

Call for Expressions of Interests:

Mentoring Institutions for
**“STRENGTHENING ENDOGENOUS CAPACITIES OF
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ACCESS FINANCE FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPATION” Project**

This notice serves as a call for expressions of interest from academic/research institutions to participate in a climate change adaptation project that is currently being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme. The project, which will be implemented with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), seeks to build capacities among institutional members of the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) so that they are better equipped to provide climate change adaptation-related technical advisory services to their host governments and other clients. These capacity building efforts will be delivered in two phases. The first phase will include all 15 members of the LUCCC and will provide virtual learning opportunities and tools that can be applied by existing programs at the universities. During the second phase, the project will support the establishment of several dedicated “thinktank” institutions focusing on applied research and technical services for climate change adaptation. This phase will involve a deeper level of engagement with the LUCCC member universities that choose to host thinktanks.

To supplement its capacity building and institutional strengthening activities, the project will also engage **mentor institutions** that have established programs and experience with conducting applied research, developing decision support information products, and providing other specialized fee-based technical services (e.g., economic analysis of adaptation options, risk/vulnerability assessments, adaptation project design, training programs) to governments and other clients. These mentor institutions will provide technical and capacity building support to all of LUCCC member universities during the first phase, and more in-depth institution-to-institution support for the newly-established thinktanks (including setting up technical service offerings, developing business and engagement plans, establishing price lists, etc.). Mentor institutions will share experience and expertise which will contribute to the long-term sustainability and viability of the thinktanks as self-sustaining technical service providers. A key outcome of the project will be to establish a viable business model for the thinktanks that can be replicated in other LDC universities. Key areas of support may include:

- Identifying existing technical expertise among LDC universities that can be leveraged through the thinktanks;
- Determining the most appropriate institutional arrangements for each thinktank, and scoping existing institutional arrangements at host universities to determine the degree to which they provide the enabling conditions, and addressing gaps and barriers where applicable;
- Establishing standard operating procedures for day-to-day operations;
- Capacity development for thinktank staff and affiliates;

- Strategies for identifying potential “clients” and business development planning; and
- Establishing effective partnerships with governments and other potential clients for fee-based services.

In addition to an established program in climate change adaptation and/or resilience building, mentor institutions may also have experience with twinning relationships with other universities, as well as experience with other institutional strengthening initiatives. In addition, mentoring institutions should have a team of experienced technical experts that can contribute to the mentoring program.

The project will be implemented for two years, starting in late 2021 or early 2022. Mentor institutions will receive compensation for services provided. Final selection of mentor institutions will be made in the inception stage of the project. Mentor institutions will be contracted through the project’s to-be-determined executing agency, which will handle the day-to-day management of the project.

Interested institutions are encouraged to submit expressions of interest to atifa.kassam@un.org with a basic technical proposal (3-5 pages) describing the institution’s proposed approach to providing mentoring services. Proposals should also include a summary of the institution’s expertise and experience related to the proposed project. Expressions from Global South institutions are especially encouraged.