

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

## 可持续发展基金

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## 申请指引

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(2021年10月更新)

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## 1. 甚么是可持续发展基金?

#### 背景

1.1 在《一九九九年施政报告》中,时任行政长官勾划「建设美好家园」的理想时,强调市民、商界和政府应通力合作,奉行可持续发展的原则。为鼓励市民了解这个概念,以及实践可持续发展原则,时任行政长官认为有需要特别为这项工作提供经费来源。

#### 目标

- 1.2 成立为数一亿港元的可持续发展基金(基金),旨在资助不同计划,以助加深市民对可持续发展概念的认识,并鼓励市民在香港实践可持续发展原则。具体来说,基金资助的计划须着力:
  - (a) 让公众明白,在促进经济、社会及环境方面的长远利益时,力求兼顾共融至关重要;
  - (b) 提倡符合可持续发展原则的日常习惯; 以及
  - (c) 鼓励市民参与讨论并在本港实践长远的可持续发展。

## 2. 何谓「可持续发展」?

- 2.1 根据联合国环境与发展世界委员会的报告(《我们的共同未来》(一九八七年)),可持续发展指「既能满足当代的需要,而同时又不损及后代满足其需要的发展模式」,这个定义已获世界各国接纳。二零零二年联合国可持续发展世界首脑会议的实施计划订明,有需要「加强政府与包括所有主要羣体和志愿团体在内的非政府机构之间在计划和活动方面的伙伴关系,以促进在各个层面实现可持续发展」。
- 2.2 就香港而言,二零零零年完成的「二十一世纪可持续发展」研究对「可持续发展」所下定义,是「在社会大众和政府羣策羣力下,均衡满足现今一代和子孙后代在社会、经济、环境和资源方面的需要,从而令香港在本地、国家及国际层面上,同时达致经济繁荣、社会进步及环境优美」。

- 2.3 在《一九九九年施政报告》中,时任行政长官指出社会各界须同心协力,务求达致可持续发展,特别是:
  - (a) 在追求经济富裕、生活改善的同时,减少污染和浪费;
  - (b) 在满足我们自己各种需要与期望的同时,不损害子孙后代的福祉,以及
  - (c) 减少对邻近区域造成环保负担,协力保护共同拥有的资源。

## 3. 谁可申请可持续发展基金资助?

- 3.1 非政府机构、社区组织、学术及研究机构、学校及商会等各类机构,均可向基金申请资助。有关机构如不属法根据《指定若干人士,由他们以个人身分申请资助。如服须用,则该社团的所有干事资验,以个人身分向基金申请资业,提出申请不多别负责的方式,以个人身分向基金人均进入。 每一干事均须遵从所有条款及条件,犹如等技术,进一个人身分申请资助;若校之人的等,不是一样。如属根据《为申请资助;若校已的等。 会并非法团,校董会须为申请者。至于其他并非法人的等分,须明确指定最少一名人士为申请者。并非法人,则按董会须为申请者多于一人,则等一申请者均须以共同及各别负责的方式,遵从和遵守基金资助的所有条款及条件。
- 3.2 通常在香港居住且年满 18 岁或以上的人士,亦合资格向基金申请资助。
- 3.3 拟向基金申请资助的人士,可与他人合作推行拟议项目,惟项目的受薪或义务员工则除外。然而,申请应由该项目的单一领导人或主导者以个人名义提出。申请如获批准,该名申请者会以单一受资助者的身分与政府签订资助协议;而申请表格则应列明与申请者合作推行项目者的资料。合作者在项目中须无任何金钱利益,若有特殊情况致令此无法避免,申请者须在申请书详列所涉利益细节,并解释此等利益为何无法避免。
- 3.4 申请者每次可提交多于一份申请书,如提出多份申请书,须清楚注明每份申请书的优先次序。如提出申请的项目建

议书已有一个或多个其他资助来源,又或正向其他公营或私营机构申请资助,则须说明其他的资助来源、已获批资助额或已申请资助额等详情。

- 3.5 政府部门须与非政府机构合作,才可申请资助,有关的非政府机构须为拟议项目的主导者。
- 3.6 可持续发展委员会(委员会)亦可向基金申请资助,并须如 其他申请者一样,遵行同一套申请及审核程序。

