

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

For

Study on Assessing Barriers and Solutions in Bridging Climate Change Finance with Adaptation Projects and Research in Africa (#11120029)

Response required by: February 7, 2012 15:00 hours EST

Issued on January 12, 2012 by:

**Susan Bickram
Senior Procurement Officer
Email: sbickram@idrc.ca**

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Part A – Instructions

Qualified candidates, with a strong background in development finance, who are interested in conducting a study to assess barriers in bridging adaptation research with sources of finance from development banks and/or adaptation funding sources for Africa, are invited to submit Expressions of Interest to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Terms of Reference for the intended work are included in Attachment A (Statement of Work).

Interested and qualified parties are invited to respond by submitting a letter expressing their interest in providing their services to the Contract Authority named below, by no later than February 7, 2012 at 15:00 hours EST.

Contracting authority:

Susan Bickram
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International Development Research Centre
Mailing address: P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1G 3H9
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Submissions should quote “**Expression of Interest – Assessing Barriers and Solutions for Climate Change Finance (#11120029)**” and should be submitted to the above-named Contracting Authority, in French or English.

Submissions may be delivered by email (in MS Word format). Submissions not meeting the requirements as outlined in the Terms of Reference and/or received after the deadline may not be considered.

Submissions should include the following, in the order presented below:

1. A letter of introduction (maximum 2 pages) confirming the candidate’s complete name, address, telephone number, facsimile, and e-mail address, as well as a summary of the candidate’s relevant qualifications. The letter should briefly state why the candidate and/or group of candidates would be interested in undertaking the study described in the Terms of Reference.
2. A short overall study plan (maximum 2 pages).
3. CV of the interested candidate(s) detailing work experience and relevant expertise.
4. Three (3) references, including contact names and telephone numbers.
5. A one-page indicative budget outlining the expected cost of the study, broken down by the major cost categories. The indicative budget and Study Plan Note (see 2. above) should be linked.

Expressions of Interest received by the above Contract Authority by the deadline indicated above will be reviewed by the Centre and following the review, a short list of selected qualified candidates will be compiled. Candidates included on the short list will be notified by February 21, 2012 and may subsequently be invited to submit a full proposal based on specific guidelines and refined selection criteria. The invited full proposals will be required to include a succinct description of the theoretical

framework to be applied, a study design, methodology, deliverables based on the overall and specific objectives (see Attachment A - Statement of Work), work plan and detailed budget.

Please note that only Candidates who are included on the short list will be notified of this and invited to respond to a Request for Proposals. Candidates who have not received any notification from IDRC by February 21, 2012 may assume that they will not be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals.

This is not a tender or request for proposals. No contractual, tort or other legal duties, rights or obligations of any kind are intended or created on the part of IDRC or its employees in connection with this invitation for expressions of interest, the submission of any response, or any decision, act or failure to act of IDRC or any IDRC employee.

No representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, are made in, or in connection with this invitation for expressions of interest. By submitting a response, the person or firm submitting the response acknowledges and agrees to all of the foregoing.

All costs incurred in the preparation of responses to this Request for Expressions of Interest, including any interviews, presentations and subsequent proposals, are the sole responsibility of the Candidates and will not be chargeable in any way to IDRC.

All inquiries relating to this Request for Expressions of Interest are to be directed to the above named IDRC contact.

IDRC will use a variety of methods to evaluate the submissions it receives in response to this Request for Expressions of Interest. These methods may include:

- the overall quality and value of the submission (“best value” for the Centre);
- the compliance of the submission with the terms of reference;
- the candidate’s level and type of experience and qualifications;
- the quality of the references provided.

IDRC reserves the right to reject or accept any or all submissions relating to this Request for Expressions of Interest.

Part B – Terms of Reference

1. Terms of Reference

The anticipated requirements for the Study are described in Attachment A (Statement of Work).

***Assessing Barriers and Solutions in Bridging Climate Change Finance with
Adaptation Projects and Research in Africa***

Canada's [International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC) supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development. The result is innovative, lasting local solutions that aim to bring choice and change to those who need it most. IDRC's [Climate Change and Water Program](#) (CCW) helps developing country researchers to examine the consequences of climate change on water resources and water-related natural hazards. It seeks ways to improve the ability of citizens, communities, and governments to adapt to the changing environment.

The [Development Bank of Southern Africa](#) (DBSA) is a development finance institution which supports policy development, bulk infrastructure development and institutional capacity building. The DBSA invests in research on key development issues that will support its mandate of creating a region free of poverty.

To address an area of common interest between IDRC and the DBSA, individuals/teams with a strong background in development finance who are interested in conducting a study ***to assess the barriers and solutions in bridging sources of finance from development banks and/or adaptation funding sources with adaptation projects and research in Africa*** are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to conduct this work, in accordance with the instructions provided herein.

The purpose of this study is to i) identify the barriers to accessing and spending adaptation finance in Africa; ii) offer/supply guidance to climate finance providers on streamlining funding to overcome these barriers and enable easier access to adaptation finance; and iii) propose design features to assist project developers conducting and using adaptation research to respond to the requirements of adaptation funders.

Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) commits countries to prepare for and facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change ([Article 4.1](#)). In addition, developed countries are required to assist developing countries in meeting costs of adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change ([Article 4.4](#)).¹ Adaptation to climate change is defined by the IPCC as the:

*adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation.*²

In 2010, developed countries agreed to aim for \$100 billion per year by 2020 in finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects to dramatically increase the scale of effort to counter the impacts of climate change across the developing world. This large amount of funding is dependent on the availability of feasible and effective projects that can be scaled up. In Africa alone, there are over 1000 ongoing adaptation projects.

¹ UNFCCC. [Full Text of the Convention: Article 4: Commitments](#).

