

NDC Partnership Best Practice Brief: Experience Moving from NDC Planning to Investment

Request for Proposals

OVERVIEW

The NDC Partnership Support Unit seeks a vendor to carry out a detailed review of the NDC Partnership's experiences and lessons in supporting developing countries to move from NDC planning to investment. The main deliverable will be a public-facing brief summarizing best practices in moving from NDC planning to investment, with evidence backed recommendations to strengthen the Partnership's support to countries. The brief will reflect on the various "[Building Blocks of Country-Owned Climate Action](#)" that facilitate impactful in-country collaboration to translate NDCs into actions, policies, and investments to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement while also achieving social and economic goals. The recommendations and any guidance provided in the brief should be non-prescriptive. This work will be awarded through a fixed price, deliverable-based contract.

ABOUT THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development. In 2015, the world endorsed the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Countries signal their commitments to the Paris Agreement through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - each country's strategy to cut its own greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience against the negative effects of a changing climate. The Partnership advances the goals of the Paris Agreement by bringing together over 230 countries and institutions in new ways to accelerate NDC implementation and enhance ambition over time. The Partnership's work through over 200 partners supporting almost 100 countries produces many examples of impact, lessons learned and ideas for the future. The Partnership is governed by a Steering Committee, co-chaired by two country representatives. The Partnership's work is facilitated by a Support Unit hosted by the World Resources Institute, UNFCCC Secretariat, and UN Office for Project Services, with staff in Washington DC and Bonn, Germany.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected vendor will carry out the following tasks:

- Meet and discuss with the Support Unit to understand the scope of work and refine the key questions to be answered through this research. Initial questions to guide the work include:

Format:

- What type of content do governments consider in NDC implementation planning vs. NDC investment planning vs. finance mobilization?
 - Are there significant differences between NDC implementation planning and investment planning? Or do countries approach them in the same ways?
 - Do sectoral approaches or multi-sectoral approaches show different results?
 - What factors should countries consider before deciding on creating an NDC implementation plan vs. taking a sectoral or multi-sectoral approach?
 - What are the key enablers and elements present in success cases? How well do these align with the Building Blocks?
 - What challenges do countries and partners face?

Process:

- What processes and structures exist to transition from NDC planning to investment? What has worked well? What has not worked?
- Do these processes complement and connect or duplicate with other government efforts?
- Is it better to have a NDC implementation and/or investment plan or is it better to have these integrated into existing processes?
- What challenges do countries and partners face in the process?

Actual Delivery:

- How effective and how much progress have countries made across the different formats and processes identified through the above questions (with the understanding that many countries are just getting started in terms of NDC implementation)?
- What are the enabling conditions that lead to effective implementation of these plans? (e.g., capacity, policy framework, political ownership)?
- How are governments using these processes for monitoring and tracking progress and have there been successful examples of alignment of implementation and investment plans with key international governance requirements like BTRs and the ETF?
- What ways are governments communicating or marketing results? Through what ways/tools/fora have seen success in highlighting their needs, lessons learned or success stories?
- What set up has been successful in mobilization of finance?
- What challenges do countries and partners face in delivery?

Across all questions explored, specific attention should be paid to: experience from NDC Partnership members countries to draw on learning on the Partnership's model, experiences from other countries where alternative approaches have been taken, examples of alignment with sectoral plans, alignment with country development planning cycles, sequencing of investment needs, country ownership (high level and sectoral), governance and institutional arrangements, coordination processes, policy and regulatory framework, key enablers and barriers, and what implications should the NDC Partnership keep in mind as countries move to implement their NDCs 3.0 / what should be done differently?

- Develop a methodology to inform the development of the best practice brief, including:

- Approach to desk research, including proposed list of documents and data to be reviewed and assessed;
 - Proposed interview protocol including guiding questions and interviewees (should reflect a wide and representative selection of NDC Partnership members (developed countries, developing countries and institutional/associate members), as well as select non-members; and
 - Proposed structure for the Best Practice Brief.
- Carry out research and data collection:
 - Conduct comprehensive desk research, including review of Partnership documents (e.g. templates and internal assessments – a full list of internal documents will be shared with the successful vendor).
 - Carry out at least 25 interviews with partners, countries and Support Unit staff to complement the desk research and build the evidence base for the Best Practice Brief. Country interviewees will make up most interviews, ensuring a wide range of country experiences are captured.
- Produce an initial summary of the findings from the research and data collection and organize a half-day workshop with the Support Unit to present and discuss the results. As part of the workshop, present an assessment of how previous guidance provided by the Support Unit compared against the “best practices” identified through the research and data collection.
- Organize a complementary workshop, targeted to a select group of Partnership members to discuss and refine the findings, as well as enable exchange and learning across members.
- Based on the decisions made at the above workshop, draft a non-prescriptive Best Practice Brief and associated recommendations (max 30 pages). Sufficient time should be allocated in the proposed timeline to allow for at least two rounds of comments on the complete document.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Deliverables	Timeline (tentative)
Kick off meeting held between vendor and Support Unit	4 February 2025
Inception report including methodological approach	18 February 2025
Desk research and at least 25 interviews completed	March 2025
Workshop to discuss findings held between vendor and Support Unit	March 2025
Workshop to discuss findings with Partnership Members	March 2025
Best Practice Brief (max 30 pages)	April 2025

REQUIREMENTS

The selected vendor will be able to demonstrate capacity in similar work, particularly:

- Experience working on NDC development, implementation and financing;

- Strong understanding of the climate finance space, including direct experience in climate finance mobilization efforts;
- Experience working with developing countries on climate action;
- Experience working with partnerships or coalitions;
- Knowledge of key stakeholders and initiatives in the climate change space;
- Experience in developing analytical frameworks and methodologies;
- Experience in leading consultations with senior officials in government and organizations;
- Ability to conduct interviews and review material in English, French and Spanish; and
- Experience in developing succinct knowledge products for policy audiences.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The following elements will be the primary considerations in evaluating all proposals submitted in response to this RFP:

- Completion of all required elements;
- The extent to which the vendor's proposal reflects the scope of work;
- The extent to which the vendor's proposal fulfills the stated requirements as set out in the RFP;
- Experience with similar projects;
- Ability to complete the activities within the set timelines;
- Overall cost of the vendor's proposal and best value for money;
- Debarment and sanctions – WRI will not consider proposals from vendors that are presently debarred by the U.S. government or named on any restricted parties lists; and
- Sustainability – WRI values sustainability and all other factors being equal, will favor a proposal to more sustainably perform the work.

The bidder offering the best overall value will be selected. For this procurement, both price and non-price aspects are considered.

Prospective vendors should submit the below materials, strictly limiting their submissions to a maximum of 20 pages. Please note that evaluators cannot commit to reviewing annexes.

- An overview describing the proposed team and how it meets the above requirements, as well as a description of how you would deliver the scope of work, including an initial proposed methodology and workplan (ideally in a Gantt chart format), as well as timeline;
- Description of process for regular exchange with the NDC Partnership Support Unit (e.g. weekly check-ins, etc.);
- Brief bio of team members with information on what makes them a good fit for this project;
- Examples of and references for similar previous work (including contact details for referees);
- An account of how the work and/or organization is environmentally sustainable; and
- A detailed budget with a breakdown of costs.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please submit proposals and relevant documents by 15 January 2025 11:59pm EST in electronic format to:

Clarissa Lehne
Country Engagement Partner Engagement Manager
Clarissa.Lehne@ndcpartnership.org

WRI may, at its discretion and without explanation to potential suppliers, elect to abandon this RFP without obligation to such potential suppliers or to award multiple contracts under this RFP.