



ERITREA READINESS PROJECT

ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL, HUMAN AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY
OF ERITREA SYSTEM FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECRUITMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING FIRM / GROUP OF CONSULTANTS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ERITREA'S GCF COUNTRY PROGRAM, PORTFOLIO REVIEW, AND CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

[CA/OSS/GCF-RS-Eritrea 2_International Consulting Firm/041225-53]

1. Background

Eritrea is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the Horn of Africa. Its geography ranges from the Red Sea coastal plains to the central highlands, creating diverse climatic conditions. The coastal regions face hot, humid summers and mild winters, while the highlands experience cooler temperatures and seasonal rainfall. This climatic variability, combined with limited natural resources, increases the country's exposure to climate risks.

In Eritrea, climate change is an everyday reality with profound implications for people's lives. Nearly 80% of the population depends on small-scale farming, making the country especially highly exposed to prolonged droughts, unpredictable rainfall, and sudden flash floods. These climatic shocks erode agricultural productivity and water availability, thereby worsening food insecurity and poverty in rural areas. The situation is further aggravated by limited arable land with poor soil and limited access to water makes it hard for farmers to grow enough food, putting their livelihoods at risk.

Recognizing these vulnerabilities, Eritrea has committed to strengthening its national response to climate change, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The country has engaged with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to mobilize climate finance, build institutional capacity, and scale up adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The initial GCF Readiness project launched in 2024 provided Eritrea with a foundational understanding of GCF processes and requirements. It supported the establishment of basic institutional structures within the National Designated Authority (NDA) and relevant stakeholders, enabling initial engagement with the Fund. Building on this groundwork, a second phase of Readiness support approved in 2024 aims to strengthen institutional effectiveness, enhance stakeholder coordination, and develop strategic frameworks for climate finance.

Eritrea has already established a National Designated Authority (NDA) Secretariat to coordinate engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). A central priority is now to reinforce the institutional capacity of the NDA Secretariat, strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, and ensure inclusive stakeholder participation. The government is committed to developing a comprehensive GCF Country Program that defines strategic priorities, enhances access to climate finance, and aligns investment opportunities with national climate and development goals.

The upcoming Readiness project will address key gaps by:

- Strengthening the organizational and technical capacity of the NDA and the GCF team.
- Establishing a robust coordination mechanism for planning, programming, and monitoring GCF-funded activities.
- Conducting a portfolio review and developing a country prioritization matrix.
- Building stakeholder capacity through gender-sensitive and participatory approaches.
- Preparing Eritrea's GCF Country Program, aligned with the NDC, NAP, NBSAP, and GCF investment criteria.
- Enhancing project preparation capacity by developing two high-quality concept notes (one on mitigation and one on adaptation).
- Establishing a knowledge management framework to capture lessons learned and promote South-South cooperation.
- Identifying and supporting national entities for GCF accreditation with clear action plans.
- Developing a national climate change strategy to guide cross-sectoral policy and action.



This Country Program will be fully synchronized with Eritrea's national frameworks, notably the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). To ensure inclusiveness, field-based assessments will be conducted in all six "Zobas", integrating regional vulnerabilities and community perspectives into national priorities.

This document will be developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment and supported by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). An International Consulting Firm or Group of Consultants will be recruited to work closely with the NDA Secretariat, national institutions, and a National Consultant to:

- Develop Eritrea's GCF Country Program and portfolio review framework.
- Facilitate capacity-building and stakeholder engagement workshop.
- Ensure strategic alignment with GCF requirements and international best practices.

By consolidating the NDA Secretariat and delivering a coherent national strategy, Eritrea seeks to position itself for transformational, high-impact climate action, while mobilizing climate finance and ensuring broad national ownership.

2. Objectives of the consultancy

The main objective of this mission is to support the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Eritrea in preparing a Country Program that sets out the strategic priorities for engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This Program will be developed in close alignment with national strategies and policies, drawing on the inventory of existing frameworks related to climate change and development such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as on the review of Eritrea's bilateral engagement processes with the GCF and the identification of the most relevant programmatic elements for the national context.