## 4. 哪类项目会获得可持续发展基金资助?

- 4.1 获基金资助的项目须符合上文第1.2条所订目标。
- 4.2 可持续发展概念讲求在发展上兼顾经济、社会及环境三方面。项目如未能清楚显示至少可兼顾其中两方面,通常不会获得资助。
- 4.3 项目须有利于整个社会而非单一的机构、财团或界别。项目所涉及的工作可在香港以外的地方进行,但该等工作须能对本港社会有所裨益。
- 4.4 项目须属非牟利性质,及不会有任何政治、宗教或商业目的。所得收入均须用以促进项目的目标。
- 4.5 在考虑项目建议书时,委员会会考虑以下因素:
  - (a) 项目能否达到基金的目标;
  - (b) 项目的性质和范围是否属于委员会所订的优先范畴; 以及
  - (c) 项目能否符合委员会所订的评审准则。
- 4.6 只举行一次而长远影响有限的活动,例如嘉年华会和为时甚短的展览,其优先次序会较低。
- 4.7 个别人士如向基金申请助学金修读或研究相关学科,须示明修毕课程对社会有所裨益,例如申请者会学以致用,从事可持续发展的有关工作。申请者如获基金资助修读拟议课程,或须参与非政府机构工作或社区建设服务,与他人分享所学的专门知识。

4.8 有关可持续发展基金申请的评审准则及优先范畴,请浏览以下网页: http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/sdf/index.htm。

## 5. 如何申请?

5.1 申请者须遵守可持续发展基金的申请指引及申请表格的注意事项填妥申请表格,表格可从以下网页下载: http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/sdf/index.htm。

填妥的表格连同所须文件及资料(正本以及软复本)必须于申请截止日期或之前送交至下列办公室地址(正本)以及下列电邮地址(软复本):

香港湾仔轩尼诗道 130 号修顿中心 5 楼环境保护署 可持续发展基金秘书处

电邮: sdf@epd.gov.hk

## 6. 申请截止日期

6.1 有关可持续发展基金各轮申请的截止日期,请浏览以下网页: http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/sdf/index.htm。

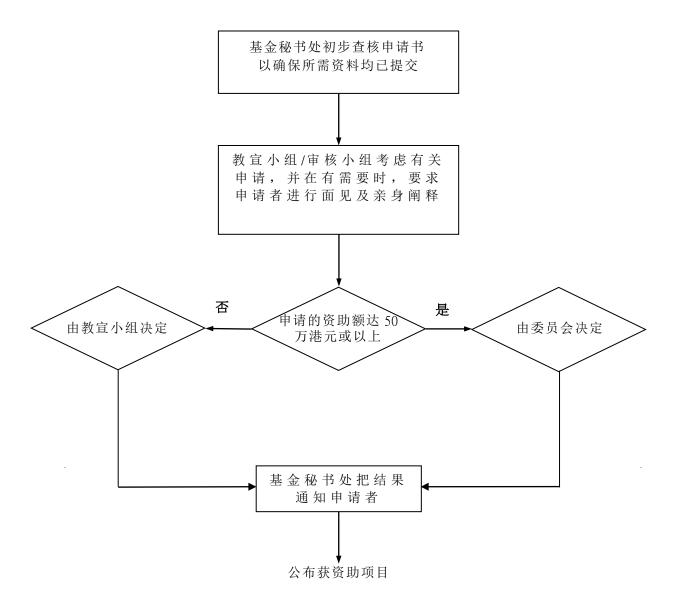
## 7. 如何处理申请?

- 7.1 可持续发展基金秘书处(基金秘书处)收到申请书后,会在两个星期内发信认收。
- 7.2 基金秘书处收到申请书后会作初步查核,确保申请书已填妥,然后把申请书转交委员会的教育及宣传工作小组(教宣小组)及/或由教宣小组成立的审核小组(如适用)以作考虑。
- 7.3 为了解申请书详情,基金秘书处或要求申请者阐释申请书上的资料或提供补充资料。申请者亦可能需要亲身向教宣小组或审核小组阐释其建议。然而,申请者须确保申请书内填报的资料详尽确实,基金秘书处并无责任向申请者索取额外资料,及以已提交资料作基础继续处理申请。

