



SWEDISH  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY

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**Open invitation to apply for project funding for Nordic collaborative projects focusing on:**

- adaptation investments and the potential to reduce risks, create value, and be effectively financed, or**
- climate change impact on biodiversity and the potential to mitigate associated risks.**

**The Nordic Climate Adaptation Programme (NCAP) invites applications for grants to Nordic collaborative projects to support the implementation of the Programme for Nordic Co-operation on the Environment and Climate 2025–2027.**

**The NCAP aims to establish a platform for enhanced Nordic cooperation on climate adaptation. It will facilitate knowledge exchange and help address shared challenges related to climate change and biodiversity loss within a Nordic context. The initiatives are strategic in nature, focusing on policy areas that deliver Nordic added value and tangible benefits for governments, the private sector, and citizens.**

**The call for applications is open from 8 April 2026 and close on 24 May 2026, 23:59 (CET).**

*Nordic Cooperation on the Environment and Climate*

We are facing a triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These three interlinked issues amplify each other and addressing one requires tackling all three. The Nordic co-operation on the environment and climate therefore focuses on synergies and interdisciplinary perspectives in our 2025-2030 co-operation programme. We build on the strong collaboration between Nordic countries and our tradition of developing robust knowledge bases that inform policy development.

The political objectives of the Nordic Cooperation Programme 2025–2030 are rooted in the shared vision of making the Nordic region the world's most sustainable and integrated region. In the face of climate change, Nordic cooperation plays a vital role in strengthening the resilience and prosperity of our countries. As part of this vision, the Nordic countries have committed to a political sub-goal: enhancing resilience through collaborative efforts.

### *Nordic Climate Adaptation Programme (NCAP)*

The Climate Adaptation Programme represents a strategic shift in which adaptation is recognized as an important pillar of sustainable development. The programme serves as a platform for knowledge sharing and facilitates addressing common challenges related to climate change and biodiversity loss in a Nordic context. A coordinated response is essential to strengthen societal preparedness and promote long-term resilience across sectors. With a collaborative approach and joint actions, the Nordic countries can strengthen their ability to address common challenges, such as the impact of extreme weather, biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption.

Within NCAP 2025 – 2027 we focus on five themes:

- ✓ strengthen the Nordic cooperation on climate adaptation by establishing a forum to facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing, and networking
- ✓ improve opportunities to finance climate adaptation together by enhancing access to information and creating incentives for a broader range of community actors.
- ✓ enhance our focus on transboundary climate risks to better understand the risks and strengthen our cooperation on disaster preparedness and climate adaptation
- ✓ contribute to improved collection and increased sharing of data by identifying and implementing common indicators to evaluate the effects of climate change and adaptation measures
- ✓ strengthen our understanding of how climate change impacts Nordic ecosystems with a focus on decisionmakers and those managing protected areas.

### **One call – two themes**

The Nordic Climate Adaptation Programme covers five themes. This open call aims to support projects within two of the programme themes,

- A.** Projects that contribute to enhance the private sector's ability to consider climate risks in investments and how incentives for the private sector to invest in climate adaptation measures can be increased, **or**
- B.** Projects that contribute to our enhanced understanding of climate change impacts on Nordic ecosystems and biodiversity.

The proposals should include a description of their proposed approach for presenting and disseminating the results of the assignment. This may involve outlining how findings will be communicated to relevant target groups and how different formats or activities could be used to support this. Examples could include scoping papers, systematic reviews and mapping and compilation of existing expertise, ongoing projects, and research available, information sheets, stakeholder discussions, seminars, communication efforts, or other suitable methods.

Additional consideration will be attributed to proposals that demonstrate a clear and thoughtful strategy for ensuring that the results are effectively communicated, reach the intended audiences, and support the overall purpose of the assignment.

NCAP welcomes applications for theme A or theme B.

### **A: ENHANCED ABILITY FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS TO CONSIDER CLIMATE RISKS IN INVESTMENTS**

Climate-related risks are increasing across the Nordic region, with growing impacts on citizens' wellbeing, infrastructure, ecosystems, and economic systems. Addressing these risks requires a significant scaling up of investments in climate adaptation measures from both the public and private sectors, as both sources will be critical for effective adaptation.

However, current investment levels remain insufficient. Climate risks are not yet systematically incorporated into financial decision-making, and incentives, agency and responsibility to invest in adaptation measures that create collective benefits are often weak or unclear. Thus, there is a need for a better understanding of how adaptation investments can be scaled up to reduce risks, create value, and be effectively financed.

#### **Aim of the call – theme A**

The call invites proposals to analyze how private investment flows in climate adaptation can be increased in order to reduce climate-related risks in the Nordic region. The theme aims to improve understanding of how accessibility to information on climate risks can be strengthened, as well as to investigate which policy changes to encourage investments in adaptation in the Nordic countries that could be developed. The aim is to generate actionable knowledge on how investment flows can be mobilized, directed, and scaled through stronger incentives, enhanced agency and clearer division of responsibility as well as better informed risk assessment practices.

Proposals are encouraged to include a sector-specific perspective where climate risks and investment needs are significant, such as for example the building and construction sector (other sectors are also relevant). Such

analyses should illustrate how climate-resilient investment decisions can reduce risks, generate value, and be scaled in practice.

Projects are expected to address one or more of the following areas:

- **Linking adaptation investments to risk reduction**  
How climate adaptation measures contribute to reducing physical and financial risks, and how these benefits can be better quantified, demonstrated, and communicated (e.g. innovative instruments for risk sharing).
- **Integration of climate risks in investment decisions**  
Barriers and opportunities for incorporating climate-related risks into private investment frameworks and decision-making processes.
- **Stronger incentives, enhanced agency and clearer division of responsibility for increased investment**  
Policy, regulatory, and market-based mechanisms that can stimulate both public and private investments in climate adaptation measures of a collective character, especially where private returns are lower than socio-economic benefits.
- **Financing models and instruments**  
Existing and potential financing models (e.g. public-private partnerships, blended finance) that can enable and scale investments in adaptation.
- **Information and decision-support tools**  
How access to relevant data, tools, and knowledge on climate risks and adaptation benefits can be improved to support investment decisions.

## **B: INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ON HOW NORDIC ECOSYSTEMS WILL BE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MITIGATE ASSOCIATED RISKS.**

Climate change is emerging as one of the major drivers of ecological change, altering/reshaping the environmental conditions across the Nordic countries. As changes in species distribution and landscape intensify, the impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and resilience of natural habitats increase. There is a need to understand how different ecosystems and biodiversity respond to the ongoing and projected climate change. However, significant knowledge gaps remain about the effects on biodiversity and possible management methods or approaches to mitigate them. Strengthening this understanding is essential to prioritizing further mitigation efforts and research.

### **Aim of the call – theme B**

The call invites project proposals to analyse existing knowledge, ongoing projects, research and other activities on climate change and its impact on ecosystems and biodiversity across the Nordic region. The aim is to highlight opportunities, limitations, and benefits for mitigation measures relevant to the Nordic region, along with identifying the remaining knowledge gaps that should be prioritized.

Project proposals are encouraged to demonstrate how results can be communicated and efficiently translated into practical use by regional and national authorities. This is essential to contribute to knowledge sharing and development of effective measures to mitigate the climate change impact on biodiversity across the Nordic region.

Projects are expected to address one or more of the following areas:

- **Impact on Nordic ecosystems**  
Nordic ecosystems that are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change, both long-term changes and climate-related events (e.g. wildfires and droughts). What the impacts are and/or how the ecosystem and biodiversity risks caused by reduced resilience can be linked to societal risks.
- **Monitoring**  
How impacts from climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity are currently monitored in the Nordic region, what kind of methodology and indicators are used and where the main monitoring gaps are.
- **Availability of quantitative data**  
Availability of quantitative data for the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems in the Nordic region and where the main data gaps are.
- **Mitigation options and effects**

What opportunities, limitations, and benefits for measures, such as management methods, protected areas or other approaches, there are to mitigate risks following climate change impact on Nordic ecosystems and biodiversity and how to foster synergies between them.

- **Climate refugia**  
Climate refugia in the Nordic region and how they can be used to enable persistence of ecosystems, thereby providing for the maintaining climate resilience across the region.

## **About the application (applies to both theme A and B)**

### **Who can apply?**

- Profit/Non-profit research institutions
- Industry and trade associations and business federations
- Regions and municipalities
- Government agencies
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Consultancies
- Stakeholder platforms
- International organisations

The project must have participation from representatives from at least three Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, or Åland). One country may be replaced by the participation of a non-Nordic country.

### **Assessment criteria**

The Nordic Climate Adaptation Programme committee evaluates project applications. Proposals are assessed against the following criteria.

- **The fulfilment of the aim** of each theme in the open call.
- **Relevance and Nordic value:** projects must add Nordic value, i.e. be a collaborative effort between the Nordic participants. The outcome should strengthen the ability to address common challenges related to climate change in the Nordic region.
- **Nordic participation:** participation as mentioned above (see *Who can apply*).
- **Project quality and feasibility.**
- **Credibility and experience** of project team.

- **Contribution to the fulfilment of the commitments of the Agenda 2030** for sustainable development and mainstreaming of cross cutting perspectives, for gender equality and rights of children and youth.
- **Innovative and transformative thinking within the scope of each theme**, which contributes to knowledge or solutions to problems identified by the project.
- **Quality** of the proposed approach for communication and dissemination in the project, expected results and deliverables, including final beneficiaries.

The proposals are further expected to support the Nordic Co-operation Programme for Environment and Climate 2025-2030, the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and be in alignment with EU strategy on Climate Adaptation.

### **Publications**

Unless otherwise agreed, all publications funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers must be produced by the Nordic Council of Ministers' publishing unit. The administrative body (main applicant) is obliged to adhere to the Nordic Council of Ministers' current communication and publishing strategy, as well as other guidelines for publication, dissemination, etc., as determined by the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is the responsibility of the administrative body to allocate funds for potential communication and publication in the budget. All publications that are published by the Nordic Council of Ministers are available via Open Access through the publication platform Nordpub, on norden.org, and in Google Books. The costs for the publication should be included in the project budget.

All projects must deliver an executive summary for possible web publication through the NCM.

[Find the overview of Nordic publications here](#)

[Find information on how to publish NCM reports here](#)

### **Timeline and Project period**

The call for applications is open from **8 April 2026** and close on **24 May 2026** at 23:59 (CET).

Projects granted funding will be notified in June 2026.

The suggested size of grants for project proposals in this call is 450 000 – 800 000 DKK.

The total funding pool is **DKK 3.000.000,00**. Our aim is to fund 2-3 projects within each theme.

All projects must finish no later than 30 November 2027.

All project activities must be finalized no later than 31 October, but preferably before 30 September 2027.

Please ensure the proposed timeline aligns with the overall project planning and deadlines.

### **Application and Budget**

Applications must be submitted using the application form and budget template available to download. Any VAT shall be paid by the project and must be considered when establishing the project budget.

When completing the budget form, overhead costs are calculated based on the total budget. For general project funding, overhead costs may be a maximum of 7% of the total budget. For funding of research activities carried out by recognised research organisations — such as universities, university-affiliated research units, or accredited research institutes — the overhead costs may be a maximum of 15% of the total budget. The 15% overhead rate does not apply to private consultancy firms or other commercial service providers, which fall under the general 7% overhead rule.

### **Audit**

If the project has received more than DKK 500 001 and the administrative body is not subject to audit by one of the Nordic national audit offices, the project's final accounts must be audited by a certified or chartered public accountant. The audit report must comply with the provisions laid down by the Audit regulations for funds granted by the Nordic parliaments to the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Any costs for external audits should be considered when establishing the project budget.

Audit instructions can be found at the [information page on Nordic funding](#).

### **EU State Aid Rules**

Notice of funding is issued by the NCAP secretariat through the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Swedish EPA complies with state aid rules for the award of grants/subsidies (Article 107 TFEU). If an approved project meets all six criteria for state aid, the grant will apply to the rules for de minimis support and a de minimis declaration must be filled in and provided to the NCAP/Swedish EPA. The NCAP group and/or the Swedish EPA **cannot** provide advice on EU state aid to potential applicants.

[EU STATE AID RULES](#)

## **General Data Protection Regulation**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is obliged to comply with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR). By applying, the applicants give approval that the NCAP (Environmental and Climate ministries/agencies in the Nordic countries) process the application and any personal data in the application electronically.

## **Application documents/templates**

- Application form for project funding (Word document, English)
- Budget template/financial statements (Excel, English)
- De minimis declaration (if relevant) (Word document, English)

The application must contain the (1) Application form and (2) budget/financial statements. Attach De minimis declaration when relevant.

The applicants are strongly encouraged not to send any documentation with sensitive personal information, such as CVs etc.

Application must be submitted in one e-mail attaching the application form as a word (.docx) or pdf file and the budget/financial statements as an Excel file (.xlsx).

The maximum number of pages of the application may not exceed 15 pages.

Submit the application to the NCAP secretariat: [ncap@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:ncap@naturvardsverket.se)

If you have any questions, please contact the NCAP secretariat.

We look forward to receiving your application!

## **Contact Information**

NCAP secretariat

email: [ncap@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:ncap@naturvardsverket.se)