

# Request for Expressions of Interest

**Consultancy services provider for a technical assistance programme to support the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro in the implementation of a climate finance credit facility and contribute to build IDF's capacity on climate finance and on E&S risk management**

**Purpose:** Consultancy Services to implement the Technical Assistance Component that comes in addition to AFD's credit facility

**Client / employer:** Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro (IDF)

**Funding Partner:** Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

**Location:** Republic of Montenegro

**Contract Duration:** from March 2022 till September 2025

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND OF  
MONTENEGRO (IDF)

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
(AFD)



N°1

*Issued*

*on*

*03.11.2021*

**INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND OF MONTENEGRO****Consultancy Services for a Technical Assistance Program****SELECTION OF A CONSULTING FIRM****Expressions of Interest****Background**

Together with a 50 M EUR Credit facility, the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro (IDF) has received a grant from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") and intends to use the funds thereof for payments under the following project : **Technical Assistance program to support the implementation of the AFD Credit Facility and contribute to build IDF's capacity on climate finance and on E&S risk management.**

The purpose of this assignment is thus to :

- (i) **Support for the definition and implementation of a Climate Strategy and the design / improvement of a range of green finance products;**
- (ii) **Support for the implementation of the climate action component of the credit facility;**
- (iii) **Assist IDF in the implementation of a pre-defined E&S action plan for the design and implementation of an E&S management system (ESMS);**
- (iv) **Verify the use of funds through audits / ex-post assessments.**

The corresponding activities to achieve the aforementioned project objectives will typically include completing the following tasks and sub-tasks:

- **Main Tasks for Component 1:** elaboration and implementation of a climate finance strategy/policy, integration of climate issues in internal procedures (at credit appraisal stage, identification and monitoring of climate risks, etc.), capacity building activities, support for IDF in the development green finance offer (beyond AFD-IDF programme) and its commercial promotion toward final beneficiaries.
- **Main Tasks for Component 2:** support in the identification of eligible and bankable climate-related projects, assessment of projects' eligibility, support in the monitoring and implementation of the AFD Group's credit facility (preparation of implementation progress reports, impact indicators reporting), support to IDF for marketing and communication activities: marketing and communication tools to promote the project and the eligible climate investments, awareness campaigns, institutional relations.
- **Main Tasks for Component 3:** support to elaborate an E&S policy and other related tools such as an updated exclusion list; support to elaborate and implement an E&S risk management policy, procedures, tools and assessment (e.g. classification tool); definition of sector-specific guidelines if necessary; capacity-building activities; support to E&S due diligence on sub-projects.
- **Main Tasks for Component 4:** ex-post verification of eligible projects, audits to verify the use of funds.

**Note!** Other tasks not presented here may be included in the Request for Proposals transmitted to shortlisted consultants.

The Consultant will be an international consulting firm or a group of firms of a global, regional and local expertise with local-based support capacity and shall be able to demonstrate:

1. a know-how in the design and the management of long-term TA and capacity building programmes;
2. a strong background in strategy and finance advisory service and an extensive experience in working alongside financial institutions, especially within the banking sector (SME / corporate, project finance) including on E&S risk management issues;

3. an internationally renowned expertise in the development and the implementation of climate finance strategies and a knowledge of innovative climate finance tools and solutions with a strong background in mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
4. a proven experience in technical evaluation and design of complex bankable projects in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste and water management, agriculture and rural development, agroforestry, sustainable tourism and other relevant fields.

The Consultant shall have relevant experience in all areas needed for the performance of the assignment as described above, including relevant sector and regional experience. An experience in innovative climate finance tools and solution with strong background in mitigation and adaptation to climate change applicable for development financial institution or other financial institution aligned to the technical screening criteria proposed in the Sustainable finance, TEG final report on the EU taxonomy would be beneficial.

The TAF will be required to work in English as the main language, besides Montenegrin language. The consultant's team should be able to communicate effectively and submit main deliveries in English. Some of the team members should be able to communicate effectively and submit deliveries in Montenegrin language.

### General Conditions for Applicants

The IDF hereby invites applicants to show their interest in delivering the Services described above. This Request for Expressions of Interest is open to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Consulting firms</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual consultants                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGOs                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Venture between NGO(s) and consulting firm(s) |

Eligibility criteria to AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV)/consortium. If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Subconsultant may participate in several applications.

