

Terms of Reference

Local Consultant – Research Officer

Lebanon’s Green Climate Fund Readiness Project

Issued on: December 10, 2021

Background:

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world’s largest dedicated fund helping developing countries to act on climate change. It was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010. By channelling climate finance to developing countries, the GCF plays a crucial role in serving the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted in 2015.

The Ministry of Environment in Lebanon is currently leading the implementation of the “*Strengthening and enhancing Lebanon’s institutional arrangements and capacity to enable and optimize access to the Green Climate Fund*” project (2020-2022) which aims at supporting Lebanon to efficiently tap into the fund. Therefore, Lebanon has to align itself with GCF requirements and expectations.

One of the main GCF expectations from countries that want to benefit from the fund is to coordinate and prioritize governments’ needs across all sectors and stakeholders (this includes CSOs, the private sector and municipalities), and incorporate those priorities and needs in a **Country Programme** for engagement with the GCF.

Lebanon submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in March 2021, with increased ambition in the mitigation and adaptation targets for 2030. The Country Programme will focus on prioritizing short term mitigation and adaptation projects for which funding is needed from the GCF, to achieve some of the NDC targets.

The Ministry of Environment has been leading on many initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the NDC, with the support of international partners. However, a comprehensive strategy is needed to address all support options and coordinate their implementation. This includes identifying the role of the private sector in the implementation of the NDC and the Country Programme.

One of the objectives of the readiness project is to launch the climate finance discussion with private sector actors in Lebanon. A series of crisis (monetary, pandemic, Beirut Blast, political instability) has put the private sector in Lebanon under severe stress. Through this project, there is an opportunity for a climate or sustainability check with private sector actors, to identify opportunities for recovery and growth through climate action, in line with other non-state actor initiatives in the country such as the Lebanon Green Investment Facility.

Objective of the consultancy:

The objective of the consultancy is to assess the private sector engagement in climate finance with formulation of concrete recommendations on how to increase private sector engagement in Lebanon. Concretely, 2 lines of actions are expected:

- Coordinate and produce a study mapping the current situation of the private sector with respect to engagement in sustainability and climate projects
- Coordinate and design 4 dialogue sessions with private sector stakeholders

General Terms:

- The Research Officer will be engaged in a fixed- price consultancy contract for a 6 month duration.
- The selected candidate will work under the direct supervision of the National Technical Coordinator at the Ministry of Environment, and the oversight of the Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Programme of the South Centre.
- The selected candidate will coordinate closely with a Local Private Sector Networking Officer for the implementation activities listed in the present Terms of Reference.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills

Education:

- Advanced University Degree (Master's degree or equivalent; PhD an asset) in Business, Environment, Climate Change, Sustainability or related fields of study. Background in other areas may be considered based on experience and performance in previous positions.

Experience:

- 3 years of relevant experience in climate change and sustainable development with focus on public and/or climate finance, climate change/sustainable development institutional and policy issues;
- Exposure to UNFCCC and GCF related activities, as well as understanding of GCF requirements for full size project development..
- Good understanding of Lebanon's environment and development issues.
- Proven ability to network and develop partnerships across a range of stakeholders and manage complex multi-stakeholder strategies and plans.
- Demonstrated experience in research and publication, including data collection, organization of surveys, synthesis, drafting etc.

Language and Other skills:

- Fluency in both spoken and written Arabic and English (working language);
- Knowledge of French is an asset
- Flexible, able to meet deadlines, highly organized,

Scope:

The consultant shall perform the below activities in close coordination with the National Technical Coordinator and will ensure regular and transparent communication on plans and progress. The consultant shall always be aware of and follow up on related work and activities implemented by the Climate Change team at the Ministry of Environment, especially work related to the Lebanon Green Investment Facility and implement below tasks in synergy. Please refer to the Annex for topics of interest to be covered, in addition to other topics, in this consultancy.

Task 1: Oversight and coordination of private sector related activities under the GCF readiness project

1. Produce a concept note detailing and articulating the vision, objectives and outputs of private sector activities under the GCF readiness project. The concept note should provide detailed information on the shape and content of the study, the topic covered in the private sector dialogues, the stakeholders involved, timeframe etc.

2. Plan and monitor schedule of private sector activities.
3. Participate in and prepare for weekly coordination meeting among PMU and consultants.

Task 2: Conduct qualitative research to assess the private sector's readiness to engage with climate finance and sustainability in the Lebanese market and produce study.

1. Review existing documentation related to private sector activities in Lebanon. Review international studies on climate finance and the private sector.
2. Plan study content, identify objectives and research methods. Areas of focus should be relevant to sustainability, including but not limited to ESG integration and value creation, climate change risk integration, carbon reporting, etc.), as well as the GCF (mobilization of private sector investments through the Private Sector Facility), in order to understand the readiness of the private sector in engaging in climate finance and sustainability matters.
3. Collect data and information through desk research, interviews and workshops.
4. Draft the study, manage the work of contributing authors if any and incorporate contributing authors' work into the report.
5. Work closely with designer for infographics, design of the report and dissemination material.

Task 3: Plan, organize and implement 4 private sector dialogue sessions

1. Plan, organize and implement 4 dialogue sessions with the private sector including agenda, power point presentations, moderator's notes, and ensure complementarity between research needs and outcomes of the dialogues.
2. Compile a stakeholder data base.
3. Draft report for each dialogue.

