CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Integrated Assessment for Article 6 (IAA6)

**CFP reference number: CFP-2023-55**

**CFP document issue date:** **August 09, 2023**

# PARTICULARS

## UNOPS project objective(s)

The objective of the IAA6 project is to provide support to three developing countries in developing and applying a toolbox through a South-South approach to learning by doing for transformative design of Article 6 approaches. The toolbox is expected to help countries in analysing and planning for domestic mitigation strategies to align those strategies with the countries’ NDC, SDGs and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, and has the potential of catalysing broader deployment regionally and globally. A secondary objective is to raise awareness of progress of south-south learning within EU and climate negotiation community to further increase support for this approach.

## Background and objectives of the grant/funding

Developing countries face challenges e.g., lack of tools, data or technical capacity in applying Article 6 cooperative approaches strategically for NDC implementation or ambition raising aligned with the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement. To address these challenges, the European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) has funded the Integrated Assessment for Article Six (IAA6) Project aiming to support developing countries governments in the development and use of a toolbox through a South-South to learning-by-doing approach.

The project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme’s Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC), formerly the UNEP DTU Partnership. UNEP-CCC was established in early 2022 and is a leading international advisory institution on energy, climate and sustainable development. Its work focuses on assisting developing countries and emerging economies to transition towards more low-carbon development paths and supports the integration of climate resilience in national development. UNEP-CCC is actively engaged in implementing UN Environment’s Climate Change Strategy and Energy Programme by delivering technical assistance and analytical work to emerging markets and developing countries in context of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

## Targeted impact of the grant/funding

The target impact of the grant funding is to support three partner countries and spur wider use of the approach for development and use of transformative Article 6 cooperative approaches enabling NDC ambition raising and LT-LEDS aligned with net-zero pathways towards the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement.

## Scope of the grant/funding

UNOPS is seeking proposals from potential implementing partners with expert knowledge and experience relevant to capacity building for implementation of Article 6 carbon markets. The toolbox will build on Costa Rica’s open-source Climate Change Metric System (SINAMECC) and its Climate-Land-Energy-Water (CLEW) modelling platform, among other publicly available resources and draw on standardised data structures such as GHG inventories, REDD reference levels and international datasets including those by IEA and the WB to enable fast initial uptake.

Development of the toolbox consists of two separate but interlinked activity packages (AP):

1. Modelling of decarbonisation pathways using multi-criteria analysis incl. assessment of mitigation costs and benefits for sustainable development, shifting from optimization approaches to robust assessment of scenarios for NDC and LT-LEDS policies and plans in context of uncertainties.
2. Development of a decision support framework for strategic use of Article 6 cooperative approaches building on the following technical modules:
   1. Transparency and MRV of NDC mitigation policies and actions
   2. Climate action ambition raising for transformational change
   3. Sustainable development synergies and trade-offs aligned with national priorities
   4. Communication of the toolbox technical modules

## Target beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries are governments in developing countries.

## Activities under grant/funding

The grant supports development of a toolbox for decision-support including technical modules enabling the strategic use of Article 6 approaches for implementation of NDCs, LT-LEDS and SDGs aligned with the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement.

Applicants may apply either only for Activity Package 1, Activity Package 2, or both. The evaluation will be conducted separately for each Activity Package. Refer to section 1.7 for details regarding the budget allocation.

