

Terms of Reference for the Independent Expert Group of CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program

a) Background and purpose

1. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) was established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate finance to developing countries in support of low-emission, climate-resilient development. The CIF business model is characterized by six main features:
 - Country-led programmatic participatory approach enabling the design and implementation of strategically linked investments aligned with national priorities and building on existing efforts and strategies
 - Delivery of financing through multilateral development banks (MDBs) working together in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of coherent large-scale investment packages for cross-sectoral interventions responding to countries' priorities and objectives
 - Large-scale investment packages helping to create and deepen markets, stimulate private investments, and drive policy reform
 - Scaled-up, predictable, and flexible envelopes of concessional resources
 - Consideration of system transformation and social inclusion at the outset
 - Participatory and multi-stakeholder approach geared to effectively engaging non-state actors within the civil society and private sector
2. To maximize the comparative advantages of CIF's proven business model in support of accelerated climate action in priority areas, the CIF Administrative Unit and partner MDBs developed four new strategic programs in areas seeking to drive the "*rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructures, and industrial systems*"¹ called for by the international scientific community. The new strategic programs are the following: *CIF Renewable Energy Integration, CIF Smart Cities, CIF Industry Decarbonization, and CIF Nature, People, and Climate.*
3. CIF Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program seeks to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of human activities and climate change on land resources and ecosystems services. By fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments, and direct investments for improved use of land and natural resources. The program is premised on a *landscape approach*² that will enable CIF and its implementing partners to further contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts while contributing multiple benefits (GHG mitigation, resilience strengthening of lands and communities, improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction) and progress toward sustainable, just and equitable rural development.
4. The CIF has put out a call to invite interested and eligible recipient country governments to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to participate in the CIF NPC Program. The call for EoIs

¹ IPCC (2018), *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C*, [Summary for Policymakers](#).

² A landscape approach deals with large-scale processes in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner, combining natural resource management with environmental and livelihood considerations. The landscape approach also factors in human activities and their institutions, viewing them as an integral part of the system rather than as external agents. (FAO 2012).

estimates the indicative range of CIF funding allocation per country of approximately 50 million USD.

5. As specified in the [Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs](#) approved by the CIF governing body, an independent expert group is to be established to review and rank Eols submitted by countries eligible and interested in participating in the new CIF program.

b) Mandate of the independent expert group for the CIF NPC program.

1. The independent expert group will perform the following tasks in consultation with the CIF Administrative Unit and the MDBs:
 - a. Evaluate country Eols submitted to the AU against the assessment criteria in Table 1 below and questions posed in the NPC Eol form, which are based on Sections 6 and 7 of the Country Selection Process document.
 - b. Present to the relevant CIF governing body a ranked list of countries for the CIF NPC program and produce a report on the methodology and analysis conducted to reach that ranked list
2. The CIF Administrative Unit will supervise the independent expert group activities, with the CIF partner MDBs providing strategic and technical guidance.

c) Criteria and general composition of the independent expert group

1. The group will be composed of an inter-disciplinary team of **six experts**, acting in their personal capacities, and chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas relevant to CIF NPC Program.
2. Selection of experts will consider geographic and gender balance and work to ensure diverse backgrounds/experience are encompassed by the team.
3. The expected timeline for the work of the Expert Group will be **mid-July to mid-September 2022. with the presentation of the final report to the CIF governing body expected in October 2022.**
4. Specialists to be included in the Expert Group:
 - a) Should have at least 12 years of experience in area of technical expertise relevant to the NPC Program.
 - b) Past experience working in developing country contexts (including small island states) is required.
 - c) Prior history working with or for multilateral, regional, or international organizations is preferred.
 - d) Experience private sector financing modalities for NBS would be looked upon favorably.
5. While specifically meeting the above general principles, it is proposed that the composition of the six-person group should reflect a wealth of knowledge and experience on climate change mitigation and adaptation practices in developing countries, including the land and ecosystems transitions, and will *collectively* hold in-depth knowledge of the following disciplines:

