

Green Economic Advisory Support to the Africa Union for Implementation of the Green Recovery Action Plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. To ensure the realization of AU objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision, Agenda 2063 was developed as a 50 year (2013 to 2063) strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation. It has twenty goals well aligned with the SDGs, one of which, is "Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities" focusing on; Sustainable natural resource management and Biodiversity conservation, Sustainable consumption and production patterns, Water security and Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and Renewable energy (read more at <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/goals>).

The implementation of the Agenda 2063 is largely through the African Union Commission (AUC) which is the AU's secretariat in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities¹ (RECs) and the regional commissions². Supported by AU's high level decision-making coordination mechanisms and organs, which also strengthen Africa's participation and active involvement both in global negotiations and in international agreements on the environment.

The coming in of Covid-19 pandemic represents the biggest global economic shock and has exposed and exacerbated economic, societal and environmental challenges globally and especially in Africa. According to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) report 'Building Forward for an African Green Recovery' together with the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief³ on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, among other studies, the pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities across the region. World Bank estimates that an additional 23 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty and 20 million jobs could disappear, costing Africa up to \$500 billion in revenue. Food insecurity and debt are rising, and hard-won development gains are being lost.

The recovery effort from the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, presents an unprecedented opportunity that delivers cleaner, healthier, more resilient and more inclusive economies and societies, especially to protect the most vulnerable sectors of society including women and the youth that are the most adversely effected by the economic fallout of the pandemic. Moreover, an opportunity to align with the United Nations 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (UN CBD) and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

¹ The AU recognizes eight RECs, the: Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC).

² Recently three regional commissions have been established, including the Sahel commission chaired by the Republic of Niger, the Congo Basin commission chaired by the Republic of Congo, and the Commission for African Island States chaired by the Republic of Seychelles.

³ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid-19_impact_on_africa_may_2020.pdf

About the AU Green Recovery Action Plan

The AU Green Recovery Action Plan was developed jointly by the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Office of the Chair of AMCEN and the United Kingdom in collaboration with the NDC Partnership. The Action Plan will tackle the combined challenges of the COVID-19 recovery and climate change, by focusing on critical five areas of joint priority: (i) Climate finance, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding (ii) renewable energy, energy efficiency and national Just Transition Programmes (iii) Nature-based solutions and focus on biodiversity through work on sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism (iv) Resilient agriculture, by focusing on inclusive economic development and green jobs; and (v) Green and resilient cities, including a focus on water (flooding and water resources) and enhancing information, communication and technology.

Under the leadership of the African Union Commission, the Green Recovery Action Plan seeks a green economic transformation that will require strong partnerships and coordination with public and private investors to deliver up to the magnitude proposed in the plan. Within the existing institutional mechanisms, it is proposed to establish co-champions for each thematic area - a member state and an international partner. The co-champions will be steering the coordination, resource mobilization and technical support for Green Recovery efforts within the specific thematic area across the continent.

Specifically, member states will be supporting: the development of and integration of Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans and investments; Monitoring and tracking the implementation of the GRAP and participate in events related to GRAP. The international partners are requested to: prioritising investments and technical support for African Union Member states; supporting the development of and integration of Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans and investments; providing dedicated technical experts/leads within the AU Commission to liaise with Regional Economic Commissions and Member States on the GRAP; supporting a few 'signature' initiatives to push forward dialogue in Africa, including setting up task forces for the different thematic areas for example a Task Force for Climate Finance, Task Force on Renewable Energy or Green Recovery; and supporting lessons sharing, side events at major events, commissioned reports under the GRAP, and dialogue platforms.

The Green Recovery Action Plan is intended to complement and enhance African Union member States own recovery plans for a greater impact on the continent as well as the broader African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP) under the AMCEN. The plan intends to draw from existing initiatives among others the outcomes of the country-driven Economic Advisory initiative and NDCs implementation processes under the NDC Partnership country engagement work and align support to countries.

About the NDC Partnership's Economic Advisory Support

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institutions working to mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. Through our Partnership, members leverage their resources and expertise to provide countries with the tools they need to implement their NDCs and combat climate change to build a better future. Hosted by WRI and the UNFCCC Secretariat, the NDC Partnership has members in all regions of the world, with staff in Washington DC and Bonn, Germany and at regional level.

The NDC Partnership has initiated support to integrate climate actions in recovery planning in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This initiative is addition to the NDC revision and implementation support to countries. In Africa, the NDC Partnership is active in 34 countries with NDC support and about 20 countries have accessed Economic and Finance Advisors embedded in ministries of finance and/or planning. This support comes at a critical time when many countries are revising their commitments to the Paris Agreement in 2020, through the enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While countries design

stimulus packages and recovery plans in response to COVID-19, there is opportunity to ensure that national climate ambition is an integral component of short- and long-term recovery and economic growth strategies.

The AUC joined the NDC Partnership in 2019, with the aim of expanding its partnerships network to leverage expertise and resources to increase support to member countries. A deliberate partnership and resource mobilization strategy will be required to facilitate a coordinated approach of maximizing collaborative resource mobilization.

