

# The CLEAN HELPDESK



An ODA-funded technical assistance helpdesk offering climate, environment, and nature expertise to HMG officials.



## What is the CLEAN Helpdesk?

As the Foreign Secretary said in the [Kew Lecture 7](#), there is no pathway to countries' development aspirations without climate resilience, action on the nature crisis and access to clean energy, and no pathway to a sustainable future without development that leaves no one behind.

This builds on previous UK government commitments to align all of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) with the Paris Agreement and to ensure that all ODA spending does no harm to nature by taking steps to ensure UK bilateral ODA becomes 'nature positive', aligned with "Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework".

In line with these commitments, the UK government has established the **Climate, Environment and Nature (CLEAN) Helpdesk**, funded to 31 March 2026, to provide technical assistance to improve climate, environment and nature mainstreaming across ODA-eligible initiatives.

Gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) is mainstreamed across all our work.

The CLEAN Helpdesk is managed by the Energy, Climate, and Environment Directorate (ECED) through an Accountable Grant, providing support to FCDO, British embassies, high commissions and consulates, central offices and other government departments (OGDs).



## What kind of support can I access?

The CLEAN Helpdesk aims to increase the capacity of UK government officials to mainstream climate, environment and nature (CEN) considerations into their policy and programmes. This is done by providing the following services:

- **Programme or portfolio review** to assess **potential International Climate Finance (ICF) and ICF indicators**.
- Support to **develop and review concept notes and business cases**. This focusses on economic appraisal support to business cases, as well the incorporation of climate, environment and nature considerations and data.
- **Cross-sectoral technical assistance** in the form of identifying the **linkages between climate, environment and nature and other thematic areas** (eg: health, education, social protection) to inform policy and programming.
- Support **Paris Alignment and nature-proofing compliance** (PrOF rule 5) by undertaking the following:
  - Conducting **Climate Risk and Adaptation Assessments**.
  - **Shadow Carbon Pricing**.
  - Applying HMG's policy on **aligning UK international support for the clean energy transition**.
  - **Nature-proofing** in programmes and policies.
  - Identifying appropriate **ICF indicators**.
- Analysis to support teams engaging with **national-level climate and environment policy and plans**.
- **Advice on GEDSI integration** and responsive monitoring in CEN programming.

Nature requests from FCDO can be submitted to the [Nature Facility 7](#).



Visit the CLEAN online **Resource Library**  
for examples of work undertaken  
<https://www.clean-helpdesk.org/knowledge-hub/search>



[info@cleanhelpdesk.org](mailto:info@cleanhelpdesk.org)



[www.clean-helpdesk.org](http://www.clean-helpdesk.org)



## How does this support work?

The CLEAN Helpdesk offers up to **20 days of expert support**. Any additional support (above these 20 days) will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The CLEAN Helpdesk team will review your request and consult with you to develop a terms of reference that would then be matched to a suitable expert from the CLEAN Helpdesk's Roster of Experts, or refer you to another FCDO-funded facility where relevant.



## Who is eligible to access this support?

**Any UK Government official is able to make a climate, environment and nature request as long as it is ODA-eligible.**

Requests related to ODA spending will be prioritised, but if your request does not relate to ODA spending or concerns a non-ODA country, please [contact us](#) to discuss the options.



## How do I contact the CLEAN Helpdesk for support?

Visit the [CLEAN Helpdesk website](#) to access existing CEN resources, make a request for technical assistance (TA), or contact a Helpdesk officer to ask another question.

Follow the prompts on the [website](#) and fill out a 'Request for Technical Assistance' form.

Or go direct to the [Nature Facility](#) for nature requests from FCDO staff.



## Examples of current CLEAN technical assistance being provided:

- Review of ICF allocation and indicators in ODA-funded humanitarian programmes in Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- Literature and evidence reviews for Business Cases in FCDO and DEFRA ODA-funded programmes in the UK, Africa, and South America.
- Development of Climate Risk and Adaptation Assessments in FCAS in ODA-spending programmes in Africa.
- Sector-specific guidance notes for central offices on key themes such as climate and infrastructure, climate and social protection, and climate and Value for Money decision-making.



## Thematic areas of expertise covered by the Roster:

- Agriculture, Land-use, and Forestry
- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration
- Blue Economy (Marine and Coastal Economies)
- Conflict, Security, and Justice
- Education
- Finance, Insurance, and Banking
- Health Services and Epidemiology
- Humanitarian and Social Protection
- Infrastructure (including energy and transport)
- Manufacturing and Industry
- Social Development (including economic development)
- Tourism
- Urban Planning and Development
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)



*Not sure if we can offer the expert support you need? The CLEAN Helpdesk also provides a referral service to other TA facilities. If your request does not fall within the scope of the CLEAN Helpdesk, we can help to signpost to other appropriate TA facilities where available.*