The Program will integrate the initial outputs of the Readiness project, including the stakeholder mapping and the proposal of an institutional framework adapted to the NDA, together with the Terms of Reference defining the roles, responsibilities, and decision-making mechanisms of the NDA. Early consultations and workshops have already highlighted some project ideas considered priorities by NDA members, which will be further developed and potentially incorporated into the Country Program. To ensure that both local realities and national priorities are fully reflected, the consulting firm or group of consultants will benefit from the support of the NDA Secretariat in collecting field data and conducting surveys across the six regions of the country.

The consulting Firm/group of consultants will prepare a contextual synthesis on sustainable development and the climate profile of Eritrea, highlighting the main economic drivers, climate vulnerabilities, sectoral risks and opportunities, as well as synergies with the SDGs. This section shall specify the specific added value of the GCF in the Eritrean context, in line with the guidance provided in the GCF manual.

The consulting Firm/group of consultants will also organize and facilitate multi-stakeholder, two-days workshop for validation and dissemination of the Country Program.

In addition, the consulting Firm/group of consultants will support the NDA in **developing a portfolio review process for the Country Program** and in conducting a tailored training on the **annual portfolio review process**. The consultancy will ensure that GCF-funded projects and programs are aligned with national priorities, climate adaptation and mitigation goals, and the strategic objectives of the Country Program.



To this end, the scope of the consultancy will focus on the following key areas:

- National climate change strategies, program elements, and relevant policy documents.
- National priority areas for adaptation and mitigation aligned with GCF investment criteria.
- Development of a comprehensive Country Program to guide Eritrea's engagement with the GCF, with attention to transformational impact, gender responsiveness, and social inclusion.
- Portfolio review process of GCF country program, including a country prioritization matrix.

3. Consultants' tasks

The International consulting Firm/group of consultants will play a central role in ensuring that Eritrea's engagement with the GCF is strategic, coherent, and aligned with international standards while remaining grounded in the national context. The consultant's work will build upon and integrate the inputs generated by the National Consultant, with whom continuous collaboration is expected. The tasks are organized under two key thematic areas as follows:

3.1. <u>Development of the Country Program</u>

The consulting firm/group of consultants will ensure Eritrea's GCF engagement is strategic, coherent, and nationally owned, while reflecting international best practices. The work will build on the inputs of the National Consultant, with whom continuous collaboration is required.

a) Review and assessment of previous activities:

Review outputs from the National Consultant, including stocktaking of national policies, strategies, projects, and results of climate priority workshops.

Integrate findings from Eritrea's bilateral engagement with the GCF and program element identification.

b) Design and Development of the Country Program

The consulting Firm/group of consultants will lead the design and development of Eritrea's Country Program, ensuring that it is evidence-based, nationally owned, and strategically aligned with both the country's climate priorities and the Green Climate Fund's investment framework. Specifically, the consulting firm will prepare a draft Country Program that:

- Identifies strategic priorities for GCF engagement in alignment with Eritrea's national climate and development objectives. Highlight the sectors where concessional support and GCF's risk-taking role are most relevant to catalyze investment and innovation.
- Analyzes the current and projected climate finance landscape in Eritrea, covering public, private, and international financial flows, as well as adaptation and mitigation needs for the period 2025–2035.
- Positions Water Security and Drought Resilience as the central pillars of the GCF Country Program, targeting the nation's most pressing climate vulnerability through strategic investments in water harvesting, efficient micro-irrigation, and community-driven watershed management.
- Ensures the Framework and Matrix include clear criteria for regional equity, using vulnerability scores to guide fair project distribution across the six Zobas and address local climate risks.
- Defines short-, medium-, and long-term programming directions with clearly articulated adaptation and mitigation priorities.
- Integrates gender equality, social inclusion, and opportunities for transformational change throughout the program.
- Highlights avenues for private sector engagement and leveraging co-financing to enhance impact and sustainability.



