance)	10	EOI maps to two or more taxonomy domains (Annex 1: A-D) and provides a clear justification linking proposed activities to adaptation and resilience objectives.
S.4	Adaptation Contribution (alignment with national priorities)	10	EOI clearly describes adaptation objectives and expected resilience outcomes, demonstrating alignment with national adaptation priorities such as NAPs, NDCs, or other relevant strategies.
S.5	Technological Innovation	10	EOI demonstrates novelty or significant improvement in the proposed innovation technologies for climate adaptation. The assessment will consider the maturity level of the technologies based on the International Energy Agency (IEA) Technology Readiness Level (TRL) framework. Eligible solutions may fall within TRL 5-9, defined as:

- **TRL 5:** Technology validated in relevant (simulated) environment
- **TRL 6:** Prototype demonstrated in relevant environment
- **TRL 7:** System prototype demonstrated in operational environment
- **TRL 8:** System complete and qualified through testing and demonstration
- **TRL 9:** Actual system proven in operational environment and ready for commercial deployment

EOIs should indicate the current TRL.²

Note: For nature-based or hybrid adaptation solutions, TRL may be interpreted broadly to reflect operational maturity and field validation (e.g., demonstrated ecological performance or evidence of replication). Most NbS are expected to correspond to higher TRL levels (7-9). Institutional readiness (IR) aspects will be considered qualitatively under Candidate Capacity and Scale Potential.

S.6	Financial Innovation	10	EOI demonstrates novelty or significant improvement in the proposed financial mechanism, including its structuring approach.
S.7	SDG Alignment	10	EOI specifies expected contribution to SDGs 6, 7, or 13, with measurable indicators.
S.8	Pipeline Development	8	EOI identifies a concrete pipeline of projects, partners, or transactions. For Feasibility: early identification and validation of opportunities. For Expansion: confirmed pipeline with due diligence or early commitments.
S.9	Scale Potential	8	EOI shows credible potential to scale beyond the initial pipeline, replicating the model across geographies, sectors, or markets.
S.10	Candidate Capacity	8	EOI demonstrates the team's track record and readiness to deliver the proposed stage (Feasibility = studies/structuring; Expansion = fundraising/execution).
S.11	Private Capital Mobilization	8	EOI provides a credible plan (Feasibility) or evidence (Expansion) for mobilizing private capital.

² More information on TRLs can be found in APRE & CDTI (2022), "Guiding Notes to Use the TRL Self-Assessment Tool" developed under the BRIDGE2HE Project (Grant Agreement No. 101005071) of the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme. The publication is available on the Horizon Europe NCP Portal: <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/store/trl-assessment>

S.12	Additionality of SIFI Funding	5	EOI demonstrates why SIFI support is catalytic and would enable activities not otherwise possible.
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TOTAL	100
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Annex 1: Adaptation Taxonomy

This adaptation taxonomy provides a structured framework to classify and evaluate proposed financial mechanisms according to their contribution to climate adaptation and resilience. It aligns with international standards from the OECD, World Bank, and EU Climate Adaptation Taxonomy, ensuring that selected proposals are both scientifically grounded and impact oriented.

A. Climate Risk Analytics and Intelligence

- Systems and tools that enhance the generation, accessibility, and use of climate data and risk information, including early warning systems, climate models, and vulnerability and exposure assessments.
- Solutions that support climate-informed decision-making and improve public and private sector capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate hazards.

B. Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

- Climate-resilient energy, water, transport, and urban systems designed to withstand physical climate risks.
- Nature-based and hybrid solutions such as watershed restoration, mangrove and wetland protection, sustainable land and forest management, and urban greening that enhance natural resilience.
- Infrastructure investments that integrate resilience measures into design, maintenance, and operation.

C. Financial and Risk-Transfer Mechanisms

- Financial instruments that enable risk sharing and transfer of climate-related losses, including insurance (parametric, index-based, and micro-insurance), resilience and catastrophe bonds, guarantees, and contingent credit lines.
- Facilities that enhance financial preparedness and stability by providing rapid liquidity and protection against climate shocks.

D. Adaptation Products, Services, and Technologies

- Goods, services, and technologies that directly reduce vulnerability to climate risks, such as water-efficient irrigation, drought- or flood-resilient agricultural inputs, sustainable cooling systems, and energy reliability solutions.
- Business models that enable the deployment and scaling of adaptation technologies in climate-vulnerable sectors.