



J-USE Call for Proposals 2026

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

Nature-based Climate Solutions for Urban Jamaica

💰 Funding Parameters

MAXIMUM GRANT
JMD \$15,000,000



PROJECT DURATION
Maximum 12 months

✅ REOI Screening Criteria



Eligibility

Registered entity, urban/peri-urban location, complete documents



NbCS Alignment

Fits 18-category framework, clear rationale



Climate Dimension

Addresses ≥1 of 11 climate dimensions



Inclusion Commitment

≥2 vulnerability dimensions, disaggregation



Feasibility

12-month timeline, \$8M-\$15M budget, ≤10% admin



Co-financing

Cash or in-kind commitment quantified



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1. PURPOSE

The **Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)** has operated since August 1993 as Jamaica's National Environment Fund, and is a renowned grant-making institution.

The main objectives of the EFJ, are:

1. To promote and implement activities designed to conserve and manage the natural resources and environment of Jamaica in the interest of sustainable development
2. To encourage the improvement of child survival and child development in Jamaica

The EFJ hereby issues this **Request for Expression of Interest (RFOI)** for Urban-Nature-based Climate Solutions (NbCS) Interventions under the **Jamaica Urban Solutions for the Environment (J-USE) Project**.

This **Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI)** seeks qualified applicants to implement innovative, **climate-resilient system interventions (Nature-based Climate Solutions)** that address critical urban environmental challenges across Jamaica's urban landscapes.

The Foundation invites proposals from **civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, academic institutions and government entities** committed to advancing sustainable urban development through nature-based approaches.

2. ABOUT J-USE

The **Jamaica Urban Solutions for the Environment (J-USE)** project is a **CAD 4 million strategic initiative** managed and implemented by the **Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)** with funding support from **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)**.

The project focuses on urban climate resilience through Nature-based Climate Solutions (NbCS) that deliver measurable climate adaptation outcomes while advancing gender & social equity, economic inclusion, and ecological restoration in Jamaica's urban areas, targeting marginalized and **vulnerable communities**.

The project specifically addresses the intersection of **urban poverty, climate vulnerability, gender & social exclusion, ecological & biodiversity loss—Four urgent challenges** facing Jamaica.



3. WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking innovative NbCS projects that align with and address Jamaica's multidimensional urban challenges related to the following focus areas:

FOCUS AREAS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water and Flood Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Greening and Heat Reduction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coastal and Blue Economy (mangrove and coastal wetland restoration)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food Systems and Urban Agriculture

Project Intervention must provide evidence of the following:

- Livelihood Disruption & Economic Inequality and how it is to be addressed. Including the demonstration and intentional inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable populations. **(Mandatory)**
- Governance & Institutional Capacity to ensure sustained operations beyond the grant. - **(Mandatory)**
- Finance or Investment Sustainability—**(Mandatory)**
- Knowledge & Data—**(Mandatory)**
- Climate Innovation, if applicable
- Digital Innovation, if applicable

Projects must align with J-USE's NbCS intervention categories. See the attached **Guide and Application**.

3. GEOGRAPHIC ELIGIBILITY: URBAN AREAS ONLY

Projects must be implemented in **URBAN** areas within the following parishes. **Rural projects are NOT** eligible.

ELIGIBLE PARISHES:

- Kingston and St. Andrew
- St. Catherine
- Clarendon
- St. Mary
- St. Thomas
- Westmoreland
- Hanover

i **NOTE:** Applicants **MUST specify community names** to verify urban location.

Projects in purely rural/agricultural zones will be screened out at EOI stage and disqualified.



