

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RECRUITMENT OF CONSULTANCY COMPANY TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH RELATING TO THE PREPARATION OF THE GABON 2020-2025 NDC AS PART OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE (CAEP)

Publication reference	RFP # CAEP12	
Title of Technical supportUndertaking of research relating to preparation of 2020-2025 NIprogramme:Republic of Gabon		
Financing:	NDC Partnership - CAEP	
Budget estimate:	140 000 USD	
Contracting authorities:	World Resource Institute (WRI) [<u>http://www.wri.org</u>] NDC Partnership [<u>http://ncdpartnership.org</u>]	
Implementing partner:	Government of the Republic of Gabon	
Any clarification required in respect of the contracting authorities is to be requested using this email address:	caep@ndcpartnership.org Based on the provisional schedule and important dates (section 6.d)	

1. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Latest date on which proposals may be sent	9 October 2020
Expected duration of services to be provided:	6 months
Expected start date:	As soon as contract is co-signed alongside the WRI and the NDC Partnership.
Date of completion:	Partnership and latest completion date 6 months <i>at the latest</i> after the contracting authority's signature of the agreement.
Expected travel:	Please refer to the Terms of Reference below. If international travel restrictions related to the coronavirus crisis are still in place during the consultation period, then in-person consultation and workshop sessions will be replaced by virtual workshops and consultation sessions.

2. PURPOSE OF REQUEST

The Government of the Republic of Gabon has sought the technical support of the NDC Partnership through the CAEP initiative as part of the drafting process of the new NDC, to be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat during the course of the second quarter of 2021 prior to the next COP26, which is scheduled to take place from the 1-12 of November of 2021 in Glasgow, Great Britain.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) for submission is for the purposes of implementing technical support that is to consist of putting together three principal studies:

- 1. Evaluation of actions undertaken within the framework of the 2015 NDC;
- 2. Identification of priority sectors for climate action in Gabon;
- 3. Cost-benefit analysis for the updating and implementation of new NDC for Gabon.

These three studies form part of a broader plan of activity put together with Gabon's main partners as part of the NDC's drafting. The consultants will need to work closely with the focal point within the Gabon Government as well as with the Country Engagement Specialist at the NDC Partnership Support Unit in order to co-ordinate with the other partners involved. This is to ensure that the different studies are integrated and complement each other.

Furthermore, the consultant will be tasked with preparing the final document of the new NDC, working closely with the National Climate Council (CNC) of Gabon as well as NDC Partnership's facilitator in the country.

3. BACKGROUND

Gabon, in line with its commitment to combat climate change, has adopted a vision of sustainable development that is respectful of the environment and that is clearly set out in the Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan (EGSP). The plan is based on three key pillars: Green Gabon, Industrial Gabon, and Gabon of Services. The plan embodies a paradigm shift while also aiming for economic diversification.

Gabon is the first African country to submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), which went on to become its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), following the ratification of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Through this submission, Gabon has committed to a 50% reduction in the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 by opting for a managed scenario rather than a standard scenario.

A number of regulatory tools and institutional arrangements have been put in place to this end, including the National Climate Council (CNC), which is tasked with drafting the national policy to combat climate change, as well as handling the policy's strategic orientation.

As part of its work towards developing strategic tools to support its climate actions, in 2018 Gabon put together and published a "Country Programme: Framework for climate investment planning in Gabon" for the next five years. This strategic document makes it possible to have the country's climate profile and political priorities linked to climate change. Against this background, the following priority sectors have been identified: forestry, hydrocarbons, energy, adaptation of the coastline and information on climate, agriculture and cities. A set of selection criteria has also been chosen for the prioritisation of eight programmes and plans to be presented to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Country Programme has been the subject of numerous consultations at national level and collates the initiatives for which further support is necessary to progress the struggle against the climate crisis.

A commitment has been made to several other actions to support Gabon's implementation of the NDC, among them the country's membership of the NDC Partnership that is designed to:

- Draw on the definition of the necessary plans, policies and processes to achieve the NDC's objectives and those of sustainable development;
- Make the most of the expertise that is generated, and popularise it;
- Facilitate access to finance.

The NDC Partnership supports the National Climate Council (CNC) in developing a road map for the Gabon NDC with the help of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Commission of the African Union (AU). The aforementioned road map will define and set out the pathways for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution.

Alongside that, within the confines of the Paris Agreement, countries are being encouraged to revise their NDCs every five years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the Earth's temperature rise, and to implement solutions to adapt to the effects of climate change.