- a) **Climate change mitigation.** Including understanding the latest science on short-term and long-term climate emissions. Knowledge of methodologies for quantifying Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions resulting from practical Nature-based interventions, including avoiding forest/peatland/coastal conversion; protecting and restoring coastal and inland water systems; agroforestry; regenerative farming; agroecology; enhancing soil carbon stocks, etc.
 - b) **Climate Change Adaptation.** Climate change risk and vulnerability analysis. Familiarity with integrated ecosystems-based planning and natural management measures that strengthen and expand an area's/community's resilience to climate change impacts (e.g., climate smart agriculture, ecosystem-based adaptation, drought mitigation, water delivery, storage and management, disaster risk reduction etc.).
 - c) **Natural Resources Management.** Understanding of Nature-based Solutions to climate change derived from environmental management of agriculture (e.g., sustainable crop intensification, livestock rearing and commodity supply chains), and natural resource management (e.g., forest, coastal, water catchment, and biodiversity management, etc.). Familiarity with and knowledge of successful private sector financing models for nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation that generate livelihood and biodiversity co-benefits.
 - d) **Climate Change Policy/Governance.** Familiarity with critical country policies and development processes, including national development plans and policy responses aimed at natural resource management, poverty alleviation and both mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts.
 - e) **Economics.** Expertise in environmental economics related to natural resource management and rural livelihoods, circular economy and the challenges posed by undertaking key adaptation and mitigation measures in critical forest, agriculture and livestock, coastal, and water systems.
 - f) **Governance and Institutions.** Knowledge of institutional and organizational issues underlying climate change action at various levels (local, national, regional, global). Expertise in formal and informal rules and accountability structures that shape intergovernmental processes and relations between key sectors.
 - g) **Social Development.** Familiarity with social and community issues, including Indigenous Peoples issues and rights; gender equality issues as they relate to climate change; sustainable livelihoods and social issues in agriculture, natural resource management, coastal and other climate-sensitive sectors. Understanding of the social dimensions of climate change governing the global climate change negotiations regime.
6. Applications for independent expert group members should include the expert's **name, contact information, cover letter which details areas of expertise and suitability for the position, and a resume demonstrating professional experience and expertise in the target areas.** Applicants must also disclose if they have potential conflicts of interest (e.g., they work on behalf of a government that is submitting an EoI or are currently employed by a CIF partner MDB). Prospective experts can apply to more than one CIF expert group, though experts will only be able to serve on two expert groups for CIF's new programs.

7. The CIF Administrative Unit and MDB Committee will review all applications against the qualifications outlined in the call and prepare a proposed expert group composition to present to the relevant CIF governing body for review and approval.
8. When formed, the group will select two co-chairs: one a national from an CIF eligible recipient country and the other a national from a CIF contributing country.

d) Assessment and Eol ranking methodology

1. To assess and rank countries' Eols and make recommendations to the relevant CIF governing body, the independent expert group will undertake the following tasks:
 - a) Review the quality of responses in submitted Eol forms by applying the assessment criteria and weighting outlined in Table 1.
 - b) Review the official documents annexed or referenced in the Eol.
 - c) Undertake additional desk research as needed. The program-specific indicators included in Table 2 of this document can be considered, in addition to other relevant information and indicators that are available at a country or, for regional programs, region level.
 - d) If required, interview country representatives to better understand their context-specific circumstances, absorptive capacity, and priorities and opportunities for climate action.
 - e) Consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that prospective countries meet the 'MDB Partnership' criteria in Table 1 and the *CIF- Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs* document are taken into consideration.

e) Deliverables

Through the CIF Administrative Unit, the independent expert group will submit to the relevant CIF governing body a final report that includes the following components:

- a) A ranked list of Eols from eligible countries for CIF NPC Program.
- b) Relevant methodological notes and justification that led to the proposed ranking
- c) Assessment of key issues and shortcomings possibly encountered in the assessment process and recommendations for improvements
- d) Concluding remarks on the recommended ranked lists
- e) List of stakeholders consulted

f) Proposed sequence of milestones

1. The independent expert group must meet the following milestones:
 - a. Independent expert group virtual meeting
 - b. Independent expert group meeting and report writing
 - c. Report of independent expert group submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit and shared with the MDBs
 - d. CIF Administrative Unit submission of independent expert group report to the relevant SCF governing body
 - e. Representative from expert group to present findings and recommendations to SCF governing body
 - f. Expert group to be available to respond to governing body questions.