- 7.4 审批资助额为 50 万港元或以上的申请,须征求委员会的意见;审批资助额为 50 万港元以下的申请,则须征求教宣小组的意见。
- 7.5 如申请书填报的资料齐备,基金秘书处通常会在大约六个 月内把结果通知申请者。
- 7.6 申请如获批准,申请者须与政府签订一份书面协议(资助协议),并承诺遵守其中条款及条件。该资助协议连同本申请指引、申请者提交的建议书和预算(或须按政府政府、以及政府不时以书面就项目订明或作出的所有规定、指示及命令,即构成申请者获基金资助的全资助者的义务、资助协议所涵盖的事项包括但不限于:受资助者的义务、资助额的发放、受资助者的申述及保证、项目材料涉及的知识产权的对政府所作的弥偿保证、项目材料涉及的知识产权的武人、设备的所有权、保密事宜、诚信条款、物品与服务可宜、设备的所有权、保密事宜、诚信条款、物品与服务的采购,以及保险(如公众责任保险)。协议的标准文系的供申请者索阅。即使本申请指引有任何相反规定,直至及除非政府已与申请者订立资助协议,否则基金不会拨款申请者。
- 7.7 为确保基金运作具透明度,申请者一经签署并提交申请书,即视作同意项目获资助后其详情可向公众披露。申请者亦须在申请表格示明,假如申请不获批准,是否同意政府可向公众披露申请者名称、项目名称及所申请的资助额。
- 7.8 委员会和教宣小组的成员名单暨职权范围,分别载于下列网页: <a href="http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/council/index.htm">http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/council/epsc.htm</a>。

## 7.9 概述申请处理程序的流程图如下:

#### 处理基金申请书的程序



## 8. 财政安排

#### 详尽的细项预算

- 8.1 在制订预算时,申请者应恪守节约原则和审慎考虑各项开支的成本效益。申请者须就拟议项目提供详尽的细项预算。每项收支项目须合理和实际。所有开支必须是在项目开展与协议的完成日期之间承付,并附上相关发票和收据的正本。就项目的建议预算开支,申请者须按照申请表格内所订明的格式填写。受资助者有责任承担因通涨或意料之外的需要而导致的成本上升。
- 8.2 若员工开支占项目申请资助总额或获批资助总额的一半或以上,两者中以金额较小者为准,申请者必须提供适当理由。**附件**一载有员工开支的发还款额上限,以供参考。该等款额是发还上限而非标准款额,申请者于推行项目时应尽量节省开支,避免浪费。
- 8.3 文具费、邮费、影印费、保险费、设备费等行政费用的发 还款额,以项目申请资助总额或获批资助总额的一成为上 限,两者中以金额较小者为准;该等开支须分项列明。
- 8.4 资本项目包括小型工程、设备(如电脑、平板电脑、摄影 机等)及家具所涉款项,一般不获发还。

#### 项目所得收入

8.5 申请者如预期项目会带来收入,应在申请书上说明。「收入」指任何因项目而得到的收益。项目在推行期间带来的收入,包括销售制成品,活动收取的费用及资助款项中尚未动用的现金所赚取的利息,均为资助款项的一部份并只能用于获批资助项目。

## 向受资助者发放款项

- 8.6 受资助者须在香港一家持牌银行另设专用港元户口,只作存放和运作基金批拨款项的用途。只有获资助的人士或机构的获授权代表,才可从该户口支取款项。除下文第 8.12 条另有规定外,尚未使用的款项须一直存放于该户口内。
- 8.7 项目开展后, 受资助者通常会收到不多于获批资助总额的一成资助款项, 确实百分比视乎所需的现金周转及项目性

质和资助协议订明的资助发放时间表而定。受资助者于提交半年进度报告及开支报表或季度进度报告及开支报表(适用于为期少于六个月的项目)后,如所递交的项目财务状况资料显示上一笔获资助款项的不少于 80%已经/即将耗尽,需要更多款项以如期推行项目,可按照有关资助协议所载的发放时间表,申请发放另一笔款项。除了第一次发放的款项外,各期款项只会在项目的表现或进度令人满意的情况下才会发放。