The Country Program shall present an initial list of up to six priority projects/programmes. Building on this, the consulting firm will focus on designing public-sector initiatives that empower informal and community-based "private sector" actors in climate-sensitive areas, such as agricultural cooperatives, women's groups, and workers' associations. The deliverable should present a clear blended finance pathway, using public funds (e.g., GCF) to de-risk or provide concessional financing for these local, climate-resilient ventures, ensuring effective, context-appropriate implementation of the mandate. For each project/programme, a concise description shall be prepared, outlining the theory of change, expected results, key partners, and the anticipated level of co-financing. The projects must demonstrate potential for paradigm shift, innovation, and co-benefits (mitigation, adaptation, development).

c) Validation and Dissemination Workshop

The consulting Firm/group of consultants, with the support of the NDA secretariat shall ensure detailed documentation of the multi-stakeholder engagement process followed in the development of the Country Program, specifying the involvement of government institutions, the private sector, civil society (including women's organizations, youth, and Indigenous peoples), and technical partners. An annex to the Country Program shall include a list of the main stakeholders, their roles, and the modalities of their contribution.

Once the Country Program draft is completed, the consulting Firm/group of consultants will take the lead in organizing a **two-day workshop** for its validation and dissemination among all relevant stakeholders. The consulting Firm/group of consultants will be responsible for preparing workshop materials, presenting the draft Country Program, and facilitating discussions to ensure that participants' views are incorporated. The consulting Firm/group of consultants will also Prepare and deliver training materials, presentations, and facilitation guides for the capacity-building session.

- **Day 1:** Present and validate the draft Country Program with national stakeholders, ensuring alignment with national development priorities and GCF engagement requirements.
- Day 2: Conduct a training session to build the capacity of stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, and academia) to:
 - Understand the purpose and structure of the Country Program.
 - Appreciate its relevance for future national development planning processes.
 - Identify their roles in implementing and updating the Country Program.

3.2. Portfolio Review Framework

The consulting firm or group of consultants will design a comprehensive Portfolio Review Framework for the Country Program, establishing an annual participatory process to assess the implementation status of GCF-funded projects and programs in Eritrea. Within this framework, they will also develop a Country Prioritization Matrix to ensure that all projects submitted to the GCF are fully aligned with Eritrea's national climate adaptation and mitigation priorities, as well as the objectives of the Country Program. Furthermore, they will propose a monitoring and update mechanism, including a clear revision schedule (e.g., at the mid-term of the GCF cycle) and modalities for integrating new projects or programmes, particularly in response to major climate events. This mechanism will be integrated into both the prioritization matrix and the portfolio review framework to ensure coherence and consistency. This mechanism will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the (NDA), which will ensure its alignment with national systems and priorities. The NDA Secretariat will oversee the regular review, validation, and updating of the framework and the prioritization matrix, ensuring coherence, institutional ownership, and continuity across the GCF portfolio.

In addition, the consulting Firm/group of consultants will prepare **training materials and modules** that cover the adaptation and mitigation priorities, corresponding national policies, and key entry points



for integration into the national development planning process. The 'Training Materials and Tailored Session' deliverable must explicitly include the development of simple, actionable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These SOPs should formalize the process for inter-ministerial coordination and sign-off, specifically detailing the roles and responsibilities between the lead ministry (MLWE) and key sectoral ministries (e.g., Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Marine Resources, Ministry of Finance) for GCF project approval and implementation oversight. These materials will serve as a practical guide for stakeholders responsible for implementing and monitoring GCF projects and programs.

Acknowledging the need for GCF private sector engagement while adapting the scope to Eritrean reality, the consulting firm should focus on identifying and structuring public-sector enabling initiatives that support the informal and communal "private sector" operating in climate-sensitive areas. This includes agricultural cooperatives, and women's groups, worker's association. The deliverable should be a clear pathway for blended finance where public funds (GCF) de-risk or provide concessional finance for these local, climate-resilient ventures, ensuring the mandate is met in a context-appropriate manner.

