

Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP)

AU AIP Multi-Country Green Climate Fund Readiness Support

Africa Union Multi-Country Program to Accelerate Water, Climate Resilience Development and Gender Transformative Investments

Terms of Reference

National Consultant for the development of 2 GCF Concept Notes in Tunisia

1. Context of the Continental Africa Investment Programme (AIP)

On 6 September 2023, African Heads of State and Governments committed to support the implementation of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) as part of the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change. Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change, and it is expected to significantly impact water, with an increase in extreme events, including droughts, floods, water scarcity, and waterborne diseases. Despite this marked vulnerability, many African countries have limited capacity to access climate finance for strategic water investments. Access to climate finance for water security in Africa is critical to achieving the objectives of the African Union (AU) Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), which recognizes the need to strengthen climate-resilient water systems under Focus Area 2: Adopting Pathways Towards Transformative Climate Resilient Development.

The Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP) supports the implementation of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy. The Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted it as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa—Priority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) to address the growing need for investment in water, which is greatly exacerbated by climate change. The AIP comprises five pillars that aim to contribute towards narrowing the investment gap in water across Africa, namely:

- (i) Mobilise high-level political commitment and leadership on water investments – The AU-AIP High-Level International Panel on Water Investments in Africa was created in 2022, bringing together the present and former African heads of State and global leaders. In 2023, the Panel supported the AU in the development and launch of the [Africa Rising Investment Tide](#) and the [Action Plan for Water Investment in Africa](#)

Reports, which offer Concrete courses of action to help countries mobilize at least USD 30 billion annually by 2030 for the implementation of the AIP;

- (ii) The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard – The [AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard](#) aims to improve the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of water financing and investments. This tool allows countries to establish baselines, track progress, identify bottlenecks, and take action toward meeting Africa's water investment needs. The AUDA-NEPAD adopted it in February 2022 and has been developed and tested in 10 countries in 2023 before its deployment at the level of AU Member States;
- (iii) Water investment programs at regional and national levels – AIP supports AU Member States to develop national water investment programs to close the water investment gap. Many African countries are extremely vulnerable to climate variability, reflected in weak institutional capacity, inadequate water infrastructure, and insufficient data processing and communication systems to ensure effective water management. National water investment programs aim to address these gaps, thereby bridging the investment gap for water security;
- (iv) International Blended Investment Facility AIP – The AIP will assess the need for a blended International Investment Facility, targeted at assisting countries in mobilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and grant financing. This will help to de-risk priority water investments through various innovative financial instruments and sources including sovereign wealth funds, guarantees, trade finance, institutional investors, private equity funds, foundations, value-based impact investing, and funding climatic conditions; and
- (v) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Water Investment – The Transformative Climate-resilient Development for Gender-responsive Water Program (AIP WACDEP-G) aims to develop tools to assist governments in addressing systemic inequalities in decision-making, planning, and implementation of water investment actions. It promotes a transformative approach to institutions, social structures, and relations. The AIP WACDEP-G was piloted in five African countries between 2020 and 2024, and plans are underway to scale it up to other African countries.

2. Context of the AU AIP Multicountry GCF Readiness Support Programme

Tunisia is one of the fifteen (15) countries participating in the first phase of the Programme “*Readiness Support for the Africa Union Multi-Country Program to Accelerate Water and Climate Resilience Investments through the Africa Water Investment Programme (AU-AIP Multicountry GCF Readiness Project (AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Programme)*”. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) funds the project, amounting to Six Million One Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand Fifty-Three (6,164,053) US Dollars. The African Union Commission is implementing the Programme through the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in Southern Africa (GWP-SA) as a Delivery Partner.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of participating countries to plan climate-resilient water investments and prepare projects to undertake climate actions through:

- Strengthening countries' capacity for climate finance programming and direct access to GCF resources, with a focus on water-related climate actions;
- Improving strategic frameworks for planning climate-resilient water investments by developing water investment programs;
- Developing national project pipelines through the development of concept notes;
- Establishing a continental knowledge and investment platform to facilitate learning and investment in water security in Africa.

