Bonn Agreement’s approach to projects

*This document provides non-binding guidance on how to develop a proposal for a Bonn Agreement project and on how the Bonn Agreement can support external projects.*

**Bonn Agreement projects**

1. Bonn Agreement takes a pro-active approach to projects by exchanging information on project calls and by identifying topics of work that can be used for project proposals in funding opportunities.
2. To identify topics for project proposals the following can be considered:
3. Strategic aims, operational objectives and actions in the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan 2019-2025;
4. OTSOPA and BONN work programmes;
5. Specific marine pollution work areas and/or zones with particular needs or of particular concern, where topics have long been lacking targeted resources to progress; and
6. new International requirements and knowledge gaps.
7. To develop a Bonn Agreement-steered project proposal a lead partner for the project consortium is identified at an early stage of the project development and application phase. Other Contracting Parties can engage as partners of the consortium with clear task allocations.
8. Contracting Parties need to establish the appropriate links with other capable institutions, research centres, universities, etc which have the required expertise to do the work to ensure having proposals with high output value to national authorities. Contracting Parties then shall remain involved as policy stakeholders.
9. The Secretariat will only lead if a project manager and additional part time financial and administrative support post is included in the project. The Secretariat can engage as a partner subject to other work pressures and the provision of additional resources.

**External projects**

**Checklist for Bonn Agreement’s support to external projects**

1. As key regional policy stakeholder, the Bonn Agreement may endorse external projects that are aligned with its vision and strategy to achieve better prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution in the Greater North Sea and its Approaches. A decision to endorse an external project will be based on the following checklist:
2. does the project support the strategic aims and objectives identified in the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan 2019-2025?
3. does the project develop products that are related to the tasks included in the technical addendum of the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan 2019-2025?
4. If not, does the project address a new/important marine pollution issue of concern, a knowledge gap or new international requirement, which is of direct relevance for the Bonn Agreement? Or is the output of the project expected to be of direct use to the Bonn Agreement’s community?
5. does the project engage stakeholders of relevance to Bonn Agreement work that can support Bonn Agreement needs but may not be directly engaged with the Bonn Agreement community?

**Letters of support**

1. In case a project consortium requires a letter of support from the Bonn Agreement, the Secretariat will review the checklist and draft a letter of support if at least one of the above requirements is met, and the project consortium can demonstrate it has the required expertise to ensure a high output value. The Secretariat will not provide letters of support at very short notice[[1]](#footnote-1) and where no previous stakeholder engagement in the project’s development has taken place. If the Secretariat agrees to provide a letter of support, it will be then sent for approval to the Chair of OTSOPA, the Chair of Bonn and, if applicable, the Contracting Party of the project leader[[2]](#footnote-2). They will follow the checklist and express their views whether the Bonn Agreement should support or not the project proposal. If deemed appropriate the Chairs can consult the convenient group to endorse their decision via silent approval procedure. Once the Secretariat receives the Chairs’ consent, the letter of support will be sent to the project consortium.
2. At the OTSOPA annual meeting, the Secretariat will provide information on the letters of support sent during the year.

**Bonn Agreement’s stakeholder engagement**

1. Bonn Agreement’s stakeholder engagement in external projects may include participation in the advisory board as well as attendance to workshops and closure meetings. The involvement of the Secretariat in the project will depend on their burden of work and on the economic resources available. Contracting Parties engaged may represent Bonn Agreement needs on the project advisory board.

1. Request should be made one month in advance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The OTSOPA and Bonn delegates of the Contracting Party will be informed who should try to coordinate for the response. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)