The consulting Firm/group of consultants will then organize and facilitate a tailored training session to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders. The training will focus on understanding and applying the portfolio review framework, using the prioritization matrix, and aligning project planning with national climate priorities. Pre- and post-training assessments will be conducted to measure participants' knowledge and understanding of the process and the Country Program.

Finally, the consulting Firm/group of consultants will compile and submit comprehensive documentation, including the finalized Portfolio Review Framework, the Country Prioritization Matrix, training materials, assessment results, a list of participants disaggregated by gender, and a summary report of the training session highlighting lessons learned and recommendations for future annual.

NB: The training session will be organized either in-person or online, depending on the project's capacity. All logistics and associated costs related to the training session will be covered by the project, and the invitations will be coordinated by NDA secretariat. In this regard, the financial proposal should not account for this aspect.

It should be noted that a national consultant will be recruited by the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment to ensure that the consultation process is firmly grounded in the national context and priorities of Eritrea. This consultant will be responsible for collecting and analyzing relevant national data to provide the factual basis necessary for the development of the GCF Country Program. He/she will also carry out a comprehensive inventory of national climate-related policies, program, and projects, complemented by regional consultations in the six Zobas, ensuring inclusive participation of key stakeholders. He/she will work in close collaboration with an international consulting firm or a group of international consultants. He/she will also be responsible for facilitating the validation process and ensuring that all deliverables are fully aligned with Eritrea's national context and priorities.



4. Deliverables and remuneration

The expected deliverables are detailed in the following table:

Expected products	Estimated effort in man-days	Deadlines from contract signature	Payment details
Inception Report : Detailing methodology, refined work plan, and timeline.	2	10 days	10%
 Draft Country Program: Development of the draft Country Program based on: Review of national policies, strategies (NDC, NAP, NBSAP), and climate priority documents. Outputs from the National Consultant, including stocktaking and stakeholder consultations. Findings from bilateral GCF engagements and identified program elements. Supporting Documents Package: Submit all collected documents and evidence used for drafting. 	20	45 days	30%
Training Modules and Kits: Development of training modules and materials on the relevance of the Country Program for future national development planning processes. Workshop Agenda and Concept Notes: Preparation of the detailed agenda and concept notes for the two-day national workshop (validation + capacity building). Pre- and Post-Training Survey Results: Analysis of survey results to measure the impact of the training on participants' knowledge and understanding of the Country Program. Capacity Building Session Report: A synthesis report of the capacity building session, including key lessons, recommendations, and feed Validation Workshop Report: Comprehensive report of the validation workshop, including consolidated feedback, participant list, and recommendations for the integration of the Country Program into national development planning processes. List of training participants disaggregated in gender Validation and Dissemination Workshop: Organization and facilitation of a two-day workshop to validate the Country Program and build capacity: • Day 1: Validate the Country Program with stakeholders. • Day 2: Training session on understanding and implementing the Country Program. Includes: detailed agenda, concept notes, training materials, pre/post-training assessments, and workshop report with participant list (gender-disaggregated).	20	75 days	20%



Expected products	Estimated effort in man-days	Deadlines from contract signature	Payment details
Final Country Program: Final version incorporating workshop feedback and validated by stakeholders. Portfolio Review Framework & Country Prioritization Matrix: Development of an annual participatory review framework to assess GCF-funded projects and programs, including a prioritization matrix.	10	100 days	20%
Training Materials and Tailored Session on Portfolio Review: Modules and practical session on applying the Portfolio Review Framework and Prioritization Matrix. Includes agenda, concept notes, training materials, pre/post-training assessments, and final report with participant list (gender-disaggregated).		120 days	20%
Total	60	120 days	100%

NB: The consultancy duration of 120 days excludes the review and validation time from OSS and the NDA. The payments of each tranche will only be made after submission and validation of each deliverable.

5. Required profile

The consulting firm/consulting group should possess a strong combination of educational qualifications, relevant professional experience, technical skills, and interpersonal abilities. These attributes are essential for effectively promoting climate action initiatives and strengthening the capacity of the National Designated Authority (NDA).

