ASEAN - NEW ZEALAND

VISION FUND

Shaping Shared Futures

NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

A Flexible Fund Supporting Solutions for Peace, Prosperity, People & Planet

The ASEAN-New Zealand Vision Fund (the Vision Fund) is a flexible funding resource supporting ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and its vision for a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred region.

Launched to commemorate 50 years of ASEAN-New Zealand partnership, this NZD25 million fund will provide NZD5 million per year from 2026-2030 to organisations across ASEAN and New Zealand that have proven experience in regional development in Southeast Asia.



Typical project size is **NZD 50,000 – 500,000** and up to **18 months** (with flexibility in exceptional cases).



Two funding pathways include an **Annual Open Call** and a **Strategic Response Window**, providing flexibility for urgent regional priorities or immediate transboundary crises.



The **ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (ANZJCC)** oversees operational settings and approves yearly workplans, supported by a Technical Working Group to monitor progress.

What are the Vision Fund's **Objectives?**

The Vision Fund is designed to deliver impactful development outcomes by funding initiatives focused on shared ASEAN-New Zealand priorities. To achieve this objective, the Vision Fund will support regional and partnership initiatives aligned with the four pillars of the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2026-2030.

PEACE
Governance and security cooperation

PROSPERITY
Economic cooperation and enhancement

PEOPLE
Knowledge, skills, capability, and collaboration

PLANET
Climate and environment resilience

Project Framework & Approaches

The Vision Fund is designed to be agile and responsive, supporting the evolving priorities of ASEAN and its Member States, inclusively, and on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity.

To maximise its impact, the Vision Fund prioritises its application across two high-leverage points:

Sparking Innovation (the First Mile): Initiating new ideas through pilot projects, strategic planning, and new policy frameworks that unlock larger-scale development funding.

Scaling Success (the Last Mile): Taking proven models and leveraging successful local initiatives to foster the regional adoption of best practices.



Eligible Project Approaches: Reflecting the Vision Fund's versatility, delivery models can be tailored to support these strategic phases through:

- Institutional and professional capacity-sharing initiatives.
- Strategic collaborations and knowledge-transfer projects.

Cross-cutting Commitment: All capability-building and capacity-sharing proposals should integrate commitments to people-centred development, environmental stewardship, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

Who is **eligible for the Vision Fund?**

The Vision Fund seeks to partner with high-impact organisations that have active regional networks and a proven track record of effective project delivery in Southeast Asia.

Eligible entities include:

ASEAN & Regional Entities:
Government agencies, intergovernmental organisations, ASEAN Centres, and regional bodies - including those identified in the ASEAN Charter- as well as national universities, research institutions, and NGOs with a clear regional mandate.

New Zealand Entities:
Crown entities, universities, economic development agencies, think tanks, and New Zealand-registered INGOs with a dedicated strategic focus on the ASEAN region.

To be eligible for funding, initiatives must be co-designed by regional or New Zealand partners alongside relevant ASEAN Member State governments, ASEAN Centres and Facilities, or Sectoral Bodies, ensuring all projects are strictly aligned with national and regional priorities.



What is the **Application Process?**

A streamlined 4-stage application process helps ensure strategic alignment and robust project design.

DEVELOPMENT

STAGE 1

Concept Note prepared by the eligible applicant is reviewed by the Fund Management Team, whose feedback informs refinement into a full proposal.

REVIEW

STAGE 2

Full proposals from eligible applicants are screened against baseline criteria and a **Long List** considered under the annual or strategic response pathway.

APPRAISAL & ENDORSEMENT

STAGE 3

Longlisted proposals undergo a comprehensive assessment against international and ASEAN development effectiveness principles to ensure high-quality delivery and endorsement by **ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.**

DECISION

STAGE 4

Successful **Shortlisted** proposals receive final authorisation from the **ASEAN-NZ Joint Cooperation Committee**, advancing to Grant Contracting and implementation. From Stage 2, the process for completing either pathway takes up to 14 weeks.

Core **Proposal Requirements**

To pass initial screening, proposals must be complete, represent standalone initiatives, and exclude capital expenditure, commercial activities, or retrospective funding. Eligible submissions must align with the following core criteria:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Direct contribution to the ASEAN-NZ Plan of Action 2026–2030 and broader regional strategies.
- **Regional Collaboration & Endorsement:** Developed in consultation with ASEAN Member State governments, Centres, or Sectoral Bodies, with clear ability to obtain ASEAN Sectoral Body endorsement.
- **ASEAN-Led Benefit:** Driven by ASEAN priorities, ensuring equal benefit and opportunity for all ASEAN Member States.
- **People-Centred Inclusion:** Active integration of gender equality, youth engagement, and social impacts for vulnerable groups under the ASEAN 2045: *Our Shared Future* framework.