- 8.8 一般来说,最后三成的资助款项会在项目完成后而有关项目的最后评估报告及账目报表(按申请指引中第 9.3(f)段至第 9.3(h)段要求)获教宣小组或其监察小组(如组成)通过(以上提及的评估报告及账目报表)后的三个月内以及于有需要时,在受资助者交妥所有发票及收据的正本及充分响应基金秘书处要求澄清的所有事项后,才会发放。
- 8.9 任何不包括在核准预算内的开支项目,通常不予付还。就 预算中个别开支项目付还的款项,通常不会超过该开支项 目获批准的资助额。在申请获批准后提出的额外资金及更 改预算的要求,一般不会获考虑。如获基金资助的项目有 亏损,政府、委员会、教宣小组、审核小组及监察小组概 不负责。
- 8.10 各项开支均须有收据正本作为证明。发票、送货单或报价单不能作为付款证明。所有收据均需由受资助者签署核实 (机构须盖上机构印章)。
- 8.11 就单一交易支付的现金如逾 5,000 港元, 不会获准发还。
- 8.12 有关的项目结束后,尚未使用的资助余额必须交还政府。
- 8.13 受资助者须妥善备存与获资助项目有关的簿册、账目,以及相关的记录和资料。这些记录在协议的项目完成日期后仍须保留最少七年,并且可在任何合理时间供政府的授权人员查阅。
- 8.14 个人申请者必须要求一名保证人在申请表格上加签,以确认申请表格上的资料均属真实、完整和准确。
- 8.15 如有充分理由支持,政府或会按资助协议,停止向受资助者发放款项或向其索回已发放的款项。

8.16 获资助项目的员工应在恪守公开、公平及具竞争性的原则下的招聘过程获得招聘。受资助者有责任确保由其本身或其代理人为该项目而招聘员工的一切事宜,均符合香港法例所有有关就业、平等机会及资料保障的规定。

#### 报价

8.17 受资助者在采购与项目有关的物品和服务时必须极为审慎。若采购的物品和服务价值超逾 5,000 港元,须恪守下文第 8.19 条所列规定,索取不同报价,确保过程公开、公平和物有所值。一般来说,受资助者应选择符合要求的最低报价,否则需提供适当的书面解释。受资助者应遵照香港廉政公署(廉署)发出的防贪锦囊,分别为《「诚信·问责」一政府基金资助计划受资助机构实务手册》,及《与公职人员往来的诚信防贪指南》,该《手册》和《指南》可从廉署网页下载:

https://cpas.icac.hk/UPloadImages/InfoFile/cate 43/2017/b725

<u>a7ed-5dd7-4a33-b13c-c68da84b43bf.pdf</u>

https://cpas.icac.hk/CN/Info/Lib List?cate id=3&id=224

- 8.18 采购物品和服务的价值如:
  - (a) 超逾 5,000 港元但不逾 5 万港元, 须取得一份以上的 书面报价单;
  - (b) 超逾 5 万港元但不逾 140 万港元, 须取得最少五份书面报价单; 以及
  - (c) 超逾 140 万港元,则须采用竞投程序。
- 8.19 受资助者须负责为项目设立和执行妥善的采购或招标及物料管理制度,并遵循以下原则充分加以监控:
  - (a) 向公众负责和物有所值—可持续发展基金资助计划的 拨款属于公帑。受资助者须就运用基金资助款项向公 众负责,并应准备随时就任何采购决定向公众解释。 在采购方面,受资助者有责任致力获得最高经济效 益。
  - (b) 透明、公开、公平竞争一受资助者应向准供货商和准 承办商清楚表明拟采购项目的各项要求及规格。在各

项采购或招标程序中,必须恪守公平及具竞争性的原则,并维持公平竞争的环境。对于所有投标者和供货商,均应一视同仁,并同时必须予人一视同仁的印象。受资助者应推行妥善的防范措施,以免在采购或招标程序中,出现实际、潜在或疑似利益冲突的情况。

## 9. 受资助者有何责任?

#### 监察机制

- 9.1 受资助者须确保达到项目的目标、履行应有责任,以及按照资助协议条款及条件运用资助款项。
- 9.2 申请者须在申请表格上列明评估项目成效的准则,并具体说明评估和显示项目成效的方法。这些准则和方法应着重项目的结果和影响,并应尽可能以量化的方式衡量。申请者可考虑向服务对象进行调查,以确定项目的成效。