It is with this background that the Africa Union Commission is seeking for Green Economic Recovery expertise from the NDC Partnership to be embedded in the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy for 6 months until March 2022 (subject to extension pending funding availability), to ensure effective coordinated implementation of the AU Green Recovery Plan. The NDC Partnership has secured approval and funding from the UK Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy to provide this support, as outlined under these Terms of Reference, developed by the African Union Commission.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE GREEN ECONOMIC ADVISOR

The Green Economic Advisor will coordinate the implementation of the five thematic priority areas of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan across member states in Africa. The Advisor will also provide Technical Advice to the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) of the African Union Commission on matters related to planning, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the measures aimed at the continent's post-COVID19 economic recovery in order to allow member states enhance their capabilities in integrating climate change considerations, while safeguarding sustainable socio-economic reform agenda, Agenda 2063 and SDGs aspirations. The Advisor will ensure effective coordination on rolling out the five thematic priority areas of the plan, considering other existing green recovery initiatives in the continent.

The Green Economic Advisor will report primarily to the Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy under the direct supervision of the Head of Division of Sustainable Environment and work in close collaboration with the Climate Change Team of the AUC and the NDC Partnership Support Unit Africa team. The Green Economic Advisor will be producing monthly and quarterly progress reports about the AU Green Recovery Plan implementation across the continent. Quarterly continental update reports will be distributed among stakeholders both in-country and internationally. S/he will also regularly provide progress reports to the NDC Partnership Support Unit and the focal point of the government of the UK on key deliverables as per the contract.

S/he will perform the following functions:

- Provide policy, and institutional advice and expertise to review and make recommendations to the Commission on implementation of measures in response to COVID-19 crisis and further post-crisis recovery with specific focus on rolling out the AU Green Recovery Action Plan's five thematic priority areas across member states. Provide technical input to the selection and implementation of the co-champions for each thematic area, and to the related taskforces across the continent.
- Perform continental analysis in the form of policy briefs, analytical notes and conceptual notes in view of the implementation of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan. This will build on the economic advisory work supported through NDC Partnership. It will focus on national economic recovery plans, implementation process, existing institutional capacity gaps and recommendations to address them, both in a short and medium/long-term.
- Provide technical support to capacity building for member states for integration of climate considerations in the country economic recovery plans in a short and medium/long-term. The Green Economic Advisor

will support countries through the existing NDC Partnership supported economic advisors embedded in the Ministries of Finance and/or economic planning at member states level.

- Provide strategic and technical expertise in resource mobilization. H/she will lead the process of developing a resource mobilization strategy for the AU Green Recovery Action Plan. Roll out the resource mobilization strategy through Donors/investors round table dialogues. Presenting continental status briefs. Conduct mapping and match making of the member states support needs to the available funding sources including international technical assistance on greening economies.
- Review the existing international economic green recovery support including technical assistance policy, and provide recommendations for improving the assistance coordination mechanism at continental level for effective allocation of support across member states.
- In particular, participate in the global network on economic recovery of the NDC Partnership to share Africa's related lessons learnt from implementation of AU green recovery action plan.
- Support in preparations of high-level events for the Commission. The Green Economic Advisor will work closely with the eight regional economic communities (RECs) and the three regional commissions accordingly.
- Produce and publish quarterly continental updates on AU green recovery action plan.

Expected Deliverables

- At least two 'signature' initiatives to push forward dialogue in Africa, including setting up two task forces for Climate Finance, and on Renewable Energy or Green Recovery;
- Two Annual (2021, 2022) Continental Green Economic Recovery Status Report - progress, gaps, opportunities and recommendations on policy reforms and institutional arrangements;
- Two Continental Green Recovery Policy Briefs (2021, 2022) (Commission presenting policy briefs at events related to Green economic recovery, the AU summit, AMCEN and CAHOSCC, CoP26, CoP27);
- A resource mobilization strategy for the AU Green Recovery Action Plan;
- Support Communications Expert to organize two annual Donor/Investors Round Table meetings aiming at mobilizing resources for the plan;
- Support the Communications Expert to organize two annual continental technical meetings with Country Based Economic Advisors, Finance Ministries, thematic related champions and taskforces, among others;
- Number of member states that have integrated Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future national development plans as well as investments plans;
- Quarterly publications on the implementation of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Master's degree or equivalent in economics, business, climate change, environmental studies, development studies or related field.

Experience

- 10 or more years of relevant experience at regional or international level in development planning, programmes management or coordinating development assistance;

- Experience in providing advisory and capacity building services to regional or national governmental authorities;
- Previous experience with a multilateral or international organization/foundation will be an asset.
- Skills
- Strong managerial and leadership skills, notably planning, organizing, coordinating and controlling, problem solving and decision-making;
- Mature judgment combined with a proactive, energetic approach to problem solving; and excellent interpersonal skills;
- Strong organizational and time management skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Excellent writing, proficient communication and organization skills.

Applicants shall submit the following documents

- Letter of interest explaining why the applicant considers him- or herself the most suitable for the work
- Personal CV including information about past experience in similar projects / assignments together with contact details for at least 2 referees
- Indication of expected professional fees - daily rate

Applications Submission

Application materials should be sent by **20 August 2021** to:

- Margaret Barihaihi, Regional Manager for Anglophone Africa (margaret.barihaihi@ndcpartnership.org)
- John Heermans, Senior Country Engagement Specialist (john.heermans@ndcpartnership.org)