

Request for Proposals - An Integrated Investment Approach for Climate-Adaptive and Water-Resilient Food Systems

August 2023

SUMMARY OF PROCUREMENT

The NDC Partnership, through the World Resources Institute (WRI), intends to award a fixed cost contract for a vendor to draft an expert report on investment needs, rationale and opportunities for climate-adaptive and water-resilient food systems. Deliverables will be completed by 15 November 2023.

ABOUT THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members: 124 countries, of which 105 are developing and 19 developed; 54 institutional members; and 41 associate members to create and deliver on ambitious climate action. Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development. The NDC Partnership is built on the premise of collective action: by acting together, we achieve more.

The NDC Partnership Support Unit, which is hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as well as the World Resources Institute (WRI), serves as the secretariat of the Partnership and facilitates the matchmaking and catalytic work between the Partnership's membership. This contract will be awarded through WRI.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of the assignment is to undertake comprehensive research and produce a paper on the role and opportunities of blended finance in building climate adaptive and water-resilient food systems. This paper will delve into the intersection of climate change, food systems, water management, and financial mechanisms, detailing the current state of affairs, sectoral investment (i.e. transport, energy) breakdowns, the evolution of financial thinking, and innovative financial instruments. Drawing from global reports, stakeholder insights, and data analysis, the consultancy firm will present a well-researched, evidence-backed narrative that underscores the importance of public and private

investment in fostering climate resilience and robust water management in agriculture, while also proposing actionable financial strategies and tools.

The scope of work is being led by the NDC Partnership Support Unit with strategic support from IFAD.

Key responsibilities:

1. Project Initiation & Scoping:

- Understand and further define the scope, objectives, revised outline, and deliverables of the paper.
- Identify key stakeholders, data sources, and research methodologies to be used.

2. Comprehensive Research:

- Conduct thorough research on the topics outlined in the paper, drawing from a range of reputable sources.
- Analyze global stocktakes, climate fund reports, and other relevant documents.

3. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Map and liaise with relevant stakeholders, from governments, international agencies, private sector entities (including both financial and strategic investors and key stakeholders in blended finance), NGOs, and others, to gather insights and feedback.
- Organize and facilitate interviews or focus group discussions, if necessary.

4. Data Collection and Analysis:

- Collect quantitative and qualitative data relevant to the paper's topics.
- Analyze the data to derive meaningful insights and conclusions.

5. Drafting & Writing:

- Create a detailed outline of the paper, ensuring coherence and logical flow.
- Write the paper, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and relevance.
- Ensure all statements and claims are backed by appropriate references and data.

6. Incorporating Financial Mechanisms:

- Prepare matrix of existing innovative financial tools or strategies relevant to climate adaptation.
- Highlight existing and potential financial instruments beneficial to the sector.

7. Regular Reporting & Updates:

- Provide regular updates on the paper's progress to the commissioning body.
- Address feedback and make necessary revisions in a timely manner.

8. Review & Revision:

- Submit drafts for review by designated authorities or experts.
- Incorporate feedback, comments, and suggestions into subsequent drafts.

9. Finalization & Submission:

- Prepare the final version of the paper, ensuring it adheres to all guidelines and meets the expected quality standards.
- Submit the paper along with any supplementary materials, datasets, or references used.

10. Presentation (if required):

- Present the paper's findings to relevant audiences, such as workshops, conferences, or summits.

Deliverables:

| Deliverable | Due date |
|---|-------------|
| Research plan | 6 October |
| Annotated outline and a 2 pager brief for presentation at MENA climate week | 13 October |
| Draft paper | 31 October |
| Final paper (~10-12 pages) | 15 November |

A proposed outline for the paper is found below:

Title: Blended Finance as a Catalyst for Climate-Adaptive and water-resilient Food Systems

[The paper should not exceed 10-12 pages in length, and an executive summary should be limited to two pages.]. Annexes should be added with detailed background analytical work.

I. Understanding the Urgency

A. Contextual Overview: Delving into climate change's impact on food systems and water resources – exploring the nexus, appreciating the science, and understanding the interdependencies. Potential of food systems with adequately managed water in reducing GHG emissions and strengthening adaptation.

