

January 2024: Grants & funding opportunities

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Portfolio company opportunities

- [Innovative Financing for Social Impact](#) (online course)

From Aunnie:: Thanks to the UKSA Tech Hub, they are offering scholarships for African Founders on the course. If you have any portfolio companies that you think would benefit, please do pass on.

- [Goodie nations](#)

Deadline 14 Jan 2024 . Partnering with AMEX ventures.

- [US African Development Foundation\(USADF\) Off-Grid Energy Challenge \(USD250k\)](#)

Projects are to be focused on increasing sustainable energy access, specifically off-grid solutions, and extending the delivery of electrification to unserved and underserved communities in Africa. The type of clean energy technologies to be proposed may include but are not limited to solar power, hydropower, wind power, biomass, biogas, gas, energy storage, and hybrid systems. Productive use applications in cross-sector areas like agriculture and agri-business, healthcare, education, ICT, and other commercial and industrial activities are highly encouraged. Winning applicants will receive:

- Grant capital up to \$250,000 from USADF
- Access to intensive local technical assistance and governance support
- **Deadline: 31 January 2024**

- [The US African Development Foundation \(USADF\) African Women Entrepreneurs Program- Reimagined \(USD 50k-100k \)](#)

The US African Development Foundation (USADF), in partnership with the U.S. Department of State Africa Bureau, is now accepting applications for the African Women Entrepreneurs Program- Reimagined. The initiative particularly encourages women entrepreneurs from Namibia, Mauritania, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Uganda, and Zambia to apply. This is a significant opportunity to secure funding ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 aimed at bolstering their businesses.

To qualify, businesses must be predominantly woman-owned and led, African-owned and operated, legally registered, and functioning in their respective countries for a minimum of three years. **The application deadline is January 21, 2024.**

- [Keeling Curve Prize: Greenhouse Gases \(USD50k\)](#)

The Global Warming Mitigation Project's flagship program, the Keeling Curve Prize, awards \$50,000 annually to each of 10 global projects that demonstrate the ability to reduce, replace, or remove greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and oceans. Since 2018, we've awarded \$1.75M to 60 nonprofits, for-profits, and startups, vetted more than 1,130 viable solutions, and grown one of the largest networks of global warming mitigators in the world. The initiatives we've awarded are currently projected to reduce 3.27 gigatons of CO₂e emissions this year alone (self-reported data). All 2024 applications must be submitted through this online portal (keelcurveprize.org/apply) by **Monday, February 12, 2024** at 11:59pm IDLW (UTC-12:00).

- [SoTecIn Factory second Open call for Social Innovators](#) (USD10k-100k)

Application deadline: 6 February 2024

EU-funded project SoTecIn Factory launched the second Open Call for Social Innovators and their EUR 3.3M programme to support mission-driven, social innovation ventures (individuals or organisations) in food, water & nutrients, textiles and plastics & packaging value chains in transforming industry into low-carbon via their tech-driven solutions based on higher R circular economy strategies.

The call will provide selected innovators direct support and guidance towards the development and implementation of their solution and access to specialized and qualified resources within various disciplines and technologies aiming to create economic and social ecological impacts.

Fund manager opportunities

- [USAID Africa Trade & Investment Activity](#) (Live RFPs)
- [The Mitigation Action Facility \(USD1 million-25 million\)](#)
 - **Deadline: 29 February 2024**
 - Projects shall have a duration between 36 and 66 months.
 - Projects are country-driven
 - Projects consist of a combination of policy and/or regulatory reforms and financial mechanisms. Policies should serve to create an enabling environment, whereas regulation and financial mechanisms channel financial flows into investments driving carbon-neutral development pathways.
 - Project funds are used to leverage additional public and/or private capital investment. A phase-out strategy for the Mitigation Action Facility support and phase-in of other sources of financing, including national financing for self-sustained long-term implementation, must be part of the project
 - Projects are implemented in one of the three priority sectors of the Mitigation Action Facility - energy, transport and industry, or propose a cross-sectoral approach with a clear link to one of the priority sector. The sector(s) that a project engages with should be explicitly included in the partner country's NDC to affirm the alignment of the project with national priorities and ensure that the project supports the implementation of NDC, is aligned with LTS and contributes overall to the UNFCCC process
- [ANDE Investment Manager Training \(IMT\)](#)

Deadline for the application is January 23, 2024.