5.1. Lead International Consultant / Climate Finance Specialist

Qualifications:

- Master's or PhD in Climate Change, Environmental Policy, Environmental Finance, or related field.
- At least 10 years of professional experience in climate finance and climate policy, including substantial engagement with the GCF or other international climate finance mechanisms.
- Proven track record in developing GCF Country Programs, project pipelines, or portfolio strategies.
- Strong knowledge of adaptation—mitigation planning, gender mainstreaming, and social inclusion in climate projects.

Responsibilities:

- Lead the **development of the Eritrea Country Program**, integrating national policy stocktaking, bilateral engagement analysis, and stakeholder inputs provided by the National Team.
- Ensure that the Country Program reflects transformational priorities, includes gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches, and is aligned with GCF guidance.
- Provide technical guidance to the NDA and National Team.



5.2. International M&E and Portfolio Specialist

Qualifications:

- Master's or higher degree in Monitoring & Evaluation, Economics, Environmental Management, or related field.
- At least 7 years of professional experience in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, or program performance assessment, preferably in climate change or climate finance.
- Knowledge of GCF results management frameworks, investment criteria, and portfolio review processes.

Responsibilities:

- Design and implement a **portfolio review process** for Eritrea's GCF Country Program, ensuring it is practical, transparent, and adapted to national capacities.
- Lead the organization and delivery of **capacity-building sessions** on portfolio review processes, in collaboration with the National M&E Specialist.
- Support in integrating portfolio analysis into the Country Program and ensuring long-term monitoring arrangements.

5.3. International Capacity Development & Facilitation Expert

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Social Sciences, Environmental Communication, Development Studies, or related field.
- At least 5 years of experience in facilitation, training, and stakeholder engagement, preferably in climate change and sustainable development.
- Proven experience organizing and moderating multi-stakeholder workshops at the international or regional level.
- Excellent communication and intercultural skills, with demonstrated ability to work in African contexts.

Responsibilities:

- Lead the **design and facilitation** of the Country Program validation and dissemination workshop, ensuring inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- Support the **two-day validation workshop** by developing agendas, training materials, and facilitation methodologies.
- Document and synthesize workshop outcomes to inform the finalization of the Country Program and other strategic deliverables.

6. Composition of the submission offer

Submission Requirements for Administrative Technical and Financial Proposals

All bids must include three independent separate files with clear names related to the administrative file, the technical proposal and the financial offer as part of their submission. The proposals should be organized as follows:



a. Administrative Documents

Administrative file Candidates are required to provide the following administrative documents: For Consulting Firms:

- A valid certificate regarding the tax situation, issued in accordance with the current legislation of the country of origin;
- A certificate of no bankruptcy, judicial restructuring, or any other equivalent document as stipulated by the legal framework of the country of origin;
- An official extract from the commercial register, or any other equivalent legal document, in compliance with the laws of the country of origin;
- A sworn declaration, fully completed and signed, in accordance with the form provided in Annex 1;
- A duly completed and signed registration form, as per the requirements outlined in Annex 2. For groups of consultants:
 - An agreement appointing one member as the lead consultant with the authority to represent the group, in accordance with Annex 3;
 - A sworn declaration, fully completed and signed, as per the format provided in Annex 1.

b. Technical Proposal

Methodological Note Provide a concise document (maximum four pages) that outlines the proposed methodology and approach for undertaking the assignment. This should include:

Consultants Profile: Include a detailed background of the consultants, highlighting relevant experience and areas of expertise related to the topics specified in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

The proposed methodology must be developed in strict accordance with the guidance provided in the Green Climate Fund's **Country Programme Guidance**, available in this link:

https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/country-programme-guidance

Curriculum Vitae: Submit a comprehensive CV using the OSS-provided format, which can be downloaded from this link [OSS CV Model].