3. Justification

Tunisia is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, water scarcity, and extreme weather events threatening its ecosystems, and economic sectors. These challenges are exacerbated by socio-economic vulnerabilities and require urgent adaptation and mitigation efforts. To respond effectively, the country must mobilize significant climate finance and enhance institutional capacities to plan and implement climate-resilient development strategies. In this context, the Caisse de Dépôt et de Consignation (CDC) Tunisia, as a public financial institution and equity investor, plays a critical role in channeling investments toward sustainable development and climate action. CDC has embarked on the process of becoming a GCF accredited entity to enable direct access to GCF funds targeting Equity and Grant Award as fiduciary standards. CDC is committed to enhancing its project portfolio and building a pipeline of high-impact, country-driven projects that align with national priorities and GCF investment criteria. In this context, and as part of the AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Programme, a national expert will be recruited to develop two high-quality Concept Notes that respond to strategic and priority needs in mitigation and/or adaptation, integrate CDC's mandate as a national climate finance vehicle, fall within CDC's targeted fiduciary standards, and align with GCF templates and expectations.

4. Objective of the assignment

The overall objective is to develop two high-quality GCF Concept Notes to be submitted by CDC as accredited entity. These Concept Notes should be aligned with GCF programming priorities and investment criteria, Tunisia's climate action priorities as stipulated in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and other strategic documents, and CDC's investment focus. More specifically, the consultant will :

- Lead a stakeholders consultation process to identify and select 2 priority project ideas that meet GCF funding criteria,
- Develop the project ideas into 2 GCF Concept Notes

5. Tasks – Requested services

Identification and prioritization of the project ideas. The consultant is expected to :

- Review climate strategies and investment documents (NDC, national low-carbon strategy, NAP, GCF Country Program, etc.) to identify priority areas for adaptation and mitigation,
- Review sectoral strategies and action plans to identify project ideas with strong climate justification. Particular attention and priority will be given to water related projects,
- Review CDC projects portfolio including the climate pipeline that is being developed under the AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Programme to identify project ideas that align with GCF investment criteria,
- Identify and exchange with key stakeholders, including from the private sector, to collect inputs to the identified project ideas,
- Undertake a multicriteria analysis to prioritize two project ideas to be developed further into GCF CN. Among the elements to be considered in the multicriteria analysis is the financial instruments that must align with the mandate of CDC as an equity investor and the fiduciary standards for its future accreditation (only equity and grant award).

Deliverables :

- Report on project ideas identification that includes project fiches for identified projects and results of the multi-criteria analysis.

Preparation of two Concept Notes in alignment with the GCF requirements and their pre-feasibility studies and early-stage gender & social inclusion assessments. Based on the project ideas prioritization, the consultant will :

- Collect available data and information necessary for the development of the project concept note, including climate rationale and theory of change, and accompanying high-level pre-feasibility studies and early-stage screening of environmental and social risks. For unavailable data in the country, particularly related to climate change, the consultant shall use adequate approaches to overcome this challenge and bridge the data gap,
- Collect gender-related information that makes it possible to conduct the preliminary gender analyses and to integrate gender into the theory of change and activities of the project,

- As needed, visit project areas and consult with local stakeholders and beneficiaries to collect additional data to ensure feasibility and adequacy of conceptualized project with local needs and priorities,
- Conduct baseline analyses, including early-stage gender & social inclusion assessments,
- Identify and suggest potential project executing partners,
- Describe institutional set-up and implementation arrangements for the project implementation and the responsibilities of each of the actors,
- Prepare detailed budget for the activities including the co-financing resources and the financial structure of the project which will be designed to incorporate CDC's mandate as an equity investor and the scope of its accreditation—limited to equity and grant award. Accordingly, no funding from the GCF should take the form of loans, guarantees, or other non-accredited financial instruments.
- Describe risk mitigations measures,
- Develop draft concept note for the project and its revised and final versions having integrated inputs of different stakeholders during the consultation process,
- Develop draft and final versions of the high-level pre-feasibility studies, early-stage environmental and social risk screening reports, and preliminary gender analyses or a detailed description of complementary required studies and assessments for the preparation of the full funding proposal.

