CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Development of a Project Proposal for a Climate Finance Facility in response to SDG Fund call
Consultancy Firm or Team of Consultants Contract
Duration: 15 August 2020 - 31 October 2020

1. Project Background

Currently, Zimbabwe is facing weak economic performance and an acute energy access gap, whereby access to electricity in rural areas is as low as 28%. This has consequently crippled the national industrial output and affected other key services including education and healthcare. The utilization of clean and renewable energy is very low compared to traditional sources of energy, which represent a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions. Coincidentally, the potential for Renewable Energy (RE) to fill the energy gap in Zimbabwe is tremendous. Therefore, RE systems could be harnessed to transform the livelihoods through the establishment of SMEs and product value-addition while also providing lighting and clean water for rural service centers, schools, homes and clinics. The gap to accessing clean energy is gender-differentiated, where women and youth disproportionately bear the burden of energy poverty. They also represent the majority of the agricultural labour force – a sector that is especially vulnerable to climate change effects including droughts and floods, which necessitates a strong focus on adaptation. These challenges are aggravated by the lack of access to long-term finance and critical skills required for the development of RE technologies in Zimbabwe. Financing required to deliver a low emission development trajectory in Zimbabwe is in the range of $7-8 billion as outlined in Zimbabwe’s Low Emissions Development Strategy and most of this financing is anticipated to come through the private sector.

UNESCO in partnership with UNDP and UNWOMEN is developing a Joint Programme (JP) in response to the SDG Fund call on Catalysing Investments in Climate and Sustainable Energy for productive use and the Achievement of the SDGs in Zimbabwe. The JP is the comprehensive approach towards the removal of investment barriers for SMEs, particularly for women and youth in the RE sector by establishing a first of its kind mechanism that enables mobilization and access to funds, technical capacity building of stakeholders to have direct access to funds from multilateral, bilateral, private sector and leveraging national budgets. Furthermore, the JP will build the capacity of women and youth entrepreneurs to influence and access government controlled financing mechanisms, with particular attention to the nexus of new technologies-social benefits-economic opportunities. As part of this approach, the following expected results of the proposed JP are defined:

- ER 1: Gender-responsive Climate Finance Facility (CFF) to access, collect, and strategically leverage funds to attract new resources from the private sector and channel resources effectively towards the achievement of SDGs from climate action and RE lens established.
- ER 2: CFF financing tools deployed under selected projects as a demonstration of concept that
is scalable both in-country and elsewhere, with particular focus on harnessing and up-scaling youth's social innovations, while paying attention to the optimization of water-food-energy nexus.

- **ER 3**: Structured sustainable technical support systems for development and scale-up of innovative climate and energy solutions that close gender gaps through enhanced green schools model integrating RE, Education for Sustainable Centers of Excellence for SMEs established.

- **ER 4**: Established National Climate and Sustainable Energy Investment Platform based on a multi-stakeholder interaction among the Government, United Nations, Public & Private Sectors, IFIs, Bilateral Funds, FDIs, and wider stakeholders.

In this context, the UNESCO calls for a consultancy firm or team of consultants to support the proposal development process as well as to undertake some of the required consultations and feasibility work.

### 2. Specific Tasks

Under the overall authority of the Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and the direct supervision of the Head of Section for Science, UNESCO seeks to engage the services of a team of consultants with expertise in climate financing with a focus on modeling finance facilities for investment in climate and energy solutions, energy value chain and gender to develop a full proposal. The thematic scope of work will be guided by the recently endorsed concept note which can be accessed at the following link… The consultancy is expected to perform the below listed tasks:

1. Develop the methodology for JP development, identify gaps, key research questions, desk-review plans, and proposed action plan as per defined timeframe.

