

Innovate 4 Nature Award Terms & Conditions

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1 Award

Each year, Innovate 4 Nature presents the "I4N Award" in four key areas to projects, companies and entrepreneurs that have developed particularly promising, high-quality nature-positive solutions.

The Innovate 4 Nature Award aims at identifying high-quality nature-positive solutions and accelerating them in collaboration with partners to halt and improve nature loss by 2030. For a definition of nature-positive, please refer to the [Nature Positive Initiative](#).

We are looking for solution in the entire nature-biodiversity space, with particular emphasis on four key areas:

- sustainable management of ecosystems;
- nature as infrastructure;
- regenerative agriculture; and
- circular nature-positive solutions.

The I4N Award offers a total of CHF 100,000 in prize money across four key areas.

In addition to the financial support, award winners can benefit from access to an ecosystem of partners and experts.

Moreover, I4N Grants or access to training or mentoring may be provided to particularly promising nature-positive solution providers.

2 Requirements

- Participation is *free of charge*.
- There is *no geographical restriction*, organisations from any country are welcome to apply.
- There are *no specific requirements regarding legal form*, ownership structure or age of entity.
- The *minimum requirement* is the presence of a business model, a business plan, a marketable pilot product, or a minimum viable product (MVP).
- We only accept *applications directly from founders* and not from fundraisers.
- Should you be selected, at least *one founder or executive director must be available* either in person or via video call on the day of the Jury meeting: Thursday, June 13th, 2024, in Morges/ Lausanne, Switzerland.

3 Procedure

To ensure that we accelerate the most impactful solution providers we need to get a clear understanding of how your solution impacts nature and biodiversity. We do this along a three-step approach.



3.1 Round 1: Call for application

In Round 1, we assess your solution's biodiversity impact over the next five years and want to understand your business model basics.

Please submit your application for round 1 via <http://tinyurl.com/i4n-award-2024>

Application deadline: 12:00 CET on April 5th, 2024.

No application will be accepted post the deadline.

All applications will be evaluated by the I4N team against the criteria listed below. A maximum of 50 organisations will be selected to submit details for round 2. If you are selected to participate in the second round, you will receive an email by April 19th, 2024.

All applicants are invited to join the Innovate 4 Nature Day 2024 via video stream.

3.2 Round 2: Detailed assessment

In Round 2, we will explore the positive and negative impacts of your business model and delve deeper into critical activities. Additionally, we'll request further details on financials and funding. This additional information will be used to quantify the impact pathways and allow the jury to compare solutions.

Submission deadline: 12:00 CET on May 10th, 2024.

No submission will be accepted post the deadline.

All submissions will be evaluated by the I4N team against the criteria listed below. A maximum of 20 organisations will be selected to submit details for round 3. If you are selected to participate in the pitch day, you will receive an email by May 31st, 2024.

3.3 Round 3: Pitch Day

In Round 3, the I4N Jury will assess your organisation's solution during the Pitch Day. Further information on the I4N Jury will be available on our homepage.

Pitch Day: June 13th, 2024, in Morges/Lausanne Switzerland and online.

At least one founder or executive director must be available in person or via videocall.

All pitches will be evaluated by the I4N Jury against the criteria listed below. Winners will be announced during the Innovate 4 Nature Day 2024.

3.4 Award Ceremony: Innovate 4 Nature Day 2024

The risk of inaction in biodiversity represents one of the most significant challenges we are facing today. To scale and accelerate nature-positive solutions, I4N unites solution-providers, investors, and corporates. The Innovate 4 Nature Day offers visibility and networking opportunities to foster collaboration and action in this field.

All participants of the pitch day will be invited to attend the Innovate 4 Nature Day 2024 in person. Two complimentary passes per participating organisation will be offered.

The event will take place in the second half of 2024. Date and place will be announced shortly.

4 Evaluation

The goal of I4N is to support nature-positive solution providers around the pre-seed and seed stage, where a business plan or a minimum viable product is available and needs validation.

4.1 Round 1 criteria

In the first round we want to assess your solution's biodiversity impact over the next five years and want to understand your business model basics.

4.1.1 Business criteria

To assess the potential of your solution in a business context, we evaluate the following elements:

- Problem-Fit Ability of your solution to solve the selected problem.
- Financial viability Potential ability of business-model to self-sustain at scale.
- Maturity Stage after initial idea, before growth phase.
- Team Composition and skills of team.

4.1.2 Nature/Biodiversity criteria

To assess the potential of your solution in the nature/biodiversity space, we evaluate the following elements:

- Theory of change Ability to identify and articulate the solution's positive impact.
- Extent Potential size of area positively affected by the solution.
- Condition change Potential size of the positive ecosystem condition change.
- Significance Relative importance of the impacted area for biodiversity.
- Transformation Solution potential to transform economic/social systems.

4.2 Round 2 criteria

In the second round we want to validate the assumptions we made based on the information provided in round 1.

4.2.1 Business criteria

- Market understanding Realistic estimation of market size and competition.
- Customers Identification of current and future customers.
- Competitive edge Identification of and potential of competitive edge.
- Revenue & Financials Realistic financial model based on existing operations.
- Funding needs Appropriate ask for next step in business plan.

4.2.2 Nature/Biodiversity criteria

The primary criteria for round 2 are the same as in round 1 but will allow a better understanding of the nature impact based on the additional information provided in round 2.

Additionally, the following criteria will be applied:

- Negative Impact Ability to identify and articulate the solution's negative impact.
- Monetization Inherent links between business model and financial valuation.

4.3 Round 3 criteria

In the third round, during the pitching in front of the I4N Jury, the criteria from round 1 and 2 will be re-applied in a simplified form and evaluated by the jury members based on the presentation given.

5 FAQ & Contact

For further questions, please refer to the FAQ on our homepage: <https://i4n.ch/i4n-award/>

Or send us an email to info@i4n.ch

Kindly avoid contacting I4N staff for individual presentations or demos, as they will not be factored into the evaluation process.