Deliverables :

- 2 Project Concept Notes in GCF format
- Baseline report and high-level pre-feasibility studies, early-stage environmental and social risk screening, and early-stage gender & social inclusion analyses

Consultation Process : This step is a horizontal one and will be carried out throughout the development of the Concept Note and related prefeasibility studies development. The consultation process will combine bilateral interviews and meetings, field visits and consultation workshops. The consultant will adjust and enhance the process according to the state of maturation of the projects, the available studies and information. However, the consultant is required to facilitate at least the two following consultation workshops :

- An inception workshop aiming to discuss barriers to overcome, the theory of change, the components and activities of the project, the stakeholders involved in the implementation, as well as the institutional framework for implementation, the

budget, co-financing opportunities, the required additional studies for the development of a GCF full proposal, etc.

- A validation workshop should lead to the validation of the concept notes including the detailed project activities, the budget allocated, the financing structure and co financing sources, the institutional set-up and implementation arrangements, the responsibilities of the actors involved in the implementation,

In his/her approach the consultant should consider the country's non-objection procedure to facilitate the rapid obtaining of the no-objection letter for the submission of concept note to the GCF.

The consultant will undertake the consultation process under the guidance and in close collaboration with GWP-Med and CDC and will submit for validation by GWP-Med the list of stakeholders to meet or invite to the workshops, the programme of fields visits, the interview guide, the concept notes and agenda of the workshops, and any material that will be used during the meetings/workshops.

Deliverables :

- Report of each of the consultation workshops

6. Deliverables and Milestones

The Consultant is expected to provide the following deliverables, which are directly related to the tasks outlined in detail above, based on the below timeline (expressed in months after the contract is signed).

Deliverables		Deadline / months after contract signature
1.	Report on project ideas identification that includes project fiches for identified projects and results of the multi-criteria analysis.	Month 1
2.	2 Project Concept Notes in GCF format	Month 3
3.	Baseline report and high-level pre-feasibility studies, early-stage environmental and social risk screening, and early-stage gender & social inclusion analyses or a detailed description of complementary required studies and assessments for the preparation of the full funding proposal	Month 5
4.	Report of each of the consultation workshops	Month 5

7. Reporting

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of / and communicate directly with the National Technical Coordinator.

Services will be rendered and will be considered completed upon approval of the deliverables by the Programme Officer at the Coordination Unit of GWP SA and the Executive Secretary of GWP-Med.

8. Payment modalities

Payment Schedule:

Completion and delivery of deliverables 1 : 20% of total contract amount

Completion and delivery of deliverables 2 : 40% of total contract amount

Completion and delivery of deliverables 3 and 4 : 40% of total contract amount

Each payment will be issued after the quality assessment and approval of each deliverable by the Contracting Authority. Then, the awarded consultant will issue the respective invoices.

9. Contract price and duration.

The maximum fee for this assignment is **40,000 USD**. This amount includes all other costs, including travels, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service, including VAT.

The overall duration of the contract will be for a maximum of **5 months** after the contract signature. Payments will be made upon acceptance and verification of the related deliverables, as laid out in section 8 "Payment modalities".

10. Disqualification criteria ON/OFF

For details on the ON/OFF disqualification please refer to the Call for Offers.

11. Qualification and Experience

The required qualifications are presented below. Failure to provide the minimum required qualifications is considered ground for disqualification. **The titles, details of the projects and description of the role of the expert that sufficiently demonstrate compliance with the required criteria should be clearly specified.** Qualifications additional to the minimum requested per category will receive additional score under the evaluation process as described in the section Awarding Criterion and Evaluation process.

