

BioInnovation Africa II

Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI)

The BioInnovation Africa project invites business and business organisations interested in partnering with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to submit their 'expressions of interest (EoI)' to develop or scale up supply chains that are based on African biodiversity and respect the [UNCTAD BioTrade principles](#).

About GIZ and the BioInnovation Africa project

GIZ is a state-owned organisation. We work worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. We offer the experience, the regional and technical know-how of GIZ in the global market and provide international clients with expertise in terms of economic and result-oriented services.

Through the [BioInnovation Africa](#) project, which is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ aims to foster and enhance equitable European-African business partnerships that contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia and South Africa.

The project intends to do so by encouraging and supporting the private sector to invest in Africa and establish long-term partnerships for biodiversity-based businesses.

Its objectives are:

- **ABS regulatory compliance** – implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- **Ecological sustainability** – foster R&D and sourcing schemes that respect people and support biodiversity conservation.
- **Innovation for new products and jobs** – promoting technology transfer, long term business partnerships for a reliable supply of natural ingredients and better products.
- **Advocacy** – showcasing successful and sustainable North-South business partnerships as “proof of principle” will help to increasingly integrate BioTrade and ABS principles in cooperation portfolios.

The projects support areas are defined as follows:



The implementation of the project is supported by [GeoMedia GmbH](#) and the [Union for Ethical BioTrade \(UEBT\)](#). The latter will in particular facilitate business engagement and provide guidance on its sourcing standards.

Expected impacts

Through this Call for EoI, the GIZ is looking for committed partners (at least one of them being registered in Europe) with concrete and economically viable proposals to advance business opportunities in Africa, in line with the objectives of the BioInnovation Africa project and UNCTAD BioTrade principles.

Through the business relationship between the (African and European) project partners the project is particularly interested in proposals that seek to:

- develop new ingredients or new applications of ingredients derived from African biodiversity in sectors such as food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, flavors and fragrances;
- strengthen and improve existing supply chains for export to Europe (*export readiness*);
- capacitate local suppliers to meet demands and requirements of the international market;
- introduce and implement a recognized requirement for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use – oriented by the respective (draft) "National Guidelines on the Use of Benefit Sharing for Biodiversity Conservation";
- strengthen the capacities, equal representation and active engagement of women and other marginalized groups further up the value chain (transformative approaches are highly welcome);
- improving processing capacities in the provider countries, e.g., through technology transfer;
- advance compliance with ABS rules and regulations in Africa; and/or
- render concrete impacts within a period of two years and clearly defined milestones until 05/2024 (especially for Cameroon and Madagascar).

Possible cooperation fields and activities

A wide portfolio of project support services can be considered and jointly defined. Examples of possible activities include training of local suppliers, consultations with local supplier communities, development of biodiversity management plans, guidance for ABS compliance, facilitation of ABS negotiations and sector roundtables and dialogues.

Strengthening local business on issues like product quality and traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of operating procedures • Development of traceability systems • Practices of farmer groups (storage, processing, transport) • Development of local monitoring systems / internal control systems
Sustainable sourcing and equitable trade practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain assessments and verifications for sustainable sourcing • Cost-calculations for prices to local farmer groups, farmers, pickers, incl. living-wage assessments • Community consultation workshops and formulation of local projects or local biodiversity conservation measures • Organisation of local communities, formalization of supply networks of farmers and pickers • Improvement of working conditions, health and safety measures
Sustainable farming, wild collection and resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity assessments and plans in supply chain sourcing areas • Resource assessments for sustainable regeneration rates in wild collection • Implementation of biodiversity conservation measures (e.g. reforestation, enrichment planting, biodiversity friendly agricultural practices)
Support ABS compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess ABS compliance status and compliance options • Guide companies in processes towards ABS compliance • Facilitate negotiations between companies, providers and national competent authorities • Provide legal review of ABS contracts
Sector dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector meetings and round tables • Definition of commonly agreed good practices • Crop specific guidance for BioTrade standards • Business training and technical support at sectoral level • Identification / elaboration of co-financing schemes (e.g. PPP)

Eligible applicants

BioInnovation Africa invites businesses and business organizations that are committed to:

- sustainable sourcing of biodiversity-based resources and natural ingredients from Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa;
- advancing UNCTAD BioTrade principles and practices in supply chains;
- partnerships with resource providers that contribute to local development;
- supporting biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use;
- compliance with applicable rules and regulations on access and benefit sharing (ABS);
- transparent and open dialogue with project partners; and
- actively contributing to project activities, for instance through co-investments or technology and knowledge transfer.