#### 定期报告及最后报告

- 9.3 受资助者须提交以下报告:
  - (a) 包括筹备会议等已计划活动的季度时间表(须于项目 开始时提交,以及于整个项目期内在下一季度的两星 期前提交);
  - (b) 季度进度报告(适用于为期少于六个月的项目,须在项目推行第一季后三星期内提交);
  - (c) 半年进度报告(适用于为期多于六个月的项目,每六个月为一报告期,须在报告期完结后一个月内提交);
  - (d) 指定格式的半年度开支报表(适用于为期多于六个月的项目)或季度开支报表(适用于为期少于六个月的项目)(并附连发票及收据正本(适用于资助额少于5万港元的项目))(须在以上提及适用时期完结后一个月内提交);
  - (e) 最后评估报告(须在协议的项目完成日期后四个月内提交);

- (f) 经签署并附有正本发票和收据的账目报表(适用于资助额少于5万港元的项目,须在协议的项目完成日期后四个月内提交);
- (g) 已审计的账目报表(适用于资助额介乎5万至25万港元的项目,须在协议的项目完成日期后四个月内提交)。若已充分符合按照 *附件二*列明的审计师须知及审计师报告模板的审计要求,则无须就项目支出提交发票和收据的正本;以及
- (h) 已审计的周年账目报表(适用于资助额超逾25万港元的项目,须在每12个月完结后及协议的项目完成日期后,于四个月内提交)。若已充分符合按照 *附件二*列明的审计师须知及审计师报告模板的审计要求,则无须就项目支出提交发票和收据的正本。
- 9.4 如未能提交资料充足和完整的报告,资助款项可能会延迟或停止发放。

#### 已审计的账目报表

- 9.5 **附件**二载有已审计的账目报表的要求及格式。已审计的账目报表须包括资产负债表、收支结算表、帐项附注及审计师报告(基于附件二的模板)。已审计的账目报表是指审计师在遵从香港会计师公会所发出的《香港鉴证业务准则》下进行了合理核证工作而拟备的项目的账目。当中须保证受资助者在所有要项上遵从由秘书处订立的规定及可持续发展基金的各项资助条款和条件。
- 9.6 已审计的周年账目报表须在每 12 个月完结后之四个月内提交;至于项目的最后一份已审计的账目报表,则须在协议的项目完成日期后四个月内提交。
- 9.7 如项目的审计工作并非独立进行,而是属于受资助者周年审计程序的一部分,已审计的账目报表上须以独立帐项显示基金的资助额。
- 9.8 受资助者须自行委聘审计师。审计师费用须包括在申请表格内的细项预算,并可当作资助额的一部分,向基金申请发还如下:

资 助 额	审计师费用 发还上限(每年)
100万港元以下	5,000 港元
100 万或以上	20,000 港元

#### 监察会议/视察

9.9 监察小组、审核小组、教宣小组和委员会的成员及政府人员,或获安排与受资助者举行监察会议,又或视察项目的推行情况。受资助者必须出席此等会议及协助安排此等视察。

### 公众论坛

9.10 委员会、教宣小组、审核小组、监察小组或基金秘书处会不时举办公众论坛,检讨基金的运作进度,并让受资助者交流推行项目的经验。受资助者或须出席和参与此等论坛。

## 10. 申请者在申请过程中应向谁寻求协助?

10.1 如对基金有任何查询,或在填写申请表格方面需要协助,可与基金秘书处联络:

地址:	香港湾仔轩尼诗道 130 号修顿中心 5 楼 环境保护署 可持续发展基金秘书处
联络电话:	2835 1026
传真:	2827 8138
电邮:	sdf@epd.gov.hk
网址:	http://www.enb.gov.hk/sc/susdev/sdf/index.ht m

## 11. 申请者提交个人资料须知

#### 收集资料的目的

11.1 申请者在基金申请书中提供的个人资料,会供政府或可持续发展基金秘书处用作处理及评审有关申请、基金的日常运作、安排公告及宣传、监察及评核受资助项目、对受资助的项目采取任何补救或跟进工作、因应任何法例要求作出披露、进行研究、记录及编制统计数据,以及任何与上述用途相关的目的。在申请书提供的所需的个人资料,纯属自愿。如申请者未能提供全部所需的资料,有关申请可能不获考虑。