With that in mind, the NDC Partnership is providing technical support to Gabon via the Round 2 of the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP). This support is implemented by way of a number of service provisions clearly set out in the CAEP terms of reference for Gabon (see Appendix) under the supervision of the National Climate Council (CNC) which pulls together in a coherent fashion all of the activities reflected in the NDC road map, the CAEP terms of reference and UNDP's Climate Promise, and coordinates the actions of the different partners. This RFP relates to three (3) specific studies of the CAEP terms of reference (shown in the Appendix): the studies bearing the codes B048, B046 and C036 and that will be implemented by the NDC Partnership; the other CAEP studies will be implemented by the UNDP, the FAO and IRENA.

4. METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURE

In order to conduct the principal studies that are the subject of this RFP, a comprehensive methodology is to be submitted in response to this RFP based on the following non-exclusive list of tasks together with an implementation schedule:

- i. Conducting of consultations with principal implementation partners, state and non-state entities (including those in the private sector), with a view to progressing to a report on the situation covering the 2015-2020 period, that should include:
 - a. A statement of understanding of the NDC's priorities relating to adaption and mitigation;
 - b. The identification and prioritisation of the support measures including governance, financing, monitoring (MRV). All this is to be done with a view to confirming or updating these priorities;
- ii. The strengthening of the cooperation, the involvement of state and non-state entities and the implementation of suitable institutional structures (working groups by sectoral/strategic priority) to ensure that the NDC's updating work is monitored, including for the private sector and for civil society;
- iii. The taking into consideration of socio-economic and development plans as well as sectoral policies (action plans and strategies) within the priority updating and analysis;
- iv. The employment of a long-term global vision that encompasses economic growth and a policy of adaptation and mitigation within the entirety of the sectoral/strategic priorities to be confirmed, while also taking into account issues relating to vulnerable groups and to gender;
- v. The evaluation of the impacts of the NDC's implementation on the sustainable development goals (SDG) with a specific analysis of the relevant SDGs including SDG 5 relating to gender equality;
- vi. The application of the decisions, rules and procedures relating to the Paris Agreement during the COP 21 and the COP 24 (set out in the Katowice "Climate Package") relating to the NDC cycle (planning, implementation and evaluation);
- vii. The taking into consideration of the road map recommendations for the implementation of the NDC adopted in August 2020 by the national partners following a procedure undertaken by the Environment Ministry working together with the NDC Partnership;
- viii. All services are to be undertaken in close collaboration with the CAEP's other service-providers: the UNDP, the FAO and IRENA, in order to avoid duplication of work and to ensure synergy in the preparation of the different studies designed to prepare the new NDC;
- ix. Service-providers are to seek to put together a summary as part of each study. That summary will be used to draft the updated NDC.

5. LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED SERVICES

The activities set out in this RFP is part of the Terms of Reference of the initiative of the CAEP of NDC Partnership presented in the Appendix. Every study is therefore presented with a reference code that is shown in the Terms of

Reference of the partnership process set out within the CAEP. The CAEP TORs defines the partners' contributions to the activities relating to the preparation of the 2020-2025 NDC. Therefore, IRENA, FAO and UNDP are to undertake studies complementary to those that are the subject of this RFP as presented in the CAEP's terms of reference (see Appendix).

The consultancy or grouping of consultancies - the consortium - selected as part of this RFP will be tasked with the following:

- Evaluate the implementation of Gabon's 2015 NDC;
- Identify the priority sectors and actions of the new 2020-2025 NDC and also the implementation actions;
- Undertake a cost-benefit study of the new 2020-2025 NDC.
- Provide support to the Designated National Authority as the NDC is being drafted.

The services that are expected are shown in the following table.

Expected results	Description of activity	Outcomes/Deliverables	deadlines
Work plan and coordination with the government and other providers of the CAEP Service (IRENA, UNDP, FAO)	Activity 1.1 : Preparation of a methodological note, a work plan and	Deliverable 1 : A methodological note, work plan and implementation schedule of activities (updated following the start-up workshop). Deliverable 1.2: Report of the start-up workshop based on a model agreed with the NDC Partnership secretariat (maximum of 20 pages in addition to the appendices). Deliverable 1.3: Meeting report	18 November 2020 25 November 2020
ACTIVITY CODE B048 ² : Evaluation of the 2015 NDC and determination of priority sectors for the new 2020 NDC	Activity 2.1: Conduct virtual interviews with	Deliverable 2 : A report of no more than 50 pages together with appendices and an executive summary of 1-2 pages for policymakers. The report is to be put together based on an outline/plan agreed with the NDC Partnership and is to include the analyses and outcomes of the different activities and recommendations for the new NDC (the report is to contain a consolidation of the analyses' outcomes and this must be integrated into the NDC	30 December 2020

¹ In the event that international travel is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.