The following preconditions apply. The applicant must:

- be registered in a European country or in either one of the following African countries: Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia or South Africa and have proven business link with European companies;
- be legally constituted;
- dispose an audited annual financial statement;
- have an annual turnover of at least EUR 800,000 and a minimum of five employees (PLEASE NOTE: this criterion only applies to European companies);
- have sufficient economic solvency and liquidity to make necessary own contributions (monetary and in-kind); and
- have or can mobilize staff resources and specialist qualifications required to manage the project as proposed.

Selection criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on essential requirement, project-specific criteria and country-specific considerations, which can be found in the Annex 2.

Cooperation modalities

GIZ through BioInnovation Africa is seeking to collaborate with European and African business partnerships for value chains sourcing in (at least) one of the four African partner countries. All project partners are expected to work jointly within the project and actively contribute to the mutually identified activities.

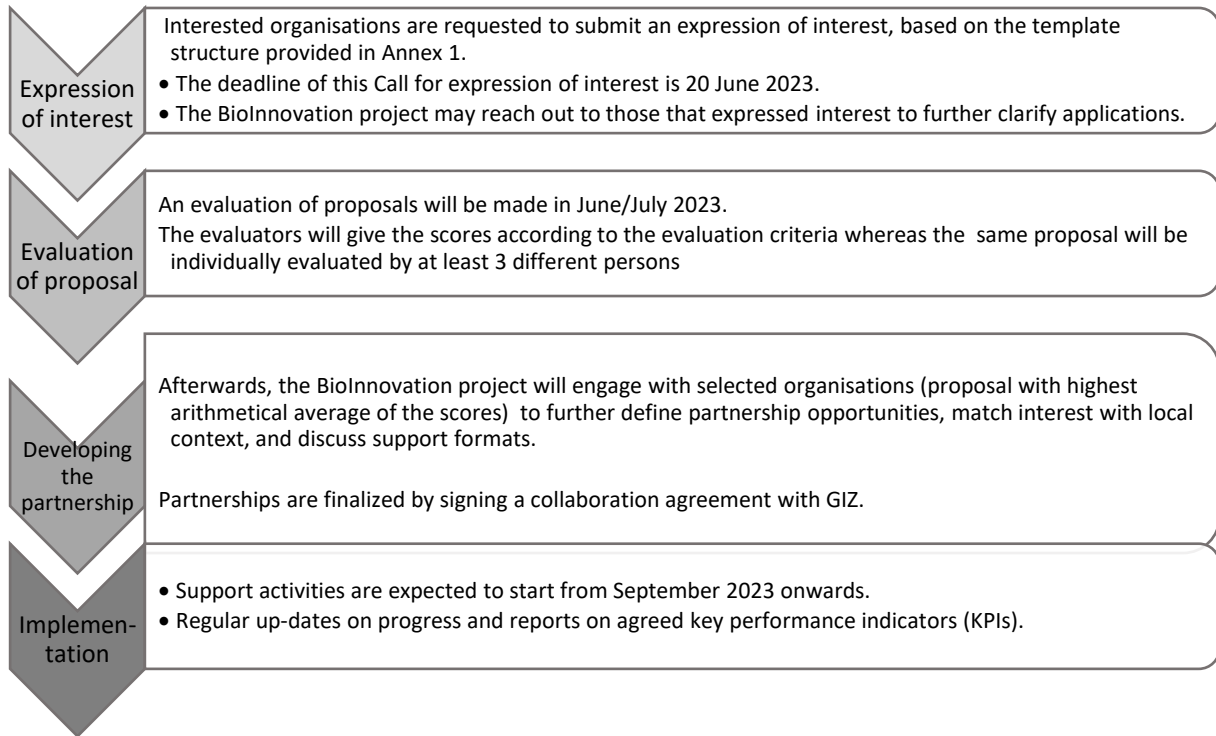
Beneficiaries of the joint activities may include, but are not restricted to farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, local SMMEs and public research institutions.

Collaboration modalities are tailor made and demand driven, depending on the local context. They may include technical and financial support to local actors at various steps of the supply chain to increase product quality and strengthen the local biotrade sector.

Apply now!

- The format for expressions of interest, selection criteria and further background information are available for download at the following link: www.abs-biotrade.info/call23
- We invite eligible, interested companies to submit their expression of interest via email to bioinnovationafrica@giz.de until **20 June 2023 COB**.
- More information: Contact us via email bioinnovation@giz.de.
- The GIZ ensures, that the information provided in the Expression of Interest will not be made public.

Application and implementation process



Disclaimer

The submission of a proposal does not lead to a legal entitlement to receive any funding. Any possible funding through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH/BioInnovation Africa within the framework of this call for proposal will be granted following and in accordance with an appropriate legal and commercial review, in particular with regard to the public-benefit purpose of each project and the non-violation of EU state-aid law. The legal compliance may also require adjustments in respect of the concept of the project proposal submitted as well as the inclusion of corresponding provisions into the contracts governing the use of funding.