

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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Cape Town, South Africa
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NGOs CONSULTATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: NGO OBSERVERS

CIVIL SOCIETY OBSERVERS TO THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

This note suggests a process for selecting and inducting observers to the Climate Investment Funds. It is based on discussions amongst current observers alongside the partnership forum, as well as the recommendations of the IUCN report presented to the Trust Fund Committee in 2010, and discussions facilitated by Resolve. The core recommendations presented in the note have the expressed support of the majority of current CSO observers to the fund. A separate note on suggestions for strengthening engagement with civil society, including in partnership with civil society observers will be circulated.

SELECTION CRITERIA¹

1. The individual nominated for the observer role must have a demonstrated affiliation with an established non-profit organization with verifiable connections to networks that are actively engaged on issues relevant to the Climate Investment Funds, both within the region, and/or at the global level. The organisation should be accredited with the UNFCCC or the World Bank. Observers should demonstrate their capacity to make links with groups and networks outside of their home country, including grassroots-level and community-based organizations.²
2. Knowledge of the purpose, functions, and operational modalities of the Climate Investment Funds in the context of global efforts to mitigate climate change
3. Understanding of environmentally sustainable development, social justice, and equity are essential for all of the funds. Substantive understanding and strong links to networks engaged on relevant issue areas for each of the funds is essential including:
 - a. **Clean Technology Fund:** Energy, transport, electricity, electrification and renewable energy, environmental sustainability
 - b. **Forest Investment Program:** Tropical forests, ecosystems biodiversity, conservation, land use and agriculture, community forestry, forest communities, policy and governance
 - c. **Pilot Program on Climate Resilience:** Climate risk, adaptation and vulnerability, resilience, local governance, water, health, desertification, biodiversity
 - d. **Scaling Renewable Energy Program:** Renewable energy, as well as rural development, benefits and livelihoods
4. Political skill and negotiation experience
5. Commitment to open and transparent communication
6. Ability, interest, and capacity to consider the needs and concerns of the larger community (not only own organization/network/community) and to report back to the larger stakeholder community
7. Disclosure of the scope of engagement with the Multilateral Development Banks Export Credit Agencies, and governments in areas relevant to CIF programming in order to avoid conflicts of interest

¹ Some observers have suggested that a national observer system in CIF pilot countries should be established and incorporated into the governance of the CIF. This concept could potentially be incorporated into proposals for monitoring program implementation and results management.

² Capacity to tap into such networks will be of paramount importance for monitoring implementation of CIF programs.

8. Ability and willingness to influence the process, stay engaged, and prepare for the meetings
9. Ability to read, understand, and speak in English³
10. Special efforts will be made to recruit observers from pilot countries for each fund in the respective regions. A balance of observers from pilot countries and non-pilot countries may be sought.

OTHER SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

11. Gender balance
12. A balance of advocacy/watchdog organizations, policy institutions/ think tanks, service delivery / implementation-oriented NGOs, and community networks.
13. One CSO observer from each region: Latin America; Africa; Asia; and Developed Countries.
14. For the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), groups working on indigenous peoples' issues in the context may be prioritised

SELECTION PROCESS

Observers recognise the efforts made by Resolve and the CIF administrative unit to facilitate a credible selection process, and improve engagement with civil society stakeholders, despite challenges.

We propose that the application process for observers be re-opened following the close of the current Committee meetings, as there was a lack of clarity on the criteria that observers would have to meet, and the process by which they would be selected when the original invitation of expressions of interest was submitted in May 2011. Key organisations that would have significant value to add to the CIF process have not yet been made aware of the process, or had the opportunity to express their interest. The following process and timeline for a selection process is proposed:

- 1) Within the next three weeks, a renewed call for expressions of interest in the Observer selection process.
 - a. Notification of the revised criteria should accompany the call for expressions of interest.
 - b. Four weeks should be allowed from the date of re-opening the call for expressions of interest and the close of the application process.
- 2) Rigorous screening to ensure that candidates will meet the revised criteria and be effective in serving as observers to the fund. This process should be completed as soon as possible, but ideally within 5 to 6 weeks from the close of the current Committee meetings. To this end we recommend:
 - a. An initial shortlist of observers that meet the criteria is developed by an independent organisation after screening initial expressions of interest. A further in-depth screening of these candidates is needed. The independence of the individuals and organisations that conduct this screening is important to ensure the integrity and

³ The majority of observers are in agreement on this criteria.

legitimacy of the process. They should work with the support of a supporting committee of civil society organisations to undertake basic due diligence on the short-listed candidates. They should conduct (telephonically or in person where possible) to gauge interest, capacity and commitment to the CIF process. A record of outreach, presentations, publications and other signals of active engagement should also be considered. Current civil society observers to the CIFs should be invited to nominate members to the Advisory Committee.

- b. A final shortlist of at least 3 candidates from each region for each of the funds should be put to a vote from the broader civil society community. Such a vote will necessarily need to be managed electronically, and special measures will need to be taken to prevent fraud. We recommend a registration system for voting NGOs be put in place.
- 3) A database of the interested civil society stakeholder should be developed through this process for the use of the Admin Unit to facilitate improved and ongoing outreach to civil society

TERMS

The large majority of observers agree that terms should be staggered. There is value in having at least one of the current observers for each fund stay on for one additional year. Views are split on whether terms should be 2 or 3 years. This will allow some continuity and opportunity for mentoring / knowledge exchange between existing and new observers. It will also be important to ensure that continuing observers meet the revised criteria. Continuing observers could be selected on the basis of:

- an independent review of the performance of the existing observers, including alternates, although this may be time consuming and difficult within the time frame identified and impractical. The assessment must be independent and not a self assessment.
- voluntary decisions to step down (although this may not achieve the objective of ensuring that continuing observers meet the new selection criteria)
- a blind vote to select which observers terms could be extended. This vote could be done by members of each trust fund committee

ALTERNATES

A number of possibilities for the alternate position are possible:

- An alternative from the organisation that is serving the observer can serve as the alternate
- An observer that is not able to attend can nominate a representative from another organisation in their region that has been monitoring the issues closely
- An observer that is not able to attend can ask another observer from their region for a different fund to attend in their stead

CSO OBSERVER ORIENTATION AND COORDINATION

To support observers to fulfil their responsibilities, the following orientation and support measures are proposed.

The administrative unit could coordinate the development of a handbook outlining the structure of the CIF meetings, the kinds of interventions, contributions, and forms of engagement that have been made, and emphasising the continuing scope for civil society to use this space in creative ways. Current CIF observers could contribute to and coordinate the production of the handbook. There is now a body of experience from observers including analysis of the fund's operations; communicating relevant research conducted by other organisations to the fund; ensuring that information about investment plans reaches stakeholders in developing countries; bringing the complaints and concerns of other civil society organisations to the attention of the fund; etc. The observers themselves could make substantive contributions to the handbook. This will also help maintain institutional memory regarding the operations / history of the various funds.

This handbook could serve as the basis for an enhanced orientation session for new observers.

The suggestion has also been made that a coordinating mechanism / council of CIF observers be supported, primarily through email and internet discussion. The inputs of former / alumni observers to deliberations of the observer group could be included through this mechanism. The administrative unit could provide space for CIF observers to meet every two years to reflect on progress, challenges and opportunities for strengthening observer and civil society engagement with the CIFs.