² Activity code shown in the Terms of Reference of the partnership process drawn up as part of the CAEP initative of the NDC Partnership. The CAEP Terms of Reference define all the partners' contributions to the activities relating to the preparation of the 2020-2025 NDC revision. Document provided as an Appendix.

implementation Performatives of the	document. The format is to be agreed with	
implementation. Representatives of the		
following sectors are to be contacted (this	the national counterparts).	
list is not exhaustive): institutional (for the		
governance sector), the oil and gas industry,		
agriculture, transport, the cement industry,		
energy, waste, forestry, coastal zone,		
finance and other relevant sectors,		
development partners, subnational actors,		
NGOs and private sector entities.		
Activity 2.2: Evaluate the implementation		
of concrete mitigation actions (greenhouse		
gas emissions), as well as actions relating to		
resilience and financing that have been		
mobilised in the NDC's sectors covering the		
2015-2020 period.		
Activity 2.3: Evaluate the potential for		
greenhouse gas emission reduction, and the		
vulnerability of 2015-2020 projects		
financed by environmental and climate		
funds in Gabon and other sources of climate		
financing in the NDC sectors covering the		
2015-2020 period.		
Activity 2.4: Evaluate the institutional		
framework, including an examination of the		
implementation tools (roadmap,		
investment plan and partnership plan), the		
communication strategy and the		
functioning of the committee that monitors		
the implementation of the NDC, as well as		
its representativity. (Coordinate this		
activity with the UNDP Climate Promise).		
Activity 2.5: Evaluate - by means of		
consultations with stakeholders and a		
review of implementation text documents -		
the various political implementation		

instruments such as the Emerging Gabon	
Strategic Plan (EGSP), the Forestry Code,	
the National gas flaring reduction plan, the	
Climate Plan, the Strategy for coastal adaptation, the law on sustainable	
•	
development, the National Land Allocation	
Plan and so on. <i>(Coordinate this activity</i>	
with the UNDP Climate Promise).	
Activity 2.6: Evaluate the ongoing MRV	
initiatives.	
Activity 2.7: Evaluate the body of	
knowledge of stakeholders (private sector,	
civil society, NGOs, regional authorities,	
universities and research institutions	
among others) as part of the NDC's	
implementation.	
Activity 2.8: Analyse the mainstreaming of	
gender, vulnerable groups and young	
people within the NDC (this activity is to be	
coordinated with the UNDP Climate	
Promise).	
Activity 2.9: Evaluate the involvement of	
Finance and Technical Partners in the	
implementation of the NDC.	
Activity 2.10: Consider the achievements,	
difficulties and weaknesses in order to	
make recommendations for the new NDC.	
Activity 2.11: Map out the available	
financing sources for climate action in	
Gabon for the purposes of both adaptation	
and mitigation and establish the public and	
private financing flows of investments	
related to the implementation of climate	
actions within the framework of Gabon's	
2015 NDC.	
2013 1100.	

	 Activity 2.12: Highlight the lessons learned. Activity 2.13: Make recommendations for the revision process of the NDC and the road map. Activity 2.14: A joint mission of national and international consultants is to be organised during the study's preparation. A consultation workshop is also to be set up³. 		
ACTIVITY CODE B046 ⁴ : Identification of priority sectors of the new NDC	Activity 3.1: On the basis of i) evaluation analyses of the 2015-2020 NDC; ii) the country's greenhouse gas inventory founded on work that is ongoing as initiated within other projects; iii) emission evolution forecasts by sector and the socio-economic importance of sectors, define the socio- economic sectors in order of importance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Activity 3.2: Based on previous analyses, define the most important sectors for climate governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, the strengthening of the country's resilience and the achievement of sustainable development objectives in Gabon. Activity 3.3: Identify financing measures, monitoring (MRV), priority mitigation and adaptation by the key sectors that ought to be included in the new NDC. Activity 3.4: Formulate enhancements to be delivered in the 2015 NDC and the	Deliverable 3 : A report of no more than 25 pages tops (plus annexes) setting out the analyses and results of the different activities and recommendations for the new NDC. The report must contain a consolidation of the results of the analyses to be included in the NDC document. The format is to be agreed with the national counterparts.	27 January 2021

³ In the event that international travel is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.