Development of the toolbox comprise of the following activities and outputs:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities | | Outputs | Notes |
| AP 1 |  |  |  |
| 1 | Design a general model for assessment of decarbonization pathways incl. cost-benefit analysis of policy options to support national decision-making in developing countries. | Generalized model for assessment of decarbonization pathways made available open source. | Outline of model design presented to partner countries in January 2024  Final model made available no later than end of April 2026. |
| 2 | Adapt and co-design the general model, jointly with UNEP CCC experts, for analysis of selected sectoral decarbonisation pathways in three partner countries. | Country specific model components selected by country partners made publicly available, enabling baseline setting and securing overall positive sustainable development impacts to the host country. | Supporting the partner countries and attending regional/global learning/training events may require in-person presence, as needed.  (3 national events and/or 2 regional/ global events)  Model design co-developed with country partners by September 2024 |
| AP 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 | Design a toolbox of technical modules, co-developed with country partners and UNEP CCC experts, for use of Article 6 approaches to achieve national NDC and LT-LEDS targets aligned with the Paris Agreement long term goal. | Conceptual outlines of the following technical modules:   * Transparency and MRV of NDC mitigation policies and actions * Climate action ambition raising for transformational change * Sustainable development synergies and trade-offs aligned with national priorities * Communication of the toolbox technical modules   At least one technical module per partner country co-developed with national and UNEP CCC experts based on training workshops for South-South learning and sharing of experiences. | Outline of technical modules presented to partner countries in January 2024  Module design co-developed with country partners by September 2024  One travel per partner country is required, i.e., attending 3 national events. |
| 4 | Support countries to develop a decision-support framework that explains how each of the technical modules support the strategic use of carbon pricing options including Article 6 carbon markets. | Final toolbox of technical modules and general model for robust decision-making presented through synthesis documents building on the main lessons learned from country applications. | Final decision-support framework with technical modules made available no later than end of April 2026.  Traveling to attend 2 regional or global events is required. |

## Grant/funding available

### Total amount of grant/funding available

The following table indicates the total amount of grant/funding available under this Call for Proposals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Currency** | **Amount** | **Amount in words** |
| USD | 359,495 | Three hundred fifty-nine thousand four hundred ninety-five USD. |

### Grant/funding amount limit per applicant

The following table indicates the limit of grant/funding allowable per applicant under this Call for Proposals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Currency** | **Amount** | **Amount in words** |
| USD | 359,495 | Three hundred fifty-nine thousand four hundred ninety-five USD |

### Grant/funding amount limit per activity package

The following table indicates the limit of grant/funding allowable per each activity package under this Call for Proposals.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Currency** | **Amount** | **Amount in words** |
| **Activity Package 1** | USD | 175,977 | One hundred seventy-five thousand nine hundred seventy-seven |
| **Activity Package 2** | USD | 183,518 | One hundred eighty-three thousand five hundred eighteen |

### Grant/funding amount limit per activity package and phase

The following table indicates the limit of grant/funding allowable per each activity package and phase under this Call for Proposals.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase** | ***Period*** | **Budget API** | **Budget APII** | **Total Budget** |
| Phase 1 | Oct. 2023 - June 2024 | $ 86,639 | $ 90,716 | $ 177,355 |
| Phase 2 | July 2024 - June 2025 | $ 29,270 | $ 30,763 | $ 60,033 |
| Phase 3 | July 2025 - April 2026 | $ 60,068 | $ 62,039 | $ 122,107 |
| **All Phases** | **Oct.2023 - April 2026** | **$ 175,977** | **$ 183,518** | **$ 359,495** |

## Grant/funding duration

The expected duration of the grant/funding is:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR(S)** | 2 | **MONTH(S)** | 07 |

The grant will be divided into 3 phases according to the table below. The original grant agreement will cover the first phase and may be amended to cover the subsequent phases in due time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Phase** | ***Period*** |
| Phase 1 | Oct. 2023 - June 2024 |
| Phase 2 | July 2024 - June 2025 |
| Phase 3 | July 2025 - April 2026 |
| **All Phases** | **Oct.2023 - April 2026** |

## Applicant eligibility

### Applicant category(ies)

The following categories of applicants are eligible to apply under this Call for Proposals:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) |  |
| * Foundations |  |
| * Civil society organizations (CSO) |  |
|  |  |

### Applicant country of registration and nationality

Applicants that are included under this Call for Proposals with regard to country of registration and nationality (for individuals) are as follows: All

To ensure the project’s South-South learning approach nationals from Costa Rica and other experts from the Global South with similar experience are encouraged to apply for AP2 activities. International experts with relevant experience to support developing countries with integrated assessment models for decarbonisation pathways are encouraged to apply for AP1 activities.

### Additional conditions of ineligibility

The applicant shall not fall under any of the conditions listed in the[Instructions to Applicants](https://content.unops.org/service-Line-Documents/Infrastructure/Grant-Support-Call-for-Proposals-Instructions-to-Applicants_EN.pdf), Article 1, which makes the applicant ineligible for this grant/funding.