2. The primary components of the expert group's work, as described in steps a-d of the preceding paragraph, are expected to take 6-8 weeks from **mid-July to mid-September 2022**.

g) Roles and responsibilities

1. The independent expert group is responsible for preparing and submitting through the CIF Administrative Unit a report to the relevant CIF governing body, including a ranked list of countries and/or regions for CIF NPC Program.
2. The CIF Administrative Unit will service and coordinate the independent expert group process and will provide general guidance to the group.
3. The CIF partner MDBs will provide strategic and technical guidance during this process.

h) Remuneration

Experts will be remunerated in accordance with World Bank rules and regulations on procurement of consultants.

i) Applications

Applications for the expert group should only be submitted through the CIF Administrative Unit service account - **cifadminunit@worldbank.org**. Applications received through any other means will not be accepted.

Table 1: Criteria for assessing Eols

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest	Criteria Weighting
<p>Vision and Ambition</p>	<p>The Eol demonstrates the country’s level of ambition as it relates to the CIF NPC Program and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change³ that follows a holistic, integrated, socially inclusive and gender equal approach. It explains the country’s potential to lead multi-sectoral investments on nature-based solutions to climate change through a landscape approach that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces or avoids GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and erosion of natural resources and systems across various sectors (e.g., forestry agriculture, animal husbandry, coastal fisheries, etc.) • Enhances the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources through ecosystems-based planning and natural management measures (e.g., climate smart agriculture, integrated cropping, rainwater harvesting and storage, drought mitigation, etc.) • Builds the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems (e.g., ecosystem-based adaptation; green and blue infrastructure, protecting and restoring coastal and inland water systems, buffering against sea-level rise and storm surge, planting and protecting mangroves and maintaining ‘Blue Forests,’ water management, etc.). • Supports the livelihoods of rural communities and indigenous peoples, empowerment of women, and the management of biodiversity 	<p>20%</p>
<p>Alignment and Complementarity</p>	<p>The Eol, including a limited number of annexes⁴, explains how the CIF Nature Program aligns with the country climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, SDG-related plans) and other institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the deployment of Nature based solutions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources and strengthen the resilience of lands and communities⁵. It demonstrates the country’s commitment to these strategies and plans, identifies any gaps in its legal</p>	<p>20%</p>

³ CIF’s Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) defines transformational change in climate action as strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems, with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The definition and dimensions of transformational change of may be further updated in 2020/2021 in collaboration with the TCLP. Please see the [TCLP webpage](#) for more information on this topic.

⁴ Note that annexes should be limited in pages and should not supplant information that needs to be included in the EOI template itself to respond to criteria.

⁵ For instance, incentive programs for corporates and producers; carbon pricing signals; monitoring, reporting and verification systems, etc.

	<p>framework that it needs to address to achieve Nature-based Solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation related goals, and progress towards achieving the strategies and plans.</p> <p>The EoI establishes the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals, demonstrates how CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available or complementary to existing ones, and the potential and pace for replication and transformational change in the sector.</p>	
<p>Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs</p>	<p>The EoI, including annexes, identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF NPC Program (as described in the NPC Program Design Document) and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, and, where possible, engage non-state actors, such as communities, NGOs, and private sector entities.</p> <p>Lines of action supporting mitigation and/or adaptation benefits, with both considered optimal.</p> <p>Specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's climate change commitment(s) should be referenced, such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, inland or coastal degradation, etc.</p