⁴ Activity code shown in the Terms of Reference of the partnership process drawn up as part of the CAEP programme of the NDC Partnership. The CAEP ToR defines all the partners' contributions to the activities relating to the revision of the 2020-2025 NDC preparation. Document provided as an Appendix.

	opportunities for the achievement of Gabon's climate ambitions through mitigation and adaptation. Activity 3.5 : Recommendations for the 2020 NDC. These recommendations should include better alignment of general and sectoral policies on the objectives of the Paris Agreement to fill the gaps of a financial, technological and governance nature as well as other identified gaps. Activity 3.6 : Organise a joint mission of national and international consultants during the study's preparation. A consultation workshop is also to be set up ⁵ .		
ACTIVITY CODE C036 ⁶ : Cost-benefit analysis of the 2020 NDC ⁷	 Activity 4.1: Map out the priority activities of the 2020 NDC resulting from the evaluations and on the basis of conversations and interview with sector representatives, and carry out a costbenefit analysis to include: Identification of the benefits of the different actions and their contribution to the national development objectives, to sectoral plans, and to the SDGs; Compilation of a cost-benefit analysis with mitigation and adaptation actions prioritised for the 2020 NDC; 	Deliverable 4. Report of no more than 50 pages plus appendices with an executive summary of 1-2 pages for policymakers. The report will be based on an outline jointly agreed with the NDC Partnership and must include: - detailed methodology indicating how the different analyses were undertaken as well as hypotheses, limitations and other relevant information; - Results of the cost-benefit analysis - A page for each new analysed NDC priority action indicating its connection to strategic sectoral priorities, the estimated costs of the action (based on the reference	24 February 2021

⁵ In the event that international travel is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.

⁶ Activity code shown in the Terms of Reference of the partnership process drawn up as part of the CAEP programme of the NDC Partnership. The CAEP partnership defines all the partners' contributions to the activities relating to the preparation of the 2020-2025 NDC preparation. Document provided as an Appendix.

⁷ To be coordinated with the UNDP as part of the studies on the costs and benefits for the wood, oil and mine sub-sectors.

	frame of reference), the potential for adaptation and mitigation, the institution responsible, the risks and the options for its financing and the implementation of identified actions (such as fiscal instruments, regulations and standards); <i>Activity 4.7</i> : A joint mission of national and international consultants is to be organised during the course of the study's preparation. A consultation workshop is also to be set up ⁸ .		
Drafting the final NDC 2020-2025 document, presentation of results, case studies and communication material, and the final workshop	 Activity 5.1: Draft the new NDC to be presented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change according to the NDC guidance. Activity 5.2: Prepare a report on the implementation of all actions as part of the CAEP initiative and Climate Promise Activity 5.3: Interviews and virtual presentation sessions with high-level representatives (up to 20) identified by the government to present the results of the 3 studies carried out: 1. Evaluation of actions from the 2015 NDC; 2. Identification of the priority sectors for the new NDC, the road map, and 3. Cost-benefit analysis of the 2020 NDC. Activity 5.4: Prepare and provide government partners with case studies and communication material on the studies carried out (format to be determined with the national party). 	 Deliverable 5: Final document on the Nationally Determined Contribution of Gabon Deliverable 5.1: Report of no more than 50 pages with a summary of 1 to 2 pages for policymakers and a summary of how CAEP and Climate Promise activities are being implemented. Deliverable 5.2: Presentation and consultation material relating to the three studies that are the subject of this consultation. Deliverable 5.3: Final workshop 	10 March 2021

⁸ In the event that international travel is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.



Activity 5.5: Organise a final	feedback
workshop ⁹ .	

⁹ In the event that international travel is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.



6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

a) Evaluation criteria

The following elements will be the main factors taken into consideration when evaluating all the proposals submitted in response to this RFP.

- The comprehensiveness of all the items required;
- Experience with similar projects;
- The supplier's technical expertise in relation to the requirements set out in the RFP;
- The supplier's ability to carry out the activities within the set timeframe; and
- The overall cost of the supplier's proposal and the best quality/price ratio.

b) Fields of expertise required to carry out the activities

The selected supplier must demonstrate their ability to carry out similar work, in particular:

- A thorough understanding of the Paris Agreement implementation framework and the UNFCCC process for preparing and submitting the NDC;
- Proven experience in costing climate action and climate financing in the region;
- Proven experience and in-depth knowledge of Results-Based Management (RBM) and the development of climate action plans;
- Experience in sub-Saharan Africa is essential and experience in Gabon is desirable;
- The working language and the language for developing deliverables is French, an excellent command of English is also desirable;
- Technical expertise in the field of developing Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reports;
- Proven experience in institutional capacity building in terms of developing and implementing NDCs, and mobilising domestic expertise;
- Proven experience in conducting analytical work under the management and guidance of governments;
- Proven experience in implementing work as part of partnerships;
- Extensive experience in involving ministries and other stakeholders in the process of building national policies and strategies on climate;
- Ability to produce data and gender-sensitive actions as well as involve vulnerable groups and young people;
- A consortium of suppliers will be considered if it contributes to the technical requirements and the requirements for carrying out the activities. Sub-contracting will also be allowed.