If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members;
- or
- a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal.

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Sub consultants.

The experiences and qualifications of Sub consultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size and complexity: The Consultant is to indicate with documentary proof of all the related jobs performed as a consultant, sub-contractor, JV, for the last 7 years that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar in size, scope, complexity and methods;

- The nature of the Services : capacity building, technical assistance, change management, audit;
- The technical area and expertise : climate finance, E&S risks management systems, project finance;
- The location : in the Client's country and/or in the Western Balkans region and/or in countries facing similar challenges.

The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- Qualifications, certifications and professional experience of consultants in the abovementioned fields of expertise;
- Quality assurance procedures and certifications of the Applicant;
- Skills and availability of in-house technical back-up experts provided to the on-site experts.

Among the submitted applications, the Investment and Development of Montenegro will shortlist a maximum of six (6) Applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below no later than November 26, 2021.

Address: Bulevar Sv. Petra Cetinjskog 126/I

Town/City: Podgorica, 81000

Country: Montenegro

Contact person: Darko Krivokapić, Public Procurement Officer (PPO)

Telephone: +38220 416 667

E-mail address: darko.krivokapic@ifcg.me

Interested Applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours:  
*Monday to Friday from 07:00 am to 3:00 Pm (UTC+ 2:00).*

**Appendix to The Request for Expressions of Interest  
(To be submitted with the application, signed and unaltered)**

**Statement of Integrity, Eligibility and Environmental and Social Responsibility**

Reference of the bid or proposal \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Contract")

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Contracting Authority")

1. We recognise and accept that *Agence Française de Développement* ("AFD") only finances projects of the Contracting Authority subject to its own conditions which are set out in the Financing Agreement which benefits directly or indirectly to the Contracting Authority. As a matter of consequence, no legal relationship exists between AFD and our company, our joint venture or our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants. The Contracting Authority retains exclusive responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the procurement process and performance of the contract. The Contracting Authority means the Purchaser, the Employer, the Client, as the case may be, for the procurement of goods, works, plants, consulting services or non-consulting services.
2. We hereby certify that neither we nor any other member of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants are in any of the following situations:
  - 2.1 Being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having our activities administered by the courts, having entered into receivership, reorganisation or being in any analogous situation arising from any similar procedure;
  - 2.2 Having been:
    - a) convicted, within the past five years by a court decision, which has the force of *res judicata* in the country where the Contract is implemented, of fraud, corruption or of any other offense committed during a procurement process or performance of a contract (in the event of such conviction, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this conviction is not relevant in the context of this Contract);
    - b) subject to an administrative sanction within the past five years by the European Union or by the competent authorities of the country where we are constituted, for fraud, corruption or for any other offense committed during a procurement process or performance of a contract (in the event of such sanction, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this sanction is not relevant in the context of this Contract);
    - c) convicted, within the past five years by a court decision, which has the force of *res judicata*, of fraud, corruption or of any other offense committed during the procurement process or performance of an AFD-financed contract;
  - 2.3 Being listed for financial sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union and/or France for the purposes of fight-against-terrorist financing or threat to international peace and security;
  - 2.4 Having been subject within the past five years to a contract termination fully settled against us for significant or persistent failure to comply with our contractual obligations during contract performance, unless this termination was challenged and dispute resolution is still pending or has not confirmed a full settlement against us;
  - 2.5 Not having fulfilled our fiscal obligations regarding payments of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of either the country where we are constituted or the Contracting Authority's country;
  - 2.6 Being subject to an exclusion decision of the World Bank and being listed on the website <http://www.worldbank.org/debarr> (in the event of such exclusion, you may attach to this Statement of Integrity supporting information showing that this exclusion is not relevant in the context of this Contract);
  - 2.7 Having created false documents or committed misrepresentation in documentation requested by the Contracting Authority as part of the procurement process of this Contract.