The ANDE Investment Manager Training is the only course of its kind that provides a comprehensive overview of investing in small and growing businesses. The course is designed both for investment managers who are actively making investments in SGBs and capacity development providers who are working to support entrepreneurs through the investment process.

This five-day course is based largely on actual deals made by ANDE members and is designed to be highly interactive and participatory. It will focus on the social and environmental impact of investing at this level, and how that affects the investment process. It will also focus on both investing in emerging and developing markets and impact investing by incorporating global/regional case studies.

If you are interested in gaining cutting-edge knowledge on investing in early-stage deals in emerging markets from some of the leaders in the field, then this is the course for you!

Who should take this course?The training is primarily targeted at those who are:

- Responsible for investment and portfolio management
- Capacity development providers who work closely with investment managers and/or with entrepreneurs seeking investment
- Entrepreneurs looking to raise capitalINGOs and other institutions moving into impact investingImpact investors

As part of ANDE's commitment to DEI, we will be looking to support a cohort of 5 investment managers from under represented groups (women, non-binary, people with disabilities) to attend this training by subsidizing their registration costs (exact details will be shared on basis funding raised for the same closer to the date). Please fill out this form to indicate interest and we will contact you on a priority basis once we have more information.

- [Applications open for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Window \(USD40k-500K\)](#)

Convergence is offering a unique market acceleration opportunity for practitioners to secure design funding to develop and launch catalytic blended finance vehicles that aim to attract private capital to sustainable development at scale. **Deadline Date: August 30, 2024.**

Applicants can apply for feasibility study or proof-of-concept funding:

- Funding to explore the feasibility of the vehicle (USD40k-190K). For example, a combination of the following activities would be eligible:
 - Assessing the investability/bankability of the transaction
 - Conducting market scoping

- Conducting a gender analysis and stakeholder consultations
 - Designing the vehicle structure
- If a feasibility study (or equivalent) has been completed, then funding (USD190k-500k) would be provided to complete all design and structuring activities to launch the vehicle. For example, a combination of the following activities would be eligible:
 - Finalizing the capital structure and financial model
 - Fundraising and marketing activities with prospective investors
 - Final selection of implementing partners
 - Finalizing the legal structure and producing key documents needed to launch the vehicle
 - Development of a gender action plan (or equivalent) based on the gender analysis from prior feasibility work
 - Proof-of-concept applications will be expected to present 1) interest and ideally commitment from investors and relevant stakeholders to participate in the vehicle, and 2) a financial model.

Research & Ecosystem Building Grants/RFPs

- [ANDE/IDRC Call for Interest: Climate and Gender](#)
(USD60k)

Improving Outcomes for Women-led Clean Energy Enterprises Through Applied Research:

Clean energy entrepreneurship presents significant challenges for women, including limited access to funding, limited networking, lack of access to partnerships, challenging cultural norms, limited workplace flexibility, and lack of mentorship and training. While these barriers are common across different sectors, their impact on women entrepreneurs is particularly pronounced in the renewable sector due to the sector's heavy reliance on technology and its male-dominated nature.

With support from the [International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC), ANDE has launched a new initiative which will fund actionable research that aims to build the evidence base on these barriers and potential solutions. The project will fund six research projects on women in the clean energy sector, each eligible for a grant of up to USD 60,000.

Join our Open House on **January 30, 2024** by registering [here](#). Read the FAQs [here](#).

Should you need more information, please contact SangEun Kim at sangeun.kim@aspeninstitute.org

- [Call for Proposals: African Development Fund CAW Adaptation Sub-window](#) (USD5 million- 15 million)

Deadline to express interest : 2 February 2024, apply [here](#)

Eligible ADF Countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, GuineaBissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Eligible organisations:

- Non-sovereign entities (such as NGOs and UN Agencies) that fulfill the eligibility criteria.