B. Paper's Purpose: Highlighting the objectives and aims.

C. The role of NDCs: Outline how food systems and water are part of countries' climate actions, including existing references in NDCs, and opportunities to strengthen climate targets and increase mitigation and adaptation ambition through a food-water-climate nexus approach.

II. Analyzing Investment Needs Across Sectors and Subsectors

A. Scale of investment needs

B. Barriers for investment

C. Investment opportunities

III. Redefining the Financial Paradigm

Insights from MDB, and Bridgetown: a call to broaden our horizons and envision possibilities. Identifying the financial requisites for adaptive food systems and pinpointing the existing gaps.

IV. The Pillar of Public Investment

Outlining the role to be played based on Section III's discussions.

A. Governmental Role: The imperative of state-backed foundational support.

B. Policy & Regulation: Crafting frameworks and regulations to support climate adaptation.

C. Multiplying Impact: How public funds (national and international) can be a magnet for private investments.

V. The Case for Private Investment

Understanding the role derived from Section III's insights.

A. Sustainable Ventures: Identifying opportunities for impactful investments in sustainable agriculture and water systems.

B. The Triple B Strategy: Building, Bundling, and Blending – a recipe for impactful investments.

VI. Pioneering Financial Tools (below are for illustrative purposes)

A. Sustainable Bonds: An exploration of green bonds and other sustainable finance pathways.

B. Risk Management: Instruments designed to mitigate climate-related financial uncertainties.

C. Ecosystem Investments: Understanding payments for ecosystem services and the emerging concept of resilience credits.

VII. The Blueprint for Integrated Results

A. Quantifying Impact: Measuring the outcomes of food systems and water management in a climate-adaptive paradigm.

B. Unified Approach: Advocating for a holistic strategy that melds food, water, and climate considerations.

C. Global Synergy: Calling for worldwide collaboration and swift, decisive action.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Requirements

1. Subject Matter Expertise:

- Climate Change & Adaptation: Profound understanding of climate science, climate change impacts, and adaptation strategies.
- Food Systems and water management: Knowledge of global food systems, agriculture practices, and their relationship with climate and water.
- Financial Systems: Experience with blended finance, green bonds, and other innovative financial mechanisms.

2. Research and Analytical Skills:

- Ability to conduct comprehensive research, both qualitative and quantitative.
- Capacity to analyze global stocktakes, SCF reports, and other relevant documents.
- Skilled in identifying and understanding financing gaps in the climate adaptation sector.

3. Policy & Regulatory Understanding:

- Familiarity with international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and NDCs, and the Convention on Biodiversity and NBSAPs.

- Insight into policy frameworks and regulations that guide climate adaptation and blended finance.

4. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Proven track record of engaging with a variety of stakeholders including governments, international agencies, private sector entities, and NGOs.
- Experience in synthesizing diverse stakeholder inputs into coherent reports.

5. Excellent Writing and Communication Skills:

- Ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and coherently.
- Experience in preparing papers, reports, or documents for high-level audiences, conferences, or summits.

6. Multi-disciplinary Team:

- The firm should have a diverse team that includes climate scientists, agricultural experts, water experts, financial analysts, policy experts, and communication specialists.

7. Technical Tools & Software:

- Proficiency in using analytical tools, data visualization software, and other relevant technologies to enhance the quality and presentation of the paper.

Proposal Content

Prospective vendors must submit:

- A statement of interest describing the proposed team and how it meets the above requirements
- Description of proposed project management structure (lead team/project manager, sub-contracted organizations, experts, etc.)
- CVs of team members
- Examples of and references for similar previous work (with URLs and contact details)
- An outline of the proposed methodology and workplan
- A proposed budget with a breakdown of costs sufficient to assess reasonableness and compliance with funder requirements.
- Schedule for deliverables

Submission timeline

To submit expressions of interest and proposal documents, please send relevant materials to:

- Amanda McKee, Director of Knowledge and Learning: amanda.mckee@ndcpartnership.org

All proposals must be sent by **25 September, 2023** in electronic format. WRI may, at its discretion and without explanation to the prospective vendors choose to discontinue this RFP without obligation to

prospective vendors, or make multiple awards under this RFP. All deliverables under this contract are expected by 15 November 2023.