## Content of proposal submissions

Applicants shall include the following:

* **Proposal**
* **Annex 1: Declarations**
* **Annex 2: Financial proposal**
* **Annex 3: Registration and Legal Documents**
* **Annex 4: Copy of audited financial statements for the last 2 years**
* **Annex 5: Final reports, and/or reference letters from two most recent projects, in the past 2 years.**

Applicants must carefully read and understand the[Requirements](#_heading=h.1v1yuxt) in this Call for Proposals and the [Instructions to Applicants](https://content.unops.org/service-Line-Documents/Infrastructure/Grant-Support-Call-for-Proposals-Instructions-to-Applicants_EN.pdf) before completing the Proposal and Annexes.

## Partial proposals

Applicants are permitted to submit proposals for one or more of the packages identified above and in the Requirements. For each package included in the partial proposal, applicants shall submit a proposal for one hundred (100) per cent of the grant support project activities and the quantities specified for each package. Evaluation will be completed separately for each work package in the proposal.

## Sub-granting[[1]](#footnote-2) and contracting[[2]](#footnote-3)

Sub-granting and contracting are only permitted under this Call for Proposals as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sub-granting** | Not Permissible |
| **Contracting** | Permissible |

## Proposal currency

The proposal budget shall be prepared in the following currency: **USD**

## Language of proposals

All proposals, information, documents and correspondence exchanged between UNOPS and the applicant shall be in:

**English**

## Proposal submission

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **September 6, 2023**. Proposals shall be submitted using the following method:

**e-Mail**

Proposals shall be sent via email to **aliamerah@unops.org**

Refer to Article 10, “Proposal Submission”, of the [Instructions to Applicants](https://content.unops.org/service-Line-Documents/Infrastructure/Grant-Support-Call-for-Proposals-Instructions-to-Applicants_EN.pdf) for details on the specific requirements for proposal submission.

## Type of legal instrument

The applicable legal instrument(s) are identified hereunder.

* Grant Support Agreement

## Contact information

All correspondence, notifications and requests for clarifications in relation to this Call for Proposals shall be sent to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | [Ali Amer Taha AL-HINDAWI](mailto:aliamerah@unops.org) |
| **Title** | Senior Portfolio Officer |
| **Email** | aliamerah@unops.org |

## Important dates and deadlines

The following tables provide the key dates and deadlines pertaining to this Call for Proposals.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Date | Time | Timezone |
| Submission of proposals | **Sep. 6, 2023** | [23:59] | [CEST] |
| Request for clarification | **Aug 17, 2023** | [17:00] | [CEST] |
| Expected agreement start date | **Oct 2, 2023** | [14:00] | [CEST] |

# REQUIREMENTS

## Approach and methodology

##### The following cross-cutting areas should be covered in the proposal:

* Social and Environmental Requirements. Explain how the organization encourages diversity and inclusion.

##### Sustainability Requirements: explain how the organization facilitates sustainability.

## Implementation Plan requirements

Using the proposed outputs, deliverables and activities, in view of achieving the outcomes of the grant/funding, complete the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan should accurately show the sequence and timeframe for the delivery of each activity and output aligned with the time plan for implementation of all project activities as indicated in section 1.6.

## Implementing Partner Monitoring Plan requirements

Complete the Implementing Partner (IP) Monitoring Plan.

## Budget requirements

1. Budget Ceiling 359,495 USD
2. At a minimum, the budgets must include:
   1. For each activity package, an estimate of direct costs, which include all of the expenses that are required for, and can be tracked directly to, the grant/funding accounts. Direct costs must be broken down by expense subcategory, by expense line item and by year.
   2. A description of assumptions or justifications underlying the estimates
3. The costs will be eligible only if these are incurred for the purpose of this grant/funding and within the duration mentioned in the legal instrument (including any amendments)
4. Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNOPS as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All proposals shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties
5. Grant budgets may include indirect costs up to 10 % of direct costs.
6. Each Grant Support Agreement budget[[3]](#footnote-4) will be broken down into four phases following the tables in 1.7 and 1.8. Please fill out the Financial Proposal Template (see Annex III) accordingly.