3. We hereby certify that neither we, nor any of the members of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants are in any of the following situations of conflict of interest:
  - 3.1 Being an affiliate controlled by the Contracting Authority or a shareholder controlling the Contracting Authority, unless the stemming conflict of interest has been brought to the attention of AFD and resolved to its satisfaction;
  - 3.2 Having a business or family relationship with a Contracting Authority's staff involved in the procurement process or the supervision of the resulting Contract, unless the stemming conflict of interest has been brought to the attention of AFD and resolved to its satisfaction;
  - 3.3 Being controlled by or controlling another bidder or consultant, or being under common control with another bidder or consultant, or receiving from or granting subsidies directly or indirectly to another bidder or consultant, having the same legal representative as another bidder or consultant, maintaining direct or indirect contacts with another bidder or consultant which allows us to have or give access to information contained in the respective applications, bids or proposals, influencing them or influencing decisions of the Contracting Authority;
  - 3.4 Being engaged in a consulting services activity, which, by its nature, may be in conflict with the assignments that we would carry out for the Contracting Authority;
  - 3.5 In the case of procurement of goods, works or plants:
    - a) Having prepared or having been associated with a consultant who prepared specifications, drawings, calculations and other documentation to be used in the procurement process of this Contract;
    - b) Having been recruited (or being proposed to be recruited) ourselves or any of our affiliates, to carry out works supervision or inspection for this Contract.
4. If we are a state-owned entity, and to compete in a procurement process, we certify that we have legal and financial autonomy and that we operate under commercial laws and regulations.
5. We undertake to bring to the attention of the Contracting Authority, which will inform AFD, any change in situation with regard to points 2 to 4 here above.
6. In the context of the procurement process and performance of the corresponding contract:
  - 6.1 We have not and we will not engage in any dishonest conduct (act or omission) deliberately intended to deceive others, to intentionally conceal items, to violate or vitiate someone's consent, to make them circumvent legal or regulatory requirements and/or to violate their internal rules in order to obtain illegitimate profit;
  - 6.2 We have not and we will not engage in any dishonest conduct (act or omission) contrary to our legal or regulatory obligations or our internal rules in order to obtain illegitimate profit;
  - 6.3 We have not promised, offered or given and we will not promise, offer or give, directly or indirectly to (i) any Person who holds a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial mandate within the State of the Contracting Authority regardless of whether that Person was nominated or elected, regardless of the permanent or temporary, paid or unpaid nature of the position and regardless of the hierarchical level the Person occupies, (ii) any other Person who performs a public function, including for a State institution or a State-owned company, or who provides a public service, or (iii) any other person defined as a Public Officer by the national laws of the Contracting Authority's country, an undue advantage of any kind, for himself or for another Person or entity, for such Public Officer to act or refrain from acting in his official capacity;
  - 6.4 We have not promised, offered or given and we will not promise, offer or give, directly or indirectly to any Person who occupies an executive position in a private sector entity or works for such an entity, regardless of the nature of his/her capacity, any undue advantage of any kind, for himself or another Person or entity for such Person to perform or refrain from performing any act in breach of its legal, contractual or professional obligations;
  - 6.5 We have not and we will not engage in any practice likely to influence the contract award process to the detriment of the Contracting Authority and, in particular, in any anti-competitive practice having for object or for effect to prevent, restrict or distort competition, namely by limiting access to the market or the free exercise of competition by other undertakings;

- 6.6 Neither we nor any of the members of our joint venture or any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants shall acquire or supply any equipment nor operate in any sectors under an embargo of the United Nations, the European Union or France;
  - 6.7 We commit ourselves to comply with and ensure that all of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants comply with international environmental and labour standards, consistent with laws and regulations applicable in the country of implementation of the Contract, including the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and international environmental treaties. Moreover, we shall implement environmental and social risks mitigation measures when specified in the environmental and social commitment plan (ESCP) provided by the Contracting Authority.
7. We, as well as members of our joint venture and our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants or subconsultants authorise AFD to inspect accounts, records and other documents relating to the procurement process and performance of the contract and to have them audited by auditors appointed by AFD.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ In the capacity of: \_\_\_\_\_

Duly empowered to sign in the name and on behalf of<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> In case of joint venture, insert the name of the joint venture. The person who will sign the application, bid or proposal on behalf of the applicant, bidder or consultant shall attach a power of attorney from the applicant, bidder or consultant.