² IPCC TAR, 2001 a. Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. IPCC Third Assessment Report, Cambridge University Press.

Many adaptation projects are being led by research institutions. For instance, a jointly funded initiative between the [UK Department for International Development](#) (DfID) and IDRC, the [Climate Change Adaptation in Africa \(CCAA\)](#) program has funded 42 adaptation research projects in 33 countries across the continent. More recently, the [African Adaptation Research Centres \(AARC\)](#) initiative was launched by IDRC with fast-start climate change financing provided by the Government of Canada that supports seven African centres of excellence on climate change.

There remains, however, a gap between the kind of research taking place and the subsequent development of financially viable development projects and practical actions that are focused on climate change adaptation and promote resilience. Effective climate finance will require oversight and strong management, while funded projects will need to demonstrate that they are replicable at scale, effective at reducing vulnerability and facilitating adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, recent experience is showing us that what constitutes an “adaptation project” can be difficult to define. Adaptation interventions are often similar to ongoing development programming, making it a challenge to identify their unique/additional benefits.³ Some scholars and practitioners promote “climate resilient development” as the integration of adaptation and development efforts.⁴

The literature on adaptation proposes different examples of variables and indicators that constitute successful adaptation actions and lead to increased adaptive capacity⁵, but clearly defined variables that can assess the effectiveness and legitimacy of an adaptation project are still being tested or are non-existent in some projects.⁶ This is one of the reasons why many adaptation activities will struggle to secure longer term financing.⁷

IDRC’s main constituency are researchers. While many researchers do exhibit an entrepreneurial bent and see how their research results can be converted into viable adaptation actions, others lack the capacity or have no incentive to do so. Adaptation funders, meanwhile, have tended to create a fairly complex accountability chain and therefore adaptation funding can be difficult to access for many project developers.

Programme of work

The findings of this consultancy will assist in bridging the gap between adaptation research in Africa, on one hand, and the generation of viable adaptation business plans that can be supported by the proliferation of adaptation funds being developed (for example, through the Green Climate Fund, the African Development Bank’s Africa Green Fund, etc.).

The work required consists of two parts. First, to assess what are the main barriers and obstacles for existing adaptation projects and actions in Africa in terms of securing long term finance and scaling up promising adaptation actions. Secondly, the consultant should identify a strategy, including clear recommendations and guidelines that would help researchers working on adaptation generate ideas

³ Brown, J. & Kaur, N. [Financing adaptation: matching form with function](#). Background Note. ODI, December 2009.

⁴ For example, Fankhauser, S. & Schmidt-Traub, G. 2011. From adaptation to climate-resilient development: The costs of climate-proofing the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. *Climate and Development*. 3(2), p94-113.

⁵ For example, Adger et al., 2004; Brooks and Adger, 2005.

⁶ For example, CCAA is funding a project to develop and pilot an M&E toolkit for climate change adaptation initiatives ([Project 104779](#) – An experimental approach to capacity and toolkit development for M&E within climate change adaptation initiatives, led by UNECA, OSS, and AGRHYMET)

⁷ Hedger, M., et al., 2008, 'Evaluation of Adaptation to Climate Change from a Development Perspective', Desk Review, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

that are of interest to development banks and other adaptation finance stakeholders as effective and financially viable initiatives. The consultants will therefore need to engage researchers, project developers, and development and adaptation finance institutions in equal measure.

The specific objectives of the consultancy will be:

- To assess what are the main barriers and obstacles for existing adaptation projects and actions in Africa in terms of securing and spending finance;
- To provide an evidence-based assessment of the experience of African project developers in accessing adaptation finance including barriers, capacity gaps, and opportunities;
- To develop an inventory and outline a strategy that would help researchers working on adaptation to generate ideas that are of interest to development banks and other adaptation finance providers as financially viable initiatives, and contribute to climate resilient development.

Audience

The target audience for the findings of this study includes both adaptation funders – to provide guidance on what may help streamline funding to support a wider range of quality projects and meet adaptation needs; and also organisations conducting adaptation research - to clearly outline the requirements of funders, and provide recommendations on how to design research that will be most impactful.

Ultimately, we expect to present these findings to existing and proposed financing and coordinating agencies such as the Africa Green Fund, the UNFCCC's Technical Support Unit any other relevant mechanisms.

Scope of funding

Maximum CA\$80,000

Timeline

The duration of the study is expected to be up to six (6) months, commencing on May 15, 2012.

Deliverables

- Work plan and proposed methodology (submitted month 1)
- A draft report to be reviewed by IDRC and DBSA staff (month 4)
- Final report of not more than 40 pages (month 6)

There may also be an invitation to present the findings to an audience of climate change adaptation research funders and stakeholders at the end of the work programme.

Methodology

The research will be conducted using a mix of methods, with an emphasis on primary research such as interviews with key actors (project/programme developers, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)), a review of guidelines of existing adaptation funding mechanisms, and a scan of existing adaptation projects and challenges such projects face in accessing finance. The consultant should indicate in their proposal how they plan to approach the study.

Attachment A – Statement of Work
Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) #11120029

Who should apply?

We are seeking individuals/teams with a strong background in development finance who are interested in conducting a study to assess the barriers in bridging adaptation research with sources of finance from development banks and/or adaptation funding sources. Preference will be given to candidates familiar with adaptation finance and an equally strong understanding of climate change adaptation debates in Africa with strong research, writing and analytical skills. Fluency in French and/or Arabic is considered an asset.

NOTE: As a Canadian Crown corporation IDRC is subject to Canada's *Access to Information Act*. Consequently, any submissions in response to this Request for Proposals will be held by IDRC in a manner consistent with the Access to Information Act, including IDRC's obligations to disclose documents requested by members of the public under the *Access to Information Act*.