#### 获转授者的类别

11.2 政府可向其他人士转交或披露在基金申请书填报的个人资料,以核实或作其他与申请有关的用途。

### 查阅个人资料

11.3 在申请书中提供了个人资料的申请者有权根据《个人资料(私隐)条例》(第 486 章)第 18 和 22 条及附表 1 第 6 原则的规定,要求查阅和更正个人资料。如申请者欲行使相关权利,请与基金秘书处联络,并提交书面申请。根据《个人资料(私隐)条例》,就查阅或更正任何个人资料及相关资料的提供,申请者或需提交相关费用。

# 可持续发展基金申请项目员工开支的发还款额上限

(只供参考)

	职位名称	款额上限*	最低资历
		(港元)	
1.	项目经理	每月 28,700	大学毕业及具备最少三年相关经验
2.	项目/研究助理	每月 21,360	大学毕业
		每月 13,500	香港中学会考证书(中学证书)/香
			港中学文凭(中学文凭)或同等资历#
3.	技术员	每月 13,500	中学证书 / 中学文凭 * 及 信息科技
			或相关科目文凭或同等资历
4.	文 员	每月 13,000	按要求而定
5.	导师 / 讲师	每小时 1,040	相关领域的著名学者或专业人士
		每小时 830	相关领域的讲师或同等级人士
6.	培训员/指导员	每小时 275	相关机构发出的导师证书或同等资
			历
7.	散工/学生助理	每小时 60	具备大专程度
	员		
8.	其他	最低市场薪酬	按要求而定

- \* 款额上限已包括强积金及有关的雇佣津贴。
- "(i)在2007年之前于香港中学会考(会考)取得五科及格成绩,包括英国语文科(课程乙)及中国语文科;或(ii)在2007年或以后于会考取得五科及格成绩,当中英国语文科及中国语文科的成绩须达二级或以上;或(iii)在2012年或以后于香港中学文凭考试取得五科达二级或以上之成绩,包括英国语文科及中国语文科。

#### <u>注</u>:

- (1) 制订预算时须确保员工薪酬完全遵循《最低工资条例》(第608章)的规定。
- (2) 制订预算时应恪守节约原则和审慎考虑各项开支的成本效益。成功申请者于推行项目时应尽量节省开支,避免浪费。

#### Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Notes for Auditors of Grantees

- 1. Pursuant to the grant agreement made between the Government and the Grantee ("Grant Agreement") in respect of a Sustainable Development Fund ("SDF") project ("Project") and the relevant SDF guidelines<sup>1</sup>, the Grantee is required to submit annual and final "Audited Statement of Accounts" of the Project to the Secretariat of the SDF ("the Secretariat") according to a stipulated timeframe. The requirement to submit "Audited Statement of Accounts" is to assure the SDF that:
  - (a) the SDF grant was fully and properly applied to the Project for which it was paid, and received and expensed in accordance with the approved project budget set out in Part I of Schedule III to the Grant Agreement; and
  - (b) the Grantee has complied with the funding terms and conditions in the administration, management and usage of the SDF grant.

These notes aim to provide guidance for auditors of the Grantee in conducting reasonable assurance engagements and in preparing auditor's reports for each SDF project.

- 2. In conducting a reasonable assurance engagement, the auditors should perform audit procedures as they consider necessary in the circumstances and obtain all the information and explanations which they consider necessary in order to provide them with sufficient evidence to give their conclusion as to whether the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, the requirements of the terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors) as specified in the following documents (collectively, "Terms of the Project"):
  - (a) the Grant Agreement made between the Government and the Grantee in respect of the Project and the schedules thereto (which includes the project proposal and the budget);
  - (b) the relevant SDF guidelines referred to in the grant agreement<sup>3</sup>; and
  - (c) all applicable instructions and correspondences issued by the Secretariat to the Grantee in respect of the Project.

<sup>2</sup> Each set of the annual and the final "Audited Statement of Accounts" comprises an income and expenditure statement, a balance sheet, notes to the accounts and an auditor's report. Each set of the annual and final Audited Statement of Accounts of the project shall have been reported on by the Auditors under a reasonable assurance engagement conducted in accordance with the Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) "Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

This means the application guidelines as referred to in the grant agreement.

In case there are written agreements to the otherwise, such agreements shall prevail to the extent where the context so permits.