Mode of work:

- Work implies frequent interaction with the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- Work also entails consultations with officials at Ministry of Environment and private sector stakeholders within Lebanon, other consultants under the project, and the staff of the South Centre.
- The consultant will be required to work and deliver outputs in synergy with other themes of the GCF readiness project, i.e. the Country Programme, the climate finance strategy, the communication strategy. This entails, where relevant, participating to meetings, reviewing documents or other tasks which will be mutually agreed on between the consultant and the PMU
- The Consultant have to work closely with the Private Sector Consultant in order to maximize the use of resources to achieve the outcome expected by the Ministry of Environment and the Government of Lebanon as a whole.

Results expected:

Task 1

- Concept note

Task 2

- Study assessing the private sector engagement in Lebanon

Task 3

- Material related to the 4 private sector dialogues

Timeframe of service delivery:

Deliverable	Deadline	Remuneration
Outputs related to task 1	1 month from contract signature	40%
Outputs related to task 2	4 months from contract signature	30%
Outputs related to task 3	6 months from contract signature	30%

The consultant shall also submit a written report to the South Centre to the end of the consultancy summarizing the activities carried on during the lifetime of the consultancy. The report shall include all backup documents of the main outcomes.

Contract type and Remuneration:

The local Consultant – Research Officer will be engaged in a fixed- price consultancy contract for a 6 month duration. Once selected, a Special Services Agreement (SSA) will be signed with the awarded consultant in accordance with the regulations in force for the South Centre for such Special Services Agreements.

Selection Process:

Application should be sent in English at applications@southcentre.int (stating ‘Research Officer – Lebanon in the subject) no later than CET 24.00 hrs. on **21 December 2021**.

Application should include:

- A Curriculum Vitae describing previously accomplished work related to institutional arrangements and/or analysis of environmental processes in the Global South;
- Cover letter with indication of availability;
- Detailed financial proposal.

Copies of qualifications, previous employment certificates, publications etc. should not be sent with the application. These may be requested at a later stage.

Only short-listed candidates would appear for an interview. Only successful candidates shall be contacted and thus candidates are kindly requested to refrain from enquiring about progress of their application.

The selected candidate is expected to take up the assignment by **17 January 2022**.

About the South Centre:

The South Centre is the inter-governmental policy research institution of developing countries, with currently 54 developing country member States from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The South Centre promotes more effective South-South cooperation and coordination, supports developing

countries in participating in and voicing their development interests and priorities more effectively in various multilateral and regional development policy-related issues and fora, and provides policy advice and technical assistance to governments on their national development-related policies.

The main activities of the Centre are policy research and analysis, convening of meetings and conferences for developing countries to share views and experiences, and technical assistance and capacity building activities. The issues taken up by the Centre include international and regional trade policy, global macroeconomic and finance issues, global public health, innovation and intellectual property policy, climate change, environment and sustainable development, international economic issues including tax policy, external debt and international investment policy; human rights policy; global governance for and North-South relations, South-South cooperation, and global governance for development. The South Centre has three major institutional pillars: The Council of Representatives in which the Member States are represented; the Board comprising a Chairperson and members who act in their individual capacities and provide guidance to the Secretariat; and the Secretariat headed by the Executive Director which implements the activities of the South Centre. The Secretariat is accountable to and works under the guidance of the Board and the Council.

Annex: Topics of interest on Climate Finance and the Private Sector in Lebanon

- What is the level of awareness of business leaders in Lebanon on climate change and sustainability? Is it a topic they handle on the side if they have resources for it, do they see it as an opportunity or a threat? Is there a gap between discourse and action?
- Which companies/sectors/networks were active in sustainability/climate action before the pandemic/economic crisis and how did the pandemic/economic crisis affect their engagement? Can we collect numbers or percentages of how much they used to spend before the crisis vs. now?
- How do companies feel about a potential shift in the regulatory framework to regulate environmental performance. Take a look at already existing environmental laws such as the environmental compliance law and extract lessons.
- To what extent do companies feel that consumers' choices are affected by climate/sustainability performance? Do they wait for consumers to shift behaviours to act or are they trying to influence consumer behaviours?
- What are the biggest climate change issues already impacting or threatening to impact companies? How do they disrupt business models, supply networks, production and operation.
- How are insurances dealing with climate threats. Is the risk incorporated in policies?
- Propose a list of measures and test the appetite for companies to adopt them: educating senior management, adopting a public policy position on climate change, working remotely, renewables etc.
- Make a list of role private sector can play in climate finance in Lebanon and see to what extent companies are willing to take on the roles. If yes, what is their motivation, if no, what are their challenges.
- Present a list of projects and case studies from across the globe that involve the private sector and see their applicability in Lebanon
- Is climate investment in Lebanon more geared towards mitigation or adaptation? Identify drivers of investment and impediments for investment.
- Identify enablers to crowd in private sector in climate finance activities and related readiness projects.
- Identify the areas per sector where climate investment is possible, and see if these are mainstreamed in sectoral policies.
- Assess the market environment for project developers in climate change sectors and availability of financial products and services.
- Discuss how the business environment will look like once the crisis has passed, and what would be the role of sustainability and climate change in this new business environment.