c) Proposal submission process

Potential service providers must submit the following:

- A declaration of interest describing the composition, responsibilities, and time allocation of the proposed team and how it meets the above requirements;
- The CV of each team member;
- Examples and references with contact information (name of the organisation and email address) from previous work similar to that described in the requirements;
- Proposed methodology and working plan to carry out the deliverables mentioned above, including time allocated for work in the country to collect data and develop projects (see the methodology elements outlined in the chapter "Methodological approach" of this RFP);



- A report on how the work and/or the supplier is ecologically sustainable;
- A Gantt chart of work activities at the deliverable dates; and
- A detailed budget. (Bidders are strongly encouraged to use the CAEP budget template, available for download using the following link http://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/CAEP_RFP_Budget_Template.xlsx)

The following rules shall apply in the proposal submission process for this request for proposals:

- Bidders cannot charge costs for developing proposals to the WRI, NDC Partnership, or the Government of Gabon. In turn, all related expenses must be borne by the bidders.
- The WRI can decide to award the contract to the bidder offering the best proposal without discussion.
- The WRI reserves the right to seek clarification and negotiate with bidders deemed to be in a competitive range.
- The WRI can, at its discretion and without any explanation to potential providers, choose to terminate this RFP without any obligation to potential service providers, or award several contracts under this RFP.

d) Important dates (all dates are considered by 5pm CEST)

- 1. Request for Proposals published: 14 September 2020
- 2. Sending an expression of interest (optional): and deadline for receiving questions: 21 September 2020
- 3. Latest date on which proposals may be sent 9 October 2020
- 4. Selection of the service provider and awarding of the contract: 4 November 2020
- 5. Period during which proposed actions are to be carried out: 4 November 2020 15 March 2021
- 6. Completion of activities: 15 March 2021

7. BUDGET

The contract will be based on a fixed price of no more than 140 000 US Dollars

8. SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL

All proposals must be submitted before 9 October 2020 to caep@ndcpartnership.org. Please use the following format for the subject line of the email: CAEP_Gabon. RFP_VENDOR NAME. All proposals must be submitted in electronic format.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE BODIES OVERSEEING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THIS **RFP**

a) National Climate Council of the Government of Gabon

The National Climate Council (CNC) is the advisory body of the Government of Gabon that handles the strategy for combating climate change. It has a Permanent Secretariat responsible for its technical and administrative management, as well as sectoral technical committees covering the various fields of activity related to its assignments. The National Climate Council, together with the Ministry in charge of the Economy, is the focal point of the NDC Partnership, which Gabon joined in 2018.

NDC Partnership - CAEP

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institutions working together to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development. Thanks to our partnership, members capitalise on their resources and expertise to provide countries with the tools they need to implement their NDCs and combat climate change to build a better future. The Support Unit of the NDC Partnership is jointly hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. For this project, the supplier will be hired directly by the WRI.

b) World Resources Institute

Founded in 1982, the World Resources Institute (WRI) is a global think tank focusing on the environment that goes beyond research to put ideas into practice by working with governments, business, and civil society to develop solutions to urgent environmental challenges. The transformative ideas of the WRI protect the planet and promote development, because sustainability is essential in meeting human needs and their aspirations for the future.

c) <u>"Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)" Initiative</u>

The Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) is an initiative of the NDC Partnership that is focused on supporting the development and implementation of improved and more ambitious NDCs. It allows countries to meet the challenges of the first generation of NDCs by providing support for the development and implementation of high-quality, evidence-based NDCs benefiting from broad social and governmental ownership. The CAEP is designed to be a catalyst for transformational change towards resilient, sustainable, and low-emission development, supporting the objectives of the Paris Agreement. It achieves this through two main objectives:

- **Objective 1**: Improve the NDCs, including by making them more ambitious, as part of the process of updating the NDCs of the Paris Agreement;
- **Objective 2**: Achieve faster implementation of the NDCs, notably by providing technical expertise and building capacity in the country.

Developing countries that are members of the NDC Partnership have requested assistance through the CAEP for specific activities as part of either objective. The work described in this RFP reflects the request for support submitted by the country through the CAEP process.



10. ANNEX – GLOBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REFERENCE TERMS OF THE CAEP FOR UPDATING THE NDC INCLUDING ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS