

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Project:	Carbon Finance Related Technical Assistance Services to the Modern Cooking Facility for Africa (MCFA)
Project Countries:	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
Sector:	Clean cooking
Funding sources:	Modern Cooking Facility for Africa, financed by Sweden and the European Union
Type of contract:	Consulting Services
Type of notice:	Invitation for Expression of Interest
Issue date:	12 April 2023
Closing date:	26 May 2023 at 12:00 (noon) local time in Helsinki (Eastern European time (EET)).

Assignment Description: The overall objective of the Modern Cooking Facility for Africa (**MCFA**) programme is to accelerate access to modern, higher-tier clean cooking services (**CCS**) for consumers in the six Project Countries. MCFA will do this by incentivising private companies, so called cooking service providers (**CSP**) to establish or scale up existing innovative sustainable local businesses in these African countries to create a local market for high-technology clean cooking solutions. Further information on the MCFA is available at <https://moderncooking.africa/>.

In April 2022 the MCFA launched its first call for proposals (**MCFA1**) inviting interested companies selling modern cooking solutions to compete for funding¹. The MCFA1 is now at an advanced stage with due diligence of the highest-ranking applicants and their project proposals currently ongoing and first MCFA financing agreements are expected to be signed in Q3/2023. Nefco expects to launch a second funding round in late 2023 with the aim of building a portfolio of in total 15-18 MCFA investee companies.

Carbon finance has been an important source of funding to clean cooking companies in recent years, and it is expected that this will continue with the growth of voluntary markets, growth of national carbon markets and credits sales related to the Paris Agreement Article 6. With modern energy technologies, the fuel used for cooking can be measured for all the main different fuel types including electrical, ethanol, and biogas. Methodologies for certifying CO_{2e} emissions for modern cooking appliances which leverage usage data to improve and simplify emission measurement and reporting requirements now exist which allow for a more efficient process for calculating the emissions reductions and thus achieves cost savings especially for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV).

MCFA recognises that upfront cost barriers to access carbon finance exist, which can be overcome through provision of technical assistance for CSPs to access or set up their own carbon credit programmes.

For CSPs who have not yet mobilised carbon finance, MCFA is able to finance technical assistance to access carbon credits. The TA can link them to carbon markets and help them align their MRV/data collection methodologies e.g. with the Gold Standard, future carbon markets under the Paris Agreement, or newer methodologies that leverage usage and fuel sales data (which such schemes may not currently support), while utilising also lessons learned and methodologies from the Clean Development Mechanism. The MCFA can also finance the provision of advisory services to CSPs that seek to establish or update a Programme of Activities. Should carbon finance be secured during implementation through the technical assistance

¹ For further information, please see the [MCFA1 Pre-Qualification Guidelines](#).

deployed by MCFA (e.g. establishment of a Programme of Activities), associated transaction costs may be advanced and recovered by Nefco as appropriate and only when/if carbon revenues materialise.

Neither Nefco nor MCFA or its donors will establish any claim on carbon credits. All such income should be used to benefit the CSPs' end-customers in the relevant markets. Where appropriate, carbon revenues should be supportive of national climate policies and commitments such as provisions of Nationally Determined Contributions.

Nefco is now looking to procure consulting services from an experienced carbon finance consulting company, project developer or a consortium thereof (**Consultant**) to support the MCFA programme as a service provider to provide technical assistance services in relation to carbon finance to the MCFA investees (**Assignment**).

The overall objective of this Assignment is for the Consultant to provide general technical support to Nefco on carbon finance and to deploy targeted technical assistance to the selected CSPs to assist with securing carbon finance, including advising on carbon monetisation options, preparing relevant documentation (project design documents etc) and providing support with monitoring and verification.

In order to meet the objectives of the Assignment, the Consultant shall undertake the following main activities/tasks:

Task 1: Identification, prioritisation and agreement with Nefco on the provision of carbon finance related TA to selected, contracted CSPs.

Task 2: Provision of technical assistance to CSPs based on the needs identified and prioritised by Nefco in consultation with CSPs as agreed between Nefco and the Consultant during Task 1. Technical assistance will be targeted at measures which support mobilisation of carbon finance.

The overall scope of the technical assistance provision includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Guidance to CSPs on accessing carbon revenue;
- b. Preparation of project design documentation using approved methodologies;
- c. Support to CSPs in monitoring projects and meeting verification requirements;
- d. General updates and support to Nefco on carbon market developments in the clean cooking sector; and
- e. Assessment of the selected CSPs' business plans on the impact of carbon finance and advice on possible reduction of provision of MCFA incentives.

Task 3: Preparation of two (2) knowledge products (briefings, blogs etc) in relation to mobilisation of carbon finance by MCFA investees.

Nefco will enter into a framework agreement with the selected Consultant under which the carbon finance TA assignments will be called off based on CSPs' needs in addition to a general carbon finance support tasks to Nefco.

Assignment Start Date and Duration: The Assignment is expected to start in September 2023 and be completed at the latest by Q4/2025.

Maximum Budget Available for the Assignment: Up to EUR 250,000 (exclusive of VAT).

Funding Source: Modern Cooking Facility for Africa, financed by Sweden and the European Union.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility restrictions on the nationality of the Consultant.

Consultant Profile: The Consultant will be a company or a consortium of companies with in-depth experience from securing carbon finance in the energy access/clean cooking sector and from providing carbon finance related technical assistance to private companies in the energy access/clean cooking space.

In terms of previous experience and financial standing, the Consultant or lead consultant in case of consortia should demonstrate the following minimum criteria:

- A minimum of 3 carbon finance projects implemented/advised in the last five years in energy access/clean cooking; and
- A minimum average annual turnover of EUR 750,000 for the last three years.

Based on the fields of expertise and the tasks mentioned above, it is envisioned that the team of the Consultant should consist at least of the key experts listed below:

- Team Leader with at least 10 years of comprehensive experience in carbon finance and in managing similar technical assistance assignments in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as prior experience from projects/programmes funded by international financiers in the SDG7/energy access/clean cooking space;
- Carbon finance advisor(s) with at least 5 years of experience in securing carbon finance with/for private sector companies in the clean cooking sector.

It is further required that the team of proposed experts has excellent analytical, report writing and communication skills in English.

Submission Requirements: Interested Consultants are hereby invited to submit their Expressions of Interest for the purposes of being shortlisted. To assess the qualifications and competence of the Consultants seeking to be shortlisted, the information submitted should include the following:

- Company profile, organisation and staffing for the Assignment;
- Clearly indicated information on the minimum requirements;
- Details of experience in similar assignments, including their locations (especially assignments in the Project Countries and other Sub-Saharan African countries); and
- CVs of key experts available to work on the Assignment.

The above information should not exceed 10 pages, excluding CVs.

Next steps: Based on the documentation received, Nefco will prepare a shortlist of the interested Consultants. Nefco will also be responsible for the possible procurement and contracting of the consulting services in question.

Notes:

1. The shortlist of qualified and experienced Consultants will be made from responses to this notification. The shortlisted Consultants will be asked to submit technical and financial proposals, from which the highest-ranked Consultant will be selected.

2. The shortlist selection criteria are:

- Consultant's experience from providing carbon finance related technical assistance to private companies in the energy access/clean cooking space – 35%
- Consultant's experience from carbon finance projects in clean cooking/energy access sector – 15%
- Qualifications and competence of the Consultant's team as described in the Consultant Profile Section – 50%.

The preliminary timeline is as follows: Nefco expects to distribute a Request for Proposal, including Terms of Reference with specific evaluation criteria among the shortlisted Consultants in June 2023. The expected submission deadline for Consultants' proposals is August 2023 and the assignment is expected to start during September 2023.

Expressions of Interest shall be submitted in English in one pdf file by email to Nefco at procurement@nefco.int with copy to emma.yrjola@nefco.int with subject: "MCFA Carbon Finance TA Service Provider - Expression of Interest" to reach NEFCO no later than **26 May 2023 at 12:00 (noon) local time in Helsinki (Eastern European time (EET))**.

Questions and Answers

Any questions on this Invitation for Expression of Interest shall be provided in writing to Nefco by e-mail: at procurement@nefco.int with copy to emma.yrjola@nefco.int no later than **28 April 2023** after which all questions will be compiled by Nefco without any editing in the form they are sent to Nefco. Answers to the questions will be published at <https://www.nefco.int/procurements/>.

Nefco Contact Person:

Heli Sinkko, Programme Manager
Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
Fabianinkatu 34
FI-00100 – Helsinki, Finland
Tel: + 358 10 618 003
e-mail: heli.sinkko@nefco.int

Nefco reserves the right not to procure any services.