2. Take the lead in the preparation of the project proposal using the required official templates.

3. Ensure all project activities meet the SDG Fund criteria and are backed up with evidence including pre-feasibility assessments, evaluations, relevant studies etc;

4. Conduct financial, technical and gender analysis to elaborate the project components and all technical sections, particularly the elements of financial Structuring and impact potential; project innovativeness; catalytic function of the JP, sustainable development and project sustainability; country needs; country ownership and cost-effectiveness;

5. Undertake a series of consultative discussions with key stakeholders and obtain technical inputs as deemed relevant;

6. Undertake gender-responsive national and local level consultations to validate the programme design and input in to the full proposal.

7. Produce a draft baseline assessment/feasibility report for the project proposal based on the consultations, research and analysis conducted.

8. Consolidate all the inputs and develop a solid full proposal using the endorsed concept note. Proposal to include a detailed budget, project logframe with well-defined indicators, targets, inputs and outputs in line with the SDG Fund requirements.

### 3. Deliverables

- **a)** Outline of activities to be undertaken and proposed work plan (by 10 August 2020)
- **b)** Pre-feasibility Study (by 7 September 2020)
- **c)** Draft Project Proposal (by 31 September 2020)
- **d)** Final project proposal (by 23 October 2020)
4. **Required Skills and Experience of the experts**

**Education:**
The consultancy firm or team of consultants must have experts with the following mix educational qualifications:

- Advanced University (at least a Master’s) degree in Climate studies, Renewable/Alternative Energy, Development and/or Gender Studies, Public or business Finance/Business Studies, Economics, or related disciplines is required:
- A PhD in any of these disciplines is a value addition especially for the lead expert.
- Certifications in climate/renewable/sustainable finance will be a distinct advantage.

**Required Experience of the experts**

The firm or team of consultants must demonstrate experience in the following four key areas:

(i) **Proposal Design and Development:** Minimum of 5 years of demonstrated and extensive experience that combines research, participatory project design and proposal development and feasibility assessments of medium to large size project proposals in the area of:
- climate change mitigation finance and investment
- blended finance
- energy value chains
- private sector engagement
- social/rural development
- business development
- gender and women empowerment

(ii) **Climate Related Finance Investment Facility:** At least 10 years experience in areas of public finance and economic analysis and development climate project financing/knowledge of environmental finance, green investments, – whether public, private, or innovative finance – including key trends (e.g., impact investment), institutions (including IFIs, funds), financial models and products, and commercial actors.

(iii) Designing and structuring investment structures and vehicles

(iv) **Designing high impact renewable energy small business:** At least 5 years experience in research and designing gender responsive renewable energy investments and innovative SME business models or designing similar projects for women and youth empowerment

(v) **Gender Analysis and Action Planning in sustainable energy and gender-responsive climate financing instruments.**

**Other Experience**

- Extensive understanding of the sustainable development goals
- Experience in developing joint UN or collaborative projects is an added advantage;
- Substantial relevant experience in the design and implementation of integrated development projects;
- Good understanding of the development sector particularly energy sector in Zimbabwe.
- Experience in the formulation and management of similar projects with global funds including;
- Knowledge of socio-cultural, socio economic context of Zimbabwe is strongly desired.
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating inclusive dialogues and engagement.
- Working with multi-disciplinary teams, including local and expatriate technical experts;
- Experience in economic and financial analysis for project viability and budget formulations;
• Familiarity with technical issues related to climate finance tools,
• Experience in the design of logframes with SMART indicators, work plan and budget formulation;
• Strong analytical and writing skills; Excellent communication and networking skills,
• Excellent writing and analytical skills.
• Flexibility and ability to operate in different cultural settings and with a variety of stakeholders; culturally and gender sensitive.

5. Duration
The contract will run from 17 August to 31 October 2020

6. Expression of Interest
Interested parties may submit a cover letter and CVs of team of experts and /or Company Profile with CVs of Directors where applicable together with a brief proposal and the budget, methodology and approach for the assignment, and a profile of experts who shall undertake the assignment to vacancies.harare@unesco.org with copy to t.murenga@unesco.org

Closing date for applications: 12 August 2020

UNESCO DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS.

UNESCO IS A NON-SMOKING ORGANIZATION

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY PRE-SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.