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4. WHO CAN APPLY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANT TYPES:

- **Private Sector Organizations:** Firms and organizations whose work contributes to sustainable urban infrastructure, climate resilience, and environmental management. This includes:
 - **Construction and Built Environment:** Construction companies, contractors, developers, architects, engineers, and their affiliates focused on sustainable infrastructure, green building practices, and climate-responsive construction.
 - **Tourism Enterprises:** Resort operators, hotel developers, eco-tourism operators, and tourism-linked businesses integrating NbCS into their operations
 - **Climate-Smart Agri-Enterprises:** Urban and commercial farming operations, agroforestry initiatives, and food production enterprises incorporating nature-based approaches
 - **Innovators and Technology Providers:** Firms deploying digital monitoring, IoT, AI-driven environmental management, and other technology solutions relevant to NbCS
- **National and Local Government Entities:** Government agencies, municipalities, and local authorities that play a role in urban planning, environmental governance, and climate resilience initiatives. These organizations may include ministries of the environment, urban development, local government, and planning authorities.
- **Professional Urban Planners Organizations:** organizations specializing in urban design, spatial planning, and sustainable development. They should have experience in integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into urban environments, ensuring that cities are resilient to climate risks, and improving the quality of life for vulnerable communities
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** These entities must have experience working on community development, social inclusion, environmental justice, and gender-sensitive climate resilience. Particularly those focused on empowering marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and low-income urban communities.
- **Academic Institutions:** Universities, research centers, and academic institutions that have expertise in environmental science, urban sustainability, and climate change adaptation, social sciences, and related fields. These organizations are encouraged to apply for projects that involve research, data collection, and the development of innovative solutions to urban climate resilience challenges. These institutions must be registered with the relevant body.



- Other Non-Profit Entities:** Other non-profit organizations with a mandate or mission aligned with urban climate resilience, sustainable development, or climate justice. This includes local development umbrella associations, local foundations, and local innovation hubs and centers, networks that work in areas related to environmental sustainability, urban development, and social inclusion.
- Consortia including any combination of the above-mentioned list.**

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS BY APPLICANT TYPE:

PRIVATE SECTOR / NGOs / CIVIL SOCIETY/ ACADEMIA	PUBLIC SECTOR / GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Incorporation/Registration* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational Profile and Work Experience (max 3 pages) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Name, Title, Phone, Email, Address of the Authorised Representative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A formal letter of Intent and Authorisation for the Intervention. <p>*Please note: Valid registration type under the relevant legislation for e.g. Companies Act, Charities Act, Cooperative Societies Act, Friendly Societies Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational Profile and Work Experience (max 3 pages) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contact Details of the Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDA) Head: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full Name, Title, Phone, Email, Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A formal letter of Intent and Authorisation for the Intervention.

i NOTE: All documents must be current (issued within last 12 months) and submitted in PDF format via the online portal.

5. FUNDING PARAMETERS

\$ Grant Maximum	JMD \$15,000,000 per project
Co-financing	Required (cash or in-kind, quantified in budget)
Administrative Cost Cap	Maximum 10% of total project budget
Disbursement	Tranche-based, tied to milestone completion
Value Proposition Models	Revenue Generating, Blended Model , Community Benefits



6. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS POLICY

! Key Note:

- If an entity submits two EOIs and both advance to Full Proposal stage, the entity must select **ONE project** to develop into a Full Proposal.



7. APPLICATION PROCESS: SEVEN-STAGES

INSERT IMAGE





OPEN CALL : J-USE Call for Proposals - NbCS Interventions

-  **START DATE: April 5th, 2026**

STAGE 1: Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

-  **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 27, 2026 (11:59 p.m. EST)**
-  Submit: Online REOI Form + 1 Required Budget Breakdown Template

STAGE 2: Screening (Internal Evaluation)

-  **Timing: April 28th - May 8, 2026 (2 weeks)**
-  **Duration:** 10 business days from close of EOI period
-  **Panel:** EFJ Technical Team + Independent Experts
-  **Outcome:** Invitation to Capacity Building OR written feedback

STAGE 3: Capacity Building - Phase 1 (Mandatory)¹

- **Pre-Call**  **NbCS Webinar Series:** 4 sessions over 2 weeks (May 11– May 22, 2026)

¹ For those approved at the screening stage.



