

Terms of Reference

Local Consultant – Private Sector Networking 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 channeling 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. One of these initiatives is the design of Lebanon Green Investment Facility, that would provide accessible and affordable finance instruments as well as technical assistance. A resource mobilization strategy has been developed for LGIF. Its objective is to provide a clear road map that would enable LGIF to perform its intended functions within a favorable enabling environment and with clear actions to mobilize internal, external and innovative resources and to build effective partnerships. 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 mobilize key private sector actors in Lebanon on the topic of climate finance in the context of securing medium and long term private sector investments to implement Lebanon’s NDC.

General Terms:

- The Private Sector Networking 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 Research Officer for the implementation activities listed in the present Terms of Reference. The role of the Research Officer is to coordinate all private sector related activities under the GCF readiness project.

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:

- At least 10 years of relevant experience in environment and sustainable development, preferably with focus on climate change and/or climate finance.
- Excellent understanding of Lebanon's environment and development issues.
- Proven ability to network and develop partnerships across a range of stakeholders, especially private sector stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience in design of resource mobilization strategies and/or business models, CSR projects, policy/strategic planning.
- Proven ability to engage in complex multi-stakeholder events and discussions.

Language and Other skills:

- Fluency in both spoken and written Arabic and English (working language). Knowledge of French is an asset
- Outstanding communication and public speaking skills
- Excellent analytical and problem solving abilities
- Creative thinker
- Flexible and committed to advancing private sector engagement in sustainability/climate change

Scope:

Task 1: Provide input for study on the private sector's readiness to engage with climate finance and sustainability in the Lebanese market through extensive consultation with private sector stakeholders.

- Review work undertaken by the Ministry of Environment on private sector engagement in climate/sustainability projects through climate finance, with a special focus on the resource mobilization strategy developed for the Lebanon Green Investment Facility.

- Identify different private sector groups for the participation in private sector activities under the GCF readiness project. The different private sector groups should include: private sector platforms (Lebanon Climate Act, UN Global Compact, QOOT etc.), syndicates and associations (Association of Lebanese Industrialists, Chamber of Commerce etc.), group of companies in different sectors (financial services, industry, healthcare and education, commercial and retail, start ups, etc.), influential business figures, funds and wealthy individuals, others.
- Establish a smart and user friendly data base of key private sector actors to be considered in climate finance, including their capacities, roles, areas of intervention, contact details, background, etc. This data base will feed into a larger climate finance matrix being developed by the Ministry of Environment as a resource mobilization tool.
- Participate in brainstorming on content and methodology of study.
- In close cooperation with the Research Officer and the National Technical Coordinator, and for the purpose of feeding the study on private sector's readiness to engage with climate finance, initiate discussions with private sector actors and document key takeaways on the following topics:
 - o Status and effectiveness of previous private sector engagement in climate/sustainability projects in Lebanon, and vision for the post-crisis era.
 - o Willingness of private investors/venture capital companies and large family holdings/wealthy accounts to invest in climate projects, including the LGIF capitalization.
 - o Financial instruments applicable by private investors, pension funds, banks, Lebanese diaspora for the implementation of climate projects, including non-conventional financing mechanisms such as GHG offsetting revenues.
 - o Main climate finance barriers for the private sector identified in literature and by the Ministry of Environment. Some of these barriers include: the regulatory and institutional framework for private sector investment, the identification of a concrete pipeline of commercial climate projects for businesses, capacity building on climate finance.
 - o Technical capacity building on climate finance in the private sector.
 - o Environmental and social safeguards and ESG.
 - o Insurance and guarantee schemes for climate related projects.
 - o Other topics related to the list of questions in Annex.

Task 2: Actively mobilize private sector stakeholders to participate in 4 structural dialogues and co-moderate those dialogues

- Liaise with executives and business networks/platforms/groups and mobilize them to participate in the project activities, from answering research questions to participating in dialogues.
- Participate in elaborating agendas and concept notes for the dialogues.
- Moderate dialogues, propose and mobilize panelists, prepare with them.

Mode of work:

- Work implies frequent interaction with the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- All outputs should be innovative, informative and specific. Any publication on the role of the private sector in climate change in Lebanon should be considered as an input to enhance knowledge.
- 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.

Results expected:

Task 1:

- Private sector climate finance database
- Short report on key takeaways

Task 2:

- Participation in 4 structural dialogues
- Moderator’s notes and synthesis for each dialogue

Timeframe of service delivery:

	Deliverable	Deadline	Remuneration
Outputs related to task 1	Private sector climate finance database	2 weeks after contract signature	30%
	Short report on key takeaways	5 months after contract signature	-
Outputs related to task 2	Structural dialogues 1 and 2	3 months after contract signature	40%
	Structural dialogues 3 and 4	6 months after 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 Private Sector Networking 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 ‘Private Sector – 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 private sector and environment/climate/sustainability;
- 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.