

MAP ALUMNI REGIONAL IMPACT GRANT ROUND 2026

Bring your ideas to life and create lasting impact in the Mekong subregion!

The inaugural Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) Alumni Regional Impact Grant is now open to all alumni of MAP scholarships and training programs across Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar.

Applications are open from Tuesday 3 Feb – Sunday 15 March 2026, for projects to be implemented by February 2027.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The MAP Alumni Regional Impact Grants provide targeted funding to MAP alumni to design and implement collaborative, cross-country projects that address shared development challenges within the Mekong subregion. Grants will support practical, innovative solutions aligned with [MAP thematic areas](#):

- Water security
- Climate resilience
- Combatting transnational crime
- Economic resilience and subregional integration
- Gender equality, disability equity and social inclusion (GEDSI).

Projects will be selected through a competitive selection process managed by the MAP Support Unit (MAP SU). Eligible projects must be led by a MAP alum, in collaboration with other Australian alumni or non-alumni team members from the Mekong subregion, residing in a different country. Funding will be up to AUD 20,000 per project, with an implementation period of a maximum of nine months to ensure meaningful outcomes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. The Project Leader must be a MAP alum who has completed an Australia Awards MAP scholarship, a MAP short course or masterclass and is from one of the five Mekong subregion countries (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, or Myanmar).
2. The Project Leader must identify other team members from at least one other MAP country. These team members can be other MAP alumni, other Australian alumni or from other organisations. Collaboration with other MAP-funded projects is highly encouraged.
3. The project must be implemented in at least one Mekong subregion country. Proposals including more than one Mekong country are highly encouraged.
4. Proposals must support practical, innovative solutions to prevailing development challenges aligned with MAP thematic priorities.
5. Proposals must demonstrate clear task allocation and commitment among project team members to complete the project collectively, and within the approved timeline and budget.
6. Proposals must consider GEDSI issues.

7. Proposals must demonstrate how they will consider environmental issues and climate action when implementing the activities.
8. Proposals must be written in English. If a supporting document is not in English, a translation should be submitted together with the original.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:

1. Training programs and other capacity building activities, e.g. training women entrepreneurs on proposal development.
2. Direct support to community-based organisations, e.g. working with Disability Partner Organisations on specific activities.
3. Advocacy campaigns, e.g. an activity to celebrate and promote action on World Environment Day in June or the International Day of People with Disabilities in December.
4. Collaborative or action research.¹
5. Policy dialogue, development or implementation.

All proposals must be eligible for Official Development Assistance funding.

The following types of proposals are not eligible for funding:

1. Proposals which will spend more than 50 per cent of the funds on stipends/compensation/salaries for individuals or organisations supporting the implementation (not the team members).
2. Proposals which are entirely or primarily for the purchase of equipment.
3. Proposals that subsidise commercial activities of an individual or a company.

KEY REQUIREMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS:

Should your project be successful, you will be required to:

- sign a Grant Agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the grant.
- follow all due diligence requirements of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)/MAP SU.
- keep full financial records of all expenditure, including receipts.
- submit progress and final project completion report.
- strictly adhere to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade policies including Risk, Environmental and Social Safeguards, Child Protection, and Preventing Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment.

SELECTION AND DELIVERY PROCESS

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

1. **Regional collaboration** – the extent to which the proposal encourages multi-country or regional cooperation, for example through collaboration with alumni and organisations from different MAP countries or other MAP projects.
2. **MAP alignment** – the extent to which the activity is aligned with MAP thematic areas.

¹ Action research is a collaborative inquiry process that combines research and action to address specific problems in real-world settings.

3. **Development impact and innovation** – level of outputs and outcomes resulting from the proposal against the funding requested; using new ideas to address development issues; delivering broad-based results (i.e. not only individual benefits for a small group of alumni) and ongoing benefits beyond project completion.
4. **Clarity and feasibility** – clear logical flow; well-defined roles among team members and partners; practical timeline/workplan; realistic budget.
5. **GEDSI promotion** - GEDSI promotion is required across all MAP thematic areas with GEDSI considerations required in grants implementation. This can include the engagement and leadership of diverse people, including people with disability, women, ethnic minority groups, those living in remote and rural areas.
6. **Adhere to DFAT policies:** Child Protection Policy; Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy; Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

SUBMISSION:

Please submit the completed application and supporting documents by email to alumni@mapsupportunit.org, no later than Sunday, 15 March 2026 (11:59 PM Bangkok time).

SUPPORT FROM MAP SU:

MAP SU will provide:

- online information sessions for potential applicants, including guidance on structuring your application, workplan and budget
- financial and risk management training for successful applicants
- reasonable adjustments for grantees with disability
- ongoing support through check-in sessions, and monitoring and site visits by DFAT/MAP SU officers.

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) are available at <https://australiaawardsmap.org/category/alumni/>

If your questions are not covered in the FAQ, please email alumni@mapsupportunit.org.