- 3. The auditors should comply with the Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) "Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" issued and updated from time to time by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The following information is required in an auditor's report prepared by the auditors to be submitted by the Grantee to the Secretariat -
  - (a) the auditors should state whether, in their conclusion, the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, the requirements of the Terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors), and that the Audited Statement of Accounts properly presented the financial position of the Project;
  - (b) if the auditors are of the opinion that there exist any material non-compliances as identified in paragraph 3(a), they should make full disclosure and quantify the effects of such non-compliance in the auditor's reports; and if the auditors are of the opinion that a proper and separate set of books and records has not been kept by the Grantee for the Project, or the project accounts have not been properly prepared, or if the auditors fail to obtain all the information and explanations which are necessary for the purpose of their reasonable assurance engagements, they should make appropriate qualifications in their auditor's reports.
- 4. The auditors should plan and conduct the reasonable assurance engagement to satisfy paragraphs 2 and 3. In case of any uncertainty concerning the meaning of any provisions of the Terms of the Project, the auditors should seek clarifications from the Grantee and the Secretariat. Any unreasonable reservation or denial of conclusion, for example, comments about ambiguities of SDF guidelines or requirements, expressed by auditors in the auditor's report, will be returned to the Grantee for rectification before resubmission to the Secretariat.

The auditors may come across during the course of their reasonable assurance engagements weaknesses/breakdowns in internal control on the part of the Grantee which are considered material. They should bring to the Grantee's attention the details of such weaknesses/breakdowns and provide the Grantee with their recommendations for improvement by setting them out in letters to the Grantee. Copies of such letters should be sent to the Secretariat for reference and action as appropriate.

5. Auditors are expected to follow the sample auditor's report as attached in Sample Auditor's Report.

# SAMPLE AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE ANNUAL/FINAL AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### **UNQUALIFIED CONCLUSION**

#### [ABC PROJECT]

The Auditor's Report on the Annual/Final Audited Statement of Accounts [FOR THE PERIOD FROM DD/MM/YY (Date/Commencement Date) TO DD/MM/YY(Date/Completion Date)]

#### **Auditor's Report to XYZ Organisation**

Pursuant to the grant agreement made between the Government and [XYZ Organisation] ("Grantee") and the relevant Sustainable Development Fund ("SDF") guidelines referred to in the grant agreement in respect of the [ABC project] ("Project") funded by the SDF, we have performed a reasonable assurance engagement to report on whether the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, the requirements of the terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors) for the period from [DD/MM/YY to DD/MM/YY] on pages .... to (the project accounts) in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs), as specified in the following documents (collectively, "Terms of the Project"):

- (a) the Grant Agreement made between the Government and the Grantee in respect of the Project and the schedules thereto (which includes the project proposal and the budget);
- (b) the relevant SDF guidelines referred to in the grant agreement; and
- (c) all applicable instructions and correspondences issued by the SDF to the Grantee in respect of the Project.

#### Respective Responsibilities of the Grantee and Auditors

The Government requires the Grantee to comply with the Terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors).

It is our responsibility to form an independent conclusion, based on our reasonable assurance engagement, and to report our conclusion to you.

#### **Quality Control and Independence**

Our firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control (HKSQC) 1 and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

#### **Basis of conclusion**

We conducted our reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with the Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) "Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" issued by the HKICPA and the latest Notes for Auditors of Grantees issued by the Secretariat of SDF.

Our reasonable assurance engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the Grantee's compliance with the Terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors). It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Grantee in the preparation of the project accounts, and of whether the accounting policies have followed the requirements of SDF, and are consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our reasonable assurance engagement so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidences to give our conclusion as to whether the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, all applicable HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the Terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors). In forming our conclusion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the project accounts. Webelieve that our reasonable assurance engagement provides a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

#### Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion, the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, all applicable HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, the requirements of the Terms of the Project (including the requirements to keep proper books and records and to arrange the preparation of proper Audited Statements of Accounts by the auditors), and that the Audited Statement of Accounts in the caption of this Auditor's Report properly presented the financial position of the Project.

#### **Use of this Report**

This report is intended for filing by Grantee with the SDF, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone except the above two parties for any other purposes.

ABC & Co. Certified Public Accountants (Practising) Hong Kong Date