What are the recommended **Focus Areas?**

While open to any regional priority, the Vision Fund encourages initiatives that align with one or more of the following thematic focus areas, reflecting the strategic pillars of the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action:

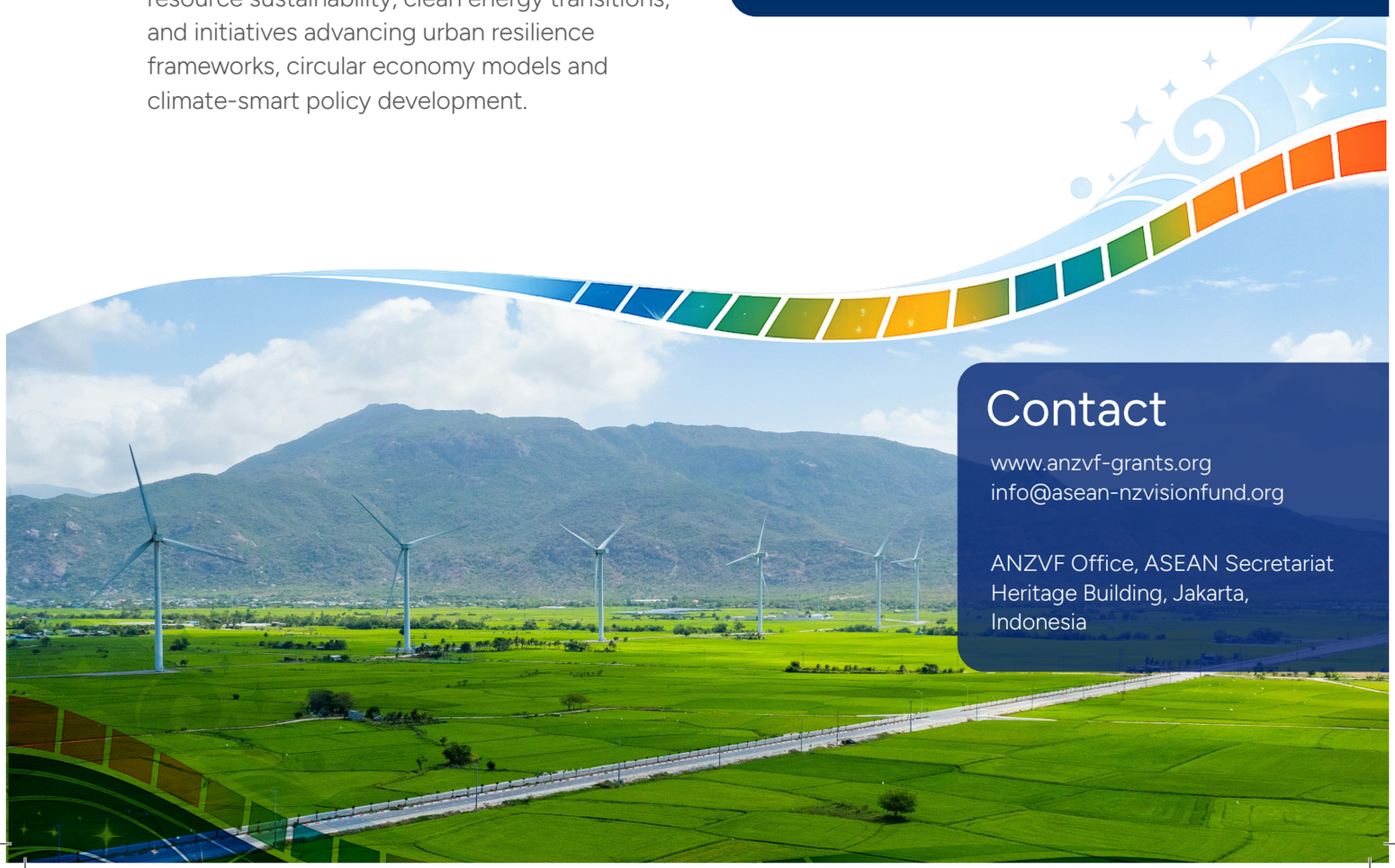
- **PEACE -** *Regional Resilience & Security:* Bolstering regional stability through cybersecurity, enhancing maritime cooperation, the Women, Peace and security (WPS) agenda, and collaborative frameworks for conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding.
- **PROSPERITY** - *Economic Prosperity & Digital Development:* Supporting development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, helping local enterprises move up regional supply chains, and driving the digital economy.
- **PEOPLE** - *Institutional Strengthening & Governance:* Capacity-sharing initiatives to enhance disaster risk management, public administration, policy making, and inclusive transparent service delivery across ASEAN Member States.
- **PLANET** - *Climate Resilience & Green Economies:* Advancing land-based and marine resource sustainability, clean energy transitions, and initiatives advancing urban resilience frameworks, circular economy models and climate-smart policy development.
- **Deeper Engagement & Collaboration:** Strengthening the ASEAN – NZ Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by fostering long-term institutional, professional, and organisational links between New Zealand and ASEAN organisations.

Ready to **Apply?**

Early engagement with the Vision Fund team is encouraged to refine project concepts, identify partners, and understand endorsement requirements.

Day-to-day operations are managed by Cowater International, a professional Fund Management team. For a central point of contact, applicants can reach out directly to the dedicated New Zealand Vision Fund office, located in Jakarta.

Visit the website or contact the team directly to access detailed application guidelines and start your proposal.



Contact

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