Educational Qualifications: Attach a copy of the latest diploma or relevant academic certification. 5. References: Provide any additional references that may support the consultant's qualifications or experience.

c. Financial Proposal

The financial proposal must include a cost breakdown based on man-days, detailing all costs associated with the services offered. The proposal should be clearly organized using the following table format:

Expected products	Estimated effort	Honorarium/dayUSD	Total costs
	in man days		
Consultants' daily fees			
Logistics fees			
Transport			
Accommodation			
Other related costs (to be approved)			
Total			



7. Evaluation of the offer

The technical proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the following section. Notes:

- Ensure that the financial proposal is transparent and clearly outlines all anticipated travel and logistical expenses, including accommodation costs.
- All submissions should comply with the guidelines set forth in the ToRs to be considered for evaluation.

Criteria	Maximum points: 100pts
Lead Climate Finance Specialist	30
Academic Qualifications (10 points)	
• 10 points: PhD in Climate Change, Environmental Policy, Environmental Science,	
Law, Finance, or related field.	10
• 7 points: Master's in Climate Change, Environmental Policy, Environmental Science, Law, Finance, or related field.	
Professional Experience in Climate Finance, Climate policy, or environmental	
governance (10 points)	
 10 points: +18 years of experience in climate finance, climate policy, or environmental governance, including demonstrated knowledge of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or similar mechanisms. 7 points: 12 years or more of experience in climate finance, with limited experience with the GCF or similar mechanisms. 5 points: 10 years or more of experience in climate finance, without GCF 	10
experience. Proven track record in in developing GCF Country Programs, project pipelines, or portfolio strategies (10 points) • 2 points for each relevant reference.	10
National M&E Specialist and Portfolio Specialist	30
Academic Qualification	
 10 points: PhD in Monitoring & Evaluation, Environmental Management, or related field. 7 points: Master's directly relevant: 	10
• 7 points: Master's directly relevant; Professional Experience in M&E and review process	
 10 points: +15 years in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, or program performance assessment, preferably in climate change or climate finance; 7 points: 10 years or more in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, or program performance assessment, preferably in climate change or climate finance; 	10
 5 points: 7 years or more in monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, or program performance assessment, preferably in climate change or climate finance; 	
Knowledge of GCF or International Climate Finance M&E Systems	
• 10 points: Hands-on experience applying GCF/other climate finance results management frameworks, investment criteria, and portfolio review processes; (2 points for each relevant reference).	10
Capacity Building Expert	30
Academic Qualifications (10 points)	10



Criteria	Maximum points: 100pts
• 10 points: PhD in Education, Climate Change, or a related field, with a focus on training or capacity building.	
 7 points: Master's degree in a related field without a clear focus on training or capacity building. 	
Experience in Designing and Delivering Training Programs (10 points)	
 10 points: +10 years of experience in designing and delivering training programs on climate change, climate finance, and project development. 7 points: 5 years or more of experience in designing and delivering training 	10
programs, with limited focus on climate change or finance.	
 Experience with Government Stakeholders (10 points) 10 points: Proven experience working with government stakeholders to enhance knowledge and skills related to climate change adaptation and finance. (2 points for each relevant reference) 	10
Methodological Note	10
 Alignment with GCF Country Programme Guidance (4 points) 0 point: No alignment 1-2 points: Partial alignment 3-4 points: Strong alignment with explicit reference to the GCF Country Programme Guidance Clarity and Robustness of Methodology (4 points) 0 point: Methodology unclear or insufficient 1-2 points: Methodology described but lacking detail or coherence 3-4 points: Clear, comprehensive, coherent methodology fully addressing the assignment requirements Structure, Conciseness, and Quality of Presentation (2 points) 0 point: Poor structure, unclear, or exceeds the page limit 1 point: Acceptable structure and clarity but with room for improvement 2 points: Well-structured, concise (≤ 4 pages), clear, and professionally 	10

NB: The minimum technical score required for the consulting firm or group of consultants to be eligible for the financial evaluation is 70 points.

8. Terms of the submission and deadline

All requests must be sent to the following email address: procurement@oss.org.tn

Mention in the subject line: "Call for Applications – International Consultant: Climate Country Program and Portfolio review [CA/OSS/GCF-RS-Eritrea 2_International Consulting Firm/041225-53]" The deadline for receiving offers is December 25th, 2025 at 23:59 (Tunis time).

