



Request for proposals

Readiness Support to Entities in Africa seeking Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund

1. Background

The Green Climate Fund (Fund) was established with the purpose of making a significant and ambitious contribution to the global efforts towards attaining the goals set by the international community to combat climate change. In the context of sustainable development, the Fund will promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Fund is governed and supervised by the Board and was designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Fund's headquarters are located in Songdo, Incheon City, Republic of Korea. Its operations will start with approximately 50 core staff assisted by external specialized resources/consultants in 2014, with a possibility of expanding regularly over the years. In anticipation of its call for applications for accreditation starting on 17th November 2014, the Fund, as a part of its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, seeks to provide readiness support to subnational, national and regional entities requesting assistance to become accredited to the Fund under the direct access track. Through this request for proposals, the Fund will award, on the basis of a fair, transparent and competitive selection process, a contract to the successful consulting firm to provide such support.

The tender process comprises three steps:

Submission – The Fund expects technical and financial proposals to be delivered to the attention of Gerard O'Donoghue at godonoghue@gcfund.org by the 27th November 2014, close of business day.

Short Listing – The short-list will be completed by the 3rd December 2014. Additional questions may or may not be requested before drawing up the short-list.

Final Step – It is expected to take a final decision by 8th December 2014. For this purpose, short-listed providers may be required to make presentations to the Fund's senior management.



2. Overview of the Accreditation Process

The Green Climate Fund has established an accreditation process for all implementing entities (IEs) and intermediaries based on specific accreditation criteria that reflect the Fund's fiduciary standards¹ and environmental and social safeguards (ESS).² The accreditation process can be seen as a means to ensure that the Fund's resources are used towards advancing the principles and objectives of the Fund, in ways that minimize the risk of fiduciary mismanagement or inadvertent environmental or social harm. It is thus one of several mechanisms that the Fund has at its disposal to ensure that its funding is used in a transparent, accountable and effective manner.

The initial guiding framework for the Fund's accreditation process includes a set of core guiding principles that, among other principles, aim for a dynamic process that is reliable, credible and flexible. A dynamic accreditation process will also aim at enabling potential entities to increase their scope of activities as their capacity increases over time, should they want to do so. Given the broad mandate of the Fund to finance and invest in measures in a diverse range of sectors and regions through various instruments, the Fund's accreditation process will accommodate the gamut of capacities needed to deliver on its mandate, while preserving the consistency, credibility and transparency of its accreditation process.

The accreditation approach recognizes the role of a wide range of entities, which differ in the scope and nature of their activities, as well as their capacities, in advancing the objectives of the Fund. It accommodates this diversity by matching the nature, scale and risk of intended activities to the application of the fiduciary standards and ESS.

The accreditation process will take into account the scale and type (e.g. financial instrument) of funding that the entity intends to access, as well as nature of its intended activities. This approach will ensure that the assessment of the entity's conformity with the fiduciary standards, and relevant capacities related to the Fund's ESS, in the accreditation process is commensurate with the level of fiduciary and non-financial (e.g. environmental and social) risk to which the Fund will be exposed through the activities of implementing entities.

The purpose of the task will therefore be to:

- (a) Assess the entity's conformity at the institutional level with the Fund's fiduciary standards;

¹ Refer to the Fund's initial fiduciary principles and standards available at http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Accreditation/GCF_Initial_Fiduciary_Principles_and_Standards_20140619.pdf.

² Refer to the Fund's interim environmental and social safeguards available at http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Accreditation/GCF_Interim_Environmental_and_Social_Safeguards_20140619.pdf.



- (b) Assess the entity's institutional capacities for conformity with the Fund's environmental and social safeguards.

In the case that the consulting firm does not have sufficient expertise in (a) or (b), the consulting firm may partner with other consultants/firms who have such capabilities.

The assessment for accreditation taking into account the Fund's guiding framework for accreditation³ will be conducted on the information provided by entities, including their track record.

The deliverable for the task is expected to be a report including an assessment and gap analysis of the entity against paragraphs (a) and (b) above. The Fund expects the deliverable in accordance with the following timeframe:

- Initial version within two weeks of the assignment of an entity by the Fund to the successful candidate; and
- Final version within two week of the initial version.

Please note that a quality and cost based selection method will be used to select the provider. As such you are requested to provide both a technical and financial proposal. The technical and financial proposals must be in two separate and sealed envelopes.

3. The technical proposal

All potential implementing entities and intermediaries from the Africa region will have to apply for accreditation before being able to access funding from the Fund. Similar tender exercises show that a limited number of entities from different countries tend to react promptly in the application processes, whereas many others react later on in the process. An initial assessment of the entity's fiduciary standards and ESS will have to be assessed against that of the Fund. A gap analysis for each entity will have to be conducted.

Proposers are requested to submit a technical proposal that demonstrates the capability in delivering the requested services. As such you should provide the following information.

- Experience and office locations in the region;
- Relevant work experience in carrying out similar compliance reviews;
- Experience in building capacity in national/regional entities; and
- The team composition and the description of the different roles and functions, identifying the team leader, the main contact points and relationship manager for the Fund.

³ Refer to the Initial Guiding Framework on the Fund's Accreditation Process available at http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Accreditation/GCF_Guiding_Framework_for_the_Accreditation_Process_20140619.pdf.



The technical proposal should also include a detailed time frame for submission of deliverables. The technical proposal must be in a sealed envelope separate from that of the financial proposal.

The technical proposal will be evaluated using the above criteria and will account for 70% of the evaluation.

4. The financial proposal

You are required to provide the following information:

1. The total fees for carrying out the initial assessment/gap analysis of the entities' fiduciary standards and environmental and social safeguards against those of the Fund. For the purpose of pricing services, companies might consider batches of 5/10/15 entities in 3/6/9 different countries.
2. The estimated fee basis for additional work required to assist the entities in complying with the Fund's fiduciary standards and environmental and social safeguards.

The financial proposal must be in a sealed envelope separate from that of the technical proposal.

The financial proposal will account for 30% of the evaluation.