

Frequently Asked Questions – CAPE

Project requirements and application process

1. *Do I need to commit my own financial resource and a certain amount of staff time? What is that expected to be?*

All projects that go through CAPE will need to be able to provide an adequate level of input and engagement to allow the agreed project development support and transaction support to take place. This will vary based on the requirements of each project and will form an important part of the co-design phase when agreeing the support available to projects. There may be scope for CAPE to fund some of this core staff time cost.

2. *What will the second stage of the EOI involve?*

Stage 2 of the EOI will be shared with projects who successfully pass Stage 1 eligibility. It will involve collecting more detailed information on some of the questions included in Stage 1, and we will request key documentation (e.g., feasibility study, financial model) from the selected projects. This information will allow us to assess projects against our screening criteria.

3. *What if a project doesn't reach financial close by the end of the CAPE?*

We envisage that even if a project does not reach financial close by the end of CAPE, that they will be equipped with the tools and investment materials needed to reach investment in the near future – things like a high-quality investment case, a robust financial model, marketing materials, introductions to investors, etc. CAPE will work with projects to assess and learn identify any specific barriers that may have delayed investment during the CAPE.

4. *Are there any language requirements for the EOI (i.e. can Francophone Africa-based developers apply)? If no, do you foresee challenges in service delivery due to language barriers?*

We don't see language being a barrier in the application process or in the delivery of CAPE. The EOI is currently only in English, and we will update with a link to the French EOI once developed. In the meantime, contact us using the option on our CAPE webpage if you need any clarifications on the questions. CAPE will accept applications in both English and in French.

Eligibility

1. *Are there any countries that are excluded from CAPE*

All African countries are eligible for CAPE. In the EOI projects should outline any political/regulatory/legal risks their jurisdiction and demonstrate a good understanding of how risks may impact project success and steps taken or planned to mitigate risk.

2. *What is CAPE's position on carbon methodologies and standards?*

CAPE is not affiliated with a particular methodology or standard and will prioritise those projects that intend to go beyond high-integrity carbon standard requirements (i.e. VCS + CCB from Verra or Plan Vivo). Applications that use methodologies under Verra, Plan Vivo or Gold Standard will be welcomed.

3. *Can I put forward multiple projects?*

Yes, as long as the projects are distinct in geography, and each project would benefit from CAPE.

4. *Is CAPE support limited to restoration / reforestation projects?*

No - CAPE has a broad scope in terms of approach. We're looking for projects that can deliver biodiversity improvement, community benefits, carbon revenues and a sustainable business model. ARR, REDD+, Blue Carbon and other methodologies are all in scope.

Funding and services

1. *What types of support are available? [we have a slide to cover this]*

The focus of CAPE is on tailoring support to projects, so any project development activity (i.e. preparing it for investment before project delivery) could be in scope. Project delivery is not in scope (i.e. restoration, forest creation, pilots etc.)

2. *Would you fund PDD fees and other external services?*

Both PDD funding and funding other external support services are within the scope of CAPE, and project requirements will be considered as part of the codesign. We will work with selected projects to find the right organisation to support with the activities that projects need to become investment ready.

3. *What types of funding are available?*

CAPE has some grant funding available for projects – this may be on a pure grant basis, or a repayable basis (0% interest loan). Further detail of structuring of this would be developed during the design of project support and will depend on the requirements of the project.

4. *Does a project have to take a repayable grant to receive services from CAPE? Or is that covered?*

CAPE has in-house services, grants and returnable grants available. In-house and grants are a substantive part of the support mix, and so returnable grants are not a requirement. However, we are very aware returnable grants give us an ability to scale our offering and would work with the cohort (e.g. if it's a useful bridging finance tool, or to meet an additional shorter-term funding need prior to investment).

5. *Does CAPE directly fund the supported projects? Can it come as a co-financing resource?*

CAPE has no funding for implementation but will support projects to seek implementation finance from private investors through transaction support.