

Call for Partnership Proposals

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

<p>Objective</p>	<p>The objective of this call for proposals is to identify qualified organizations to serve as the executing agency for the “Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation” project, to be supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The project identification form (PIF) has been approved by the GEF, and now the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is engaged in the design phase of the project. UNEP expects to begin implementation of the project in the fourth quarter of 2021 or first quarter of 2022. The project will be implemented for 24 months.</p> <p>This call seeks proposals from qualified non-government entities or UN organisations with experience with capacity development and institutional strengthening in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Specifically, the project will build capacities among LDC universities so that they can play a larger role in providing climate adaptation services, including project development and other technically specialized services, to LDC governments. The selected executing entity will enter into a partnership with UNEP to administer the project.</p>
<p>A. Overall Project Information</p>	
<p>General Project Background</p>	<p><u>PROBLEM BACKGROUND:</u> A major obstacle to developing effective climate change adaptation policies and projects in LDCs is a lack of endogenous capacity related to policy formulation and project design and implementation. This limits funding available to LDC governments from international climate change financiers and the private sector to support adaptation. This in turn undermines scaled-up adaptation action and the transformative change that is necessary to move LDCs into climate-resilient economic and social development pathways.</p> <p><u>PROJECT APPROACH:</u> The project’s objective to strengthen capacities of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to achieve scaled up and effective climate change adaptation by fostering sustained endogenous technical services for project development, policy mainstreaming and the creation of an enabling environment for adaptation to climate change. The project will work primarily with the members of the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change</p>

(LUCCC), who, along with the Least Developed Countries Group, will help to steer and implement the project. The first component of the project will work with all 15 members of the LUCCC to identify host-countries needs for climate change adaptation-related technical services, and to provide capacity strengthening activities to empower the LUCCC members to fulfill the identified needs. The second component of the project will focus more intensively on a smaller number of institutions selected by the LUCCC members themselves. These institutions will receive support to establish Technical Service Provider units (referred to hereafter as “thinktanks”). The thinktanks will be provided with institutional strengthening, mentoring services, and technical assistance so that they develop into self-sustaining, fee-based technical consultancy units housed at universities. Thinktanks will provide services to LDC governments relating to the design and implementation of climate change adaptation policies and projects/programmes. The project combines and builds upon lessons learned from previous projects in both climate change adaptation capacity development, and tertiary education/research institutional strengthening.

The project will have three outcomes. The first outcome will capacitate all of the LUCCC members and will establish the thinktanks. This outcome will include mentoring and twinning arrangement with established academic/research institutions that can provide technical support to the thinktanks. The first outcome will also include the development of training packages that respond to identified needs of LDC governments with respect to climate adaptation policy mainstreaming and project development. Additionally, the first outcome will include development of business and sustainability plans for the thinktanks including technical service offerings to facilitate an ongoing relationship between the thinktanks and the LDC governments.

The second outcome will provide support (through small grants to the LDC thinktanks to produce demand-led technical products that provide decision-support and policy-relevant information to the LDC governments in relation to climate change adaptation policy development and project design tasks.

The third outcome will aim to capture the lessons learned from the project and create the enabling conditions so that similar thinktanks can be established in additional LDCs, thus expanding the network of thinktanks.

B. Partnership Proposals Sought

<p>Description of Project and expected deliverables</p>	<p>Specific Outputs and Expectations of the Executing Agency under each Component</p> <p><i>Component 1: Collaborative mechanisms for sustained endogenous capacity on climate change adaptation finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formulate terms-of-references and contract with four mentor institutions. Supervise and coordinate with the mentor institutions throughout the life of the project. Mentor institutions' fees will be funded by the project, and contracts will be administered by the executing agency.• Execute needs assessment to determine technical support needs in the host countries for each thinktank institution.• Develop (internally or through technical contractors) a set of short course training packages for LUCCC institutions to build capacities to empower the LUCCC members to provide climate change adaptation-relevant technical services to host governments and other stakeholders.• Work with LUCCC group to identify host-institution support needs for thinktanks, and to identify host institutions for the thinktanks.• Support thinktanks in identifying existing capacities at host institutions and in establishing technical working clusters to provide technical services.• Support thinktanks in developing business plans for medium- and long-term sustainability. <p><i>Component 2: Catalyze demand for thinktank technical services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support (a selected entity) with a small grants program to provide funds to thinktank institutions. These funds will support the development of technical products and will serve as a "proof of concept" which will generate additional demand for thinktank services.• Ensure quality of thinktank technical service products <p><i>Component 3: Scaling up</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrange and implement a meeting for the LUCCC during the first year of the project to share lessons about the thinktank the project's implementation.• Arrange and implement a meeting in the second year of the project for the LDC University Consortium on Climate Change, the LDC Group, and other stakeholders to discuss scaling up of the thinktank network.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain an online platform to share materials between the thinktanks, and to publicize the thinktank network and the technical services provided. • Develop a sustainability strategy for the thinktank network. • Develop and implement a branding and communications plan. <p><i>Project Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full participation and ownership on the part of the LDC Group and the LDCs University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) • Ensure coordination and sharing of knowledge across the project’s four thinktanks. • Establish and execute a monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning plan that is consistent the project’s design, as well as with the requirements of GEF and UNEP. • Liaise with development partners to identify additional support (through complementary projects and programs) for the thinktanks, and also potential opportunities for thinktanks to provide technical services for development partner-supported initiatives in the LDCs. • Day to day management and administration of the project
Requirements	The project requires an executing agency that has a strong track record in managing capacity development and institutional strengthening activities in LDCs, and which has competency in the areas of climate change adaptation and climate change finance. Experience in working with tertiary education institutions in LDCs on capacity development. Existing programs that would enhance the outcomes of this project would be highly desirable, as would the ability to provide in-kind co-financing for some project activities.
Project Duration	The duration of the partnership will be two years, beginning approximately CYQ42021 or CYQ12022
Language	Applicants should submit partnership proposals in English
Who can apply	This call for proposals is open to non-governmental entities (including international and national non-government organizations, foundations, think tanks, and research/academic institutions) and United Nations System Organisations
How to apply	Please send technical proposals on the attached template to Atifa Kassam (atifa.kassam@un.org)
Timeline for application	EXTENDED DEADLINE - Submissions must be received by midnight GMT on 28 th April 2021

Call for Partnership Proposals APPLICATION TEMPLATE

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

Applicant Entity

A. Applicant Details	
Name of applicant entity	
Applicant entity contact details	Contact name: Email address: Phone number: Address: Country (registered in):
Legal Status	Non-government agency <input type="checkbox"/> UN agency <input type="checkbox"/>
Organization and team’s prior engagement with UNEP or other international organizations	
Declaration on Exclusion Criteria, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	Applicants must return the attached declaration on Exclusion Criteria, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
B. 1) Applicant’s Institutional Arrangements related to Partnership Proposal	
Project team member names	
Project organization and team’s prior experience in the fields of university institutional strengthening and climate change adaptation	
Project organization or team’s access to host governments and university stakeholders in least developed countries	
B. 2) Proposed Project Methodology and Deliverables	
Methodology (up to 600 words).	

<p><i>Please provide further details in the intended methodology or approach to be used in this project including how gender equity will be promoted.</i></p>	
<p>Project plan and activities (up to 500 words)</p> <p><i>The partnership plan should include all activities, resources and skills utilized in a schedule to achieve the project objectives.</i></p>	
<p>Project deliverables and milestone with detailed timeline (up to 500 words)</p> <p><i>The project deliverables are the major steps or activities that align with the project plan and that can be used to monitor successful project implementation. Responses here can be provided in text, tables, or figures.</i></p>	
<p>C. Additional Support</p>	
<p>D. List of Documents</p>	
<p>Applications must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed Application Template 2. Certificate of Incorporation 3. Partner governing bylaws or constitution 4. Most recent annual report 5. Most recent audited financial statements 6. Declaration on Exclusion Criteria, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 7. Entity’s overall organigramme 8. Short bio of core Project team 	

This Request for Technical Proposals is aligned with UNEP’s 2020 Partnership Policy and Procedures