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STAGE 4: Request for Proposals (RFP) Opened—Main Technical & Financial Proposal

-  **RFP Launch: May 22, 2026**



STAGE 5: Capacity Building—Phase 2 (Mandatory)²

- **Post-Call  Proposal Writing Workshop: 2 weeks (May 25 – June 8, 2026)**

STAGE 6: Full Proposal Submission

-  **Deadline: June 22, 2026 (11:59 p.m. EST)**
-  **Submit:** Full Proposal (Technical & Financial) utilizing templates with all required annexes

STAGE 7: Proposal Review, Grant Award and Project Portfolio Launch

-  **Proposal Review Period: June 23-July 31 2026 : 6 weeks** (Technical Review + Due Diligence + Board Approval)
-  **Outcome: Grant Award & written feedback (August 10, 2026)**
- **Project Portfolio Launch - August 24, 2026 - 3rd September 2027**

² For those approved at the screening stage.



8. REOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST

Your REOI submission must include the following mandatory elements –
UPLOAD REQUIRED:

- Organization Profile & Work Experience** (legal name, registration status, address, contact information)
- EOI-Budget Form (Template A)**
- Letter of Intent & Authorisation (Template B)**
- REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (if applicable)**



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9. REOI EVALUATION CRITERIA (SCREENING)

REOIs will be screened against **PASS/FAIL criteria**. Applications meeting ALL mandatory criteria will advance to the Screening Interview stage.

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Registered entity in Jamaica ✓ Project in eligible URBAN location ✓ Required registration documents uploaded
NbCS Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intervention fits NbCS Framework based on international IUCN standards NbCS solutions.³ ✓ Clear NbCS rationale in concept note
Climate Dimension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Addresses ≥2 of 11 climate dimensions ✓ Logical connection between intervention and dimension
Inclusion Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrates inclusion of ≥2 vulnerability dimensions ✓ Addresses Gender and Social Inclusion ✓ Beneficiary disaggregation provided
Risk Management & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrates post-project maintenance, governance and stewardship and financial sustainability ✓ Environmental, social, and implementation risks with mitigation strategies, and permitting process risk with municipalities if applicable.
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementable within <u>12 months maximum</u> ✓ Requested budget within <u>\$15M Maximum range</u> ✓ Administrative costs ≤10%

³ <https://inbs.iucn.org/understand/global-standard-for-nature-based-solutions/>



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Note: REOI screening is non-competitive. All applications meeting mandatory criteria advance to Capacity Building. Final selection occurs at the Full Proposal Evaluation stage.

10. IMPORTANT DATES

Open Call for Proposals & REOI Issue Date	April 5, 2026
Virtual Info Session	April 14, 2026 (10:00am EST)
REOI Submission Deadline	April 27, 2026 (11:59p.m. EST)
Screening (Internal Evaluation)	April 28th - May 8, 2026
REOI Screening Results	May 8-10, 2026
Capacity Building Kick-Off - Phase 1 (Virtual)	May 11, 2026
Request for Proposals (RFP) Opened—Main Technical & Financial Proposal	RFP Launch: May 22, 2026
Capacity Building Kick-Off—Phase 2 (In-Person)	May 25 – June 8, 2026
Full Proposal Deadline	June 22, 2026 (11:59p.m. EST)
Proposal Review & Due Diligence & Approval Period	June 23-July 31 2026
Final Decision Notification	August 10, 2026
Grant Agreements Signed	August 22, 2026
Project Portfolio Launch	August 24, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Project End Date	September 3, 2027



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11. HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1: Access Resources

- Download full Application Guidelines
- Download Required Templates
(**Template A:** EOI-Concept Note Form; **Template B:** EOI-Budget Form)
- Review NbCS Intervention Framework and verify your location is eligible urban/peri-urban

STEP 2: Complete Required Templates

- **Fill EOI-Concept Note Form (Template A)**
- **Fill EOI-Budget Form (Template B)**
- Save both as PDF files (max 5MB each)

STEP 3: Submit via Online Portal - Visit the Link www.efj.org.jm

- Upload completed templates + registration documents
- Complete online form fields
- Submit before deadline: **April 27, 2026 (11:59 p.m. EST)**

12. QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT

- ✉ Email: grants@efj.org.jm
- Telephone: 876-9266776, 876-9607954, 876-9607125
- Environmental Foundation of Jamaica website: www.efj.org.jm
- 📅 Virtual Info Session: **April 14,, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. EST**