- A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in environment, climate change, development, or related field **(Required)**
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in French **(Required)**
- At least 10 years of experience in the field of climate change or environmental resources management or the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development or climate change projects **(Required)**,

- A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 GCF Concept Notes **(Required)**
- A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 project proposal or concept note submitted to climate funds or international donors that incorporates financial instruments other than grants, including through blending finance (CIF, MDBs, others) **(Required)**
- A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 project proposal or concept note submitted to climate funds or international donors that involves private sector (CIF, MDBs, others) **(Required)**
- A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 GCF Concept Notes that has been approved by GCF **(Desired)**
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English **(Desired)**

12. Awarding Criterion and Evaluation process

The Award criterion is the most economically advantageous tender considering the best price / quality ratio. Offers that meet the exclusion grounds will undergo further evaluation, focusing on the requirements outlined in the "Qualification and Experience" section, as follows:

(1) Criterion	(2) Weighting (w)	(3) Points of criterion (c)	(4) Score= (2) x (3)
A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in environment, climate change, development, or related field (Required, ON/OFF)			
Excellent oral and written communication skills in French (Required, ON/OFF)			
At least 10 years of experience in the field of climate change or environmental resources management or the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development or climate change projects (Required, Evaluated),	15		
A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 GCF Concept Notes (Required, Evaluated)	20		
A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 project proposal submitted to climate funds or international donors that incorporates financial instruments other	20		

than grants (CIF, MDBs others) (Desired, Evaluated)			
A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 project proposal submitted to climate funds or international donors that involves private sector (CIF, MDBs, others) (Required, Evaluated)	20		
A proven track record of developing a minimum of 1 GCF Concept Notes that has been approved by GCF (Desired Evaluated)	20		
Excellent oral and written communication skills in English (Desired, ON/OFF)	5		
Total	100 %		

Failure to provide the minimum required qualifications is considered ground for disqualification.

Scoring for each evaluation criteria starts from 100 points (when minimum requirements are met) up until maximum 150 points (100p Base +10p for extra criteria over base up to 50 additional points)

Each Section/evaluation criterion is evaluated autonomously. The final scoring of each evaluation criterion is the outcome of its scoring multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor. The overall score of the technical offer is the sum of the final scoring of all the Sections/evaluation criteria.

The overall score of the technical offer is calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$B_i = w_1 \times c_1 + w_2 \times c_2 + \dots$$

For the overall score which will determine the ranking of offers, technical evaluation will be weighted with 80%, and the financial offer with 20%.

The final listing of the most advantageous offers will be made on the basis of the following formula:

$$\Lambda_i = 0.8 * (B_i/B_{\max}) + 0.2 * (K_{\min}/K_i).$$

Where:

- B_{max}: the max score received by the best of the technical offers received
- B_i: the score of the technical offer
- K_{min}: The cost of the financial offer with the minimum price offered.

- Ki: The cost of the financial offer

The most advantageous offers is the one with the greater value of Λ .

In case of equality of overall scores, the winning proposal is the one whose corresponding technical proposal received the highest rating.

13. Monitoring and Progress Controls

Ms. Sondos Njoumi et Ms. Sarra Touzi will be providing oversight and guidance from the side of the Project Team.

14. Place of Performance

Homebased in Tunisia.

15. Terms and Conditions

• Language

Draft and final deliverables can be prepared in French or English. However, it is mandatory to have an English version of the final deliverables. The Consultant shall take into account the costs related to translation, if any, in their proposal.

• Data and information

The Consultant is responsible to collect all information and data necessary for the completion of this assignment. Missing information (from any side) would not be considered as eligible reason for not completing the tasks. GWP-Med can assist in communicating with relevant institutions and stakeholders to verify the availability of needed data or information.

• Submission of data, reports and other material produced

All primary data, reports, and other documentation produced during this assignment shall be made available to GWP-Med and to the relevant institutions in electronic format. All data acquired, and products developed during the assignment will be in the ownership of the Project and cannot be used by the Consultant and its team without prior written permission.

• Cooperation requirements

The Consultant is expected to work closely with GWP-Med and GWP SA, CDC and the NDA.

• Review and quality assurance

A thorough evaluation of the Consultant's work conducted during the course of the assignment implementation, as well as a comprehensive review of the deliverables, may be conducted by an independent external expert or team of experts. The Consultant is expected to thoroughly consider and incorporate any relevant observations or recommendations provided by the reviewer(s) into the final versions of the deliverables.