# EVALUATION METHOD AND CRITERIA

Proposals submitted in response to this CFP document shall be evaluated following the cumulative analysis methodology, which consists of the following steps:

1. [**Preliminary screening:**](#_heading=h.111kx3o) This includes an assessment of whether proposals comply with the formal and eligibility criteria stated in [Table 1: Formal and eligibility criteria](#_heading=h.3l18frh). All proposals which pass this stage will go through a subsequent evaluation as follows.
2. [**Technical evaluation:**](#_heading=h.206ipza) This assesses the technical points achieved by each proposal, as per the maximum obtainable points assigned per criteria group in [Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation](#_heading=h.1egqt2p). Only proposals that meet the minimum threshold indicated in [Table 2: Technical criteria](#_heading=h.4k668n3) shall be considered substantially compliant at this stage. Evaluation of the technical proposals shall be completed prior to opening the financial proposals.
3. [**Financial evaluation:**](#_heading=h.2dlolyb)Financial proposals will only be opened for proposals that have achieved the minimum threshold in the technical evaluation. Financial proposals shall be checked for any mathematical errors in accordance with Article 15, “Minor Informalities, Errors or Omissions” in the[**Instructions to Applicants**](https://content.unops.org/service-Line-Documents/Infrastructure/Grant-Support-Call-for-Proposals-Instructions-to-Applicants_EN.pdf). The total financial proposal points achieved for each proposal are determined in accordance with [Table 3: Financial criteria](#_heading=h.sqyw64).
4. **Combined analysis:** This evaluation will be conducted based on a combined analysis, analysing all of the relevant costs, risks and benefits for each proposal. The combined analysis includes the scores from both the technical evaluation, including factors such as risks, sustainability, and others, and the financial evaluation, using a predefined weighting method.

The maximum number of points that an applicant may obtain for its proposal are as follows:

* Technical proposal: 80 points
* Financial proposal: 20 points

The maximum total number of points an applicant may obtain for both the technical and financial proposals is 100. The weighting of the technical and financial proposals will be 80:20.

UNOPS may request clarification or further information in writing from applicants at any point during the evaluation process. In this case, any response from an applicant shall not modify the substance of the proposal, including both the technical and financial aspects of the proposal. UNOPS may use such information to interpret and evaluate the relevant proposal.

The evaluation of a proposal by UNOPS shall be carried out against the evaluation criteria described in the following tables.

## Preliminary screening

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Table 1 FORMAL AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA | |
| **Criteria evaluated on a pass/fail basis during the preliminary screening** | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** |
| 1. The applicant is eligible as defined in Article 1, “Applicant Eligibility” in the [Instructions to Applicants](https://content.unops.org/service-Line-Documents/Infrastructure/Grant-Support-Call-for-Proposals-Instructions-to-Applicants_EN.pdf). | * **Proposal** * **Annex 1: Declarations** |
| 1. The proposal is complete and includes all completed forms and other documentation requested in the [Particulars, ‘Content of proposal submissions’](#_heading=h.qsh70q). | * All documentation requested in the [Particulars, ‘Content of proposal submissions’](#_heading=h.qsh70q) |
| 1. The applicant accepts the conditions in the template for agreement, as specified in the [Particulars, ‘Type of legal instrument’](#_heading=h.23ckvvd). | * **Annex 1: Declarations** |

## Technical evaluation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Table 2 TECHNICAL CRITERIA | |
| **Criteria evaluated based on scoring during the technical evaluation** | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** |
| The maximum number of technical points obtainable is detailed in [Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation](#_heading=h.1egqt2p).  To be technically compliant, applicants must obtain a minimum threshold of 70% of the total obtainable points. | * **Proposal** * **Copy of audited financial statements for the last 2 years** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Table 2.1 Parts of the technical proposal evaluation | **Obtainable points** |
| **1.** | Applicant’s capacity and expertise | 20 |
| **2.** | Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan | 25 |
| **3.** | Key personnel proposed | 15 |
| **4.** | Past experience  **Final reports, and/or reference letters from two most recent projects, in the past 2 years.** | 15 |
| **5.** | Mitigation measure to the risks to successful implementation | 5 |
| **Total technical proposal points** | | 80 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Table 2.1.1 Part 1: Applicant’s capacity and expertise | | |
| **No.** | **Criteria to be evaluated** | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive) | **Obtainable points** |
| **1.1** | The applicant has the general organizational capability to support effective implementation: management structure; financial stability and project financing capacity; management controls; and the extent to which any work would be sub-granted/contracted. | * **Proposal** * **Copy of audited financial statements for the last 2 years** | 2 |
| **1.2** | The applicant has relevant specialized knowledge and experience in similar activities. | * Proposal | 8 |
| **1.3** | Lessons learned by the applicant from other projects are factored in the proposal for the implementation of the proposed grant support project activity(ies). | * Proposal | 10 |
| **Total points for Part 1** | | | **20** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan | | |
| **No.** | **Criteria to be evaluated** | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive) | **Obtainable points** |
| **2.1** | The applicant’s proposed approach and methodology is consistent with objectives and targeted outcomes of the grant/funding and the objectives of the project activities under which this grant/funding opportunity is available. | * Proposal, Section 3 | 10 |
| **2.2** | The activities proposed under the Implementation Plan are aligned with the proposed approach and methodology. The Implementation Plan demonstrates the applicant's capacity to plan and implement the grant support project activities within the identified timeliness. | * Proposal, Sections 3 and 4 | 10 |
| **2.3** | The applicant has identified tangible outputs that clearly support the achievement of the expected outcomes. | * Proposal, Section 4 | 5 |
| **Total points for Part 2** | | | **25** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Table 2.1.3 Part 3: Key personnel proposed | | |
| **No.** | **Criteria to be evaluated** | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive) | **Obtainable points** |
| **3.1** | The composition and structure of the applicant’s proposed team is appropriate and the proposed management roles and other key personnel roles are suitable for the implementation of the grant support project activities. | * **Proposal**, Sections 6, 8 and 9 | 10 |
| **3.2** | The applicant describes and justifies its plan for the size and composition of its team. | * **Proposal**, Section 6 | 5 |
| **Total points for Part 3** | | | **15** |

## Financial evaluation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 3 FINANCIAL CRITERIA | | | |
| **Criteria evaluated based on a cumulative analysis methodology during the financial evaluation** | | **Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** | **Obtainable points** |
| **1.** | Total Budget: A maximum of [insert number] points will be allocated to the lowest total budget. Total budgets of other substantially compliant applicants will be scored according to the following formula:  Points for budget amount =  [lowest total budget amount] x [maximum points allocated for the total budget amount] —----------------------------------------------------  [Total budget amount of proposal under evaluation] | * **Annex 3: Financial proposal** | 10 |
| **2.** | Applicant organizations comply with the maximum budgets stipulated in the [Budget requirements](#_qwnfy8pt24r6). | * **Annex 3: Financial proposal** | 4 |
| **3.** | The applicant has provided sufficient justification of budget lines and lump sums. | * **Annex 3: Financial proposal** | 2 |
| **4.** | The allocation of budget among different categories is appropriate, particularly the allocation between activities and the operational budget. | * **Annex 3: Financial proposal** | 2 |
| **5.** | The applicant’s cost estimates and the assumptions made for such estimates are reasonable. | * **Annex 3: Financial proposal** | 2 |
| **Total financial proposal points** | | | **20** |

1. Sub-grant is when an entity is selected by the implementing partner to implement activities on behalf of the implementing partner and complies with the same principles as outlined in the UNOPS Operational Instruction on [Grant Support](https://content.unops.org/documents/libraries/policies-2020/operational-directives-and-instructions/management-of-unops-partners-and-resulting-agreements/en/OI.IPS-Grant-Support-2.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Contracting is done when an implementing partner procures services, goods or works using the procurement procedures of the IP. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Each Grant Support Agreement will cover the budget of the first phase and may be amended in due time to include the budget of the subsequent phases. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)