- Proposals from consortia are allowed, if all members of the consortium are eligible.
- Regional or sub-regional intergovernmental bodies and other intergovernmental vehicles including climate centers, river basin organizations, economic communities.
- Governments and government entities of ADF countries.
- African Development Bank departments: Bank departments may submit proposals directly or may work with eligible external beneficiaries to support them in preparing high quality project concept notes.
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These adaptation projects must support adaptation to climate change and climate variability, build resilience to climate related shocks and extreme events, or strengthen the adaptive capacity of ecological, social, or economic systems or policy processes. They should aim to reduce risks from the harmful effects of climate change (such as sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme weather events, drought, flood, among others). They may also include the most beneficial opportunities associated with climate change. CAW will prioritize highly transformative and impactful adaptation projects. Project proposals must integrate **gender, youth and underserved communities in fragile condition**

- [The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation\(USD10k-100k\)](#)

Deadline for round 2: 1 July 2024 (Round 1: 1 Jan 2024), apply [here](#).

Key Priorities

The Foundation is seeking applications to protect the environment, improve food production, and promote public health. In all of its areas of interest, the Foundation gives priority to projects that have the potential to advance the field, build local capacity, promote replication, influence public opinion and policy, affect systems change, and benefit people beyond the immediate project and its local context.

Funding Information

There is no minimum or maximum grant size. It is anticipated that most grants will fall in the \$25,000-\$50,000 per year range.

Types of Support

The Foundation supports projects and applied research that:

Generate local or regional solutions to problems affecting the quality of the environment and human life;

Advance local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences;

Develop the capacity of local organizations and coalitions; and

Address challenges in the field.

The Foundation prefers to support projects that address under-funded issues and geographic areas.

The Foundation funds applied research, pilot projects, new initiatives, training, and technical assistance, rather than ongoing support for programs that are already well underway. An important goal for the Foundation is to provide seed money to help promising projects, organizations, and individuals develop the track record they need to attract major foundation funding in the future.

Eligibility Criteria

The Foundation supports local, state, and regional organizations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East in the countries where the projects are based. It also supports organizations located in upper-income countries working with local partners in these areas. It does not support projects in post-Soviet states or Balkan states.

Most types of organizations that can provide evidence of their non-governmental status or charitable purpose are eligible to apply, including non-governmental organizations, nonprofit organizations; civil society organizations; community-based organizations; and colleges, universities, and other academic institutions.

Government agencies and religious organizations may be included as project partners but are not eligible for direct funding.

Ineligible

The Foundation does not typically fund:

- Overhead or indirect project costs
- General operating support
- Direct food, health or other humanitarian aid
- Eco-tourism
- Buildings and capital improvements
- Projects ultimately intended for private gain. All intellectual property developed with the grant should be public.
- Salaries for Executive Directors of U.S. and European-based organizations.
- Project expenses incurred before the grant is awarded.

- [TIPS Research RFP](#) (SGB growth in South Africa)

The 2024 TIPS Forum seeks to deepen understanding of the small business sector in South Africa, how it is evolving, and the implications for industrial policy. The future of small business is core to an inclusive industrial policy in South Africa. The Forum will discuss the systemic obstacles to the growth of small businesses in South Africa, and strategies for scaling up support and strengthening small business development as part of inclusive industrialisation. This Forum will have a hybrid

format that enables mainly in-person presentations to engage a diverse virtual audience. It will provide a platform for high-level panel discussions between industry, academics, representatives from civil society, policymakers and communities. Authors are invited to submit an abstract of up to 500 words. To be considered, abstracts should be submitted by Friday 29 March 2024. Authors will be notified of the decision by Friday 10 May 2024. Final papers are due for submission by Friday 28 June 2024. Abstract submissions should include full contact details of the authors.

If you wish to contribute, please submit the title of your paper and the abstract to Daphney Mabuza at TIPS via email to: dialogue@tips.org.za. TIPS is partnering with, and receiving financial support for the Forum from, the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) based at the University of Johannesburg. The Forum will be undertaken in association with the Department of Trade Industry and Competition (the dtic).