

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

What are the eligibility and/or selection criteria to host a technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) support centre?

The criteria for selection of the regional and sub-regional TSC support centres were agreed upon by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Decision [15/8](#) (paragraph 4 of Annex II).

What is the definition of “regional” or “sub-regional”?

While there is no classification based upon formal membership in a geographical group, in the United Nations, member states are typically organised in five regional groupings: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Europe and Others Group. The complete list of countries listed according to regional groups is available [here](#).

An institution that is physically based in a country pertaining to one of the regional groupings and working in or in partnership with organizations in all or several countries of a specific regional group is considered regional. An institution that is working in a subset of countries within a region is considered sub-regional.

In line with Decision [15/8](#), the final number of regional and/or sub-regional TSC support centres to be established, will be made by the COP Bureau taking into account the advice of the [Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation \(TSC IAG\)](#).

What are the specificities, standards, and/or requirements (in terms of human capacities, infrastructures, etc.) to host a TSC support centre?

In terms of human resources, each selected centre will be expected to provide expertise in areas related to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols; and personnel qualified to receive, manage, and dispatch funds.

What type of organization can host a TSC support centre?

Different types of organizations, including, but not limited to, public entities, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic or research organizations, and networks or alliances working at the regional or sub-regional level can offer to host a TSC support centre.

Consortia of different institutions are eligible to apply. However, they must designate one of the constituent institutions which has a legal personality and sound administrative and managerial structures to apply as the lead institution host a TSC support centre.

Must the host organization have in-house expertise in all the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)?

Applicants are not expected to have in-house expertise for all 23 targets of the KMGBF. Equal consideration will be given to institutions with extensive in-house expertise and institutions that may be smaller but have a network of partners which they can rely on to provide such expertise.

Is there a minimum number of years of experience required to apply to host a TSC support centre?

The Conference of Parties did not set a minimum number of years of experience an entity must have to qualify to host a TSC support centre. However, it is expected the applicant would demonstrate sufficiently reasonable experience in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, as well as sufficiently sound administrative and managerial structures to host a TSC support centre.

2. SELECTION PROCESS

What is the process for selecting a TSC support centre?

The different steps of selecting a TSC support centre are outlined in paragraph 32 of Decision [15/8](#).

At its first meeting held in June 2023, the TSC IAG advised the Secretariat to take a two-stage approach to the selection process. During the first stage, the Secretariat issued a fully open [call for expressions of interest](#) through notification [07-27](#), with a deadline of 30 September 2023. During the second stage, the applicants that pass the screening of the first stage will be invited to provide further information regarding their administrative and managerial ability to effectively host a TSC support centre. Once additional information is received by the Secretariat, the applications will be assessed, and a report will be prepared with a ranked shortlist of up to three entities and organizations per (sub) region. This report will be considered by the IAG TSC who will be invited to provide advice on the most suitable entity (ies) and organization(s), along with the number of centres required. Through a notification, Parties will be invited to also submit views on the assessment and report of the IAG. Finally, the Bureau will be invited to select the most suitable entities and organizations taking into consideration the views of Parties and the report from the IAG will be submitted to the Bureau.

What documents are required to submit an expression of interest?

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Each applicant must fill out the [online form](#) before the deadline of 30 September 2023. A Word version of the form is available [here](#) for reference (there is no word limit to any question).

In addition to the expression of interest form, each applicant must also submit an official letter signed by the head of organization; and most recent annual report. Kindly note that only submissions made directly to the Secretariat before the deadline will be accepted.

Additional documents, including copies of financial statements and audit reports, will be required from those organizations that will pass the first screening.

Will there be future opportunities to apply to host a TSC support centre?

The Conference of the Parties decide in case there is a need to invite additional institutions to host a regional and/or sub-regional TSC support centre after current ongoing selection process.

What is the strategy in place in case there is no suitable candidate for a given region or sub-region?

If no application is received or if no suitable candidate is identified in a specific region or subregion during the selection process, the Secretariat will work with the selected TSC centres and other organizations to address this gap.

3. FUNDING

How will the TSC support centres be funded?

The selected TSC support centres are expected to mobilise the required resources from different sources. One of the selection criteria is the demonstrated capacity of the applicant to mobilize resources for technical and scientific cooperation programmes. In decision 15/8, the COP also requested the Secretariat to initiate and facilitate a process to identify donors that could provide additional funding to the selected entity(ies) and organizations to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Will funding be provided for infrastructure or is infrastructure considered in-kind contribution?

Infrastructure would be considered an in-kind contribution by the entities hosting the TSC support centres.

How can applicants assess the volume of work and the amount of resources that will be required to host a TSC support centre?

At this stage it is difficult to assess the volume of work and the amount of resources needed. They will vary according to the number of countries in the region or sub-region and the requests for support that will be submitted to the TSC support centre based on the countries' needs and priorities for implementing their NBSAPs and the GBF.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What will be the role and tasks of the regional and/or sub-regional TSC support centres in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as the KMGBF?

The core functions of the support centres are outlined in paragraph 26 of [decision 15/8](#).

How will the activities performed by the TSC support centres be decided?

Each TSC support centre will develop workplans and programmes in line with the core functions outlined in paragraph 26 of decision 15/8 taking into account the needs and priorities expressed by countries in the region or subregion. The initial work plan will be included in the host agreement to be signed by the selected entities/organizations and the Secretariat.

What will be the responsibilities of the TSC support centres in terms of engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth?

The guiding principles of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism outlined in annex II of decision 15/8 emphasise multi-stakeholder engagement, mutual respect and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). Furthermore, one of the criteria for selection of the TSC support centres is experience working with indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and other stakeholders.

How will the TSC support centres work with other existing mechanisms, e.g. NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, HAC, the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity, etc.?

The regional and/or sub-regional support centres will be expected to promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships. In practice this will entail fostering cooperation and partnership with other mechanisms and initiatives such as the NBSAP Accelerator, High Ambition Coalition, the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity and GEF-supported projects and programmes.