

Terms of Reference

Consultancy for supporting UNEP DTU's work on impact assessment

1. Background

UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP) is a leading international research and advisory institution on energy, climate and sustainable development. Its work focuses on assisting developing countries transition towards more low carbon development paths, and supports integration of climate-resilience in national development through in-depth research, policy analysis, and capacity building activities. In the area of impact assessment UDP supports a variety of actors with evidence-based assessments of the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate policies and actions.

The main focus of the impact assessment work is on the social, environmental, and economic outcomes of policies and measures at local to global scales, including their contributions to the SDGs and sustainable transitions. In this context, the work contributes to shed light on how policies and actions (including individual projects) relate to the achievement of NDCs, SDGs, and other relevant national and international policy frameworks. Efforts also include the identification of specific priority actions in main sectors of the economy, the development and application of methodologies and tools to analyse the social, environmental, and economic effects of such actions, and related costs and establishing baselines and metrics.

This helps providing knowledge and insights to support policy and decision-making in a variety of institutions through increased understanding of the climate impacts, synergies and trade-offs between climate and broader sustainable development objectives, and transformational change potential. This includes work related to transparency and metrics, in particular around the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, and supporting financial institutions in aligning finance flows with the Paris Agreement objectives.

2. Objectives

Under this area of work, UDP is engaged in a variety of projects, among which:

- The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). ICAT integrates guidance, capacity building and knowledge sharing to engage countries in the use of a common framework to assess the impacts of their policies and actions and report progress, fostering greater transparency, effectiveness and ambition. UDP's work under this initiative has a focus on methodology and tool development, capacity building, and knowledge sharing in adaptation, sustainable development, transformational change, and mitigation.

UDP support under the ICAT initiative is rapidly expanding in the areas of sustainable development and transformational change, particularly in the LAC region. Support to country focuses, for example, on developing MRV systems to measure sustainable development and transformational impacts of national climate policies, linking NDCs with SDGs metrics, using ICAT methodologies for policy development, and tailor-making of methodologies for facilitating in-country uptake.

- Supporting financial institutions in developing climate strategies, and assessing the impacts of their investments on climate mitigation, sustainable development, and transformational change. Impact assessment consultancy is provided both to analyse the impacts at individual assessment level and portfolio level, and to use these to develop net-zero and Paris-aligned strategies.
- Other analyses of mitigation, sustainable development, and transformational impacts of technologies, projects, policies, and investments, in the context of providing research-based support to organisations interested in getting insights on these impacts, through methodology development, capacity building activities, and impact assessment consultancy. This includes, for example, support in topics such as identification of links between climate actions and sustainability indicators (e.g. SDGs indicators and targets), assessment of the impacts arising from such links, and analysis of impacts with respect to global targets and thresholds. And to the development of methodologies for capturing these impacts.

3. Scope of Work

UNEP DTU is seeking a consultant that can support the above mentioned areas of work, as detailed below:

- Implementation of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency.
Support in this area includes contribution to in-country implementation, project coordination, capacity-building, and methodology development, specifically around the areas concerned with the application or development of the ICAT methodologies for Sustainable Development and Transformational Change. Particular focus in terms of country support is envisioned for the LAC region, due to the increasing demand for the use of sustainable development and transformational change methodologies in the region. Examples of tasks in which the consultant will be involved include, but are not limited to, the assessment of the sustainable development and transformational impacts of climate policies in Belize, the development of methodologies and MRV system in Costa Rica, an analysis of links NDC to SDGs in the Dominican Republic, etc.
- Support to area of work concerning financial institutions on the topic of climate strategies, GHG footprint, Life Cycle Assessment, sustainability assessments, and similar, by providing guidance and expert advice. Specific tasks will include expert review of assessments and LCA of individual investments, guidance on how to conduct portfolio footprint, development of impact assessment methodologies based on international standards, and development of strategies to help financial institutions to achieve and monitor progress towards net-zero and Paris-aligned targets.
- Other tasks include, but are not limited to, the development and application of methodologies for impact assessment for mitigation, sustainable development, and transformational change impacts.

An example of task under this area of work include the design of approaches for capturing the mitigation contribution of UNEP's projects.

4. Qualifications of the Consultant

- MSc. in Environmental Engineering, Sustainability, Environmental Science or similar and two years of relevant professional experience. Experience in working with developing countries is considered a strong advantage;
- Knowledge of and experience in working with impact assessment methodologies for sustainable development and transformational change, life cycle assessment, and GHG footprint. Familiarity with ICAT methodologies for sustainable development and transformational change is considered a strong advantage;
- Knowledge of the architecture of the Paris Agreement, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and experience in working with climate transparency and development of national MRV systems for climate actions;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the EU Taxonomy for sustainable finance activities, and impact assessment methodologies for financial institutions such as PCAF. Experience in working with financial institutions on the topic of GHG footprint;
- Demonstrated ability in working independently, project management experience, and presentation skills;
- Knowledge of English and Spanish.

5. Length and scope of Contract

The length of the consultancy contract is one year with possibility of renewal.

The incumbent will be consulted within a framework contract. The specific deliverables will be detailed in additional sub-contracts to be agreed upon by UDP and the incumbent. However, the general terms of the framework contract applies to all sub-contracts that follow.

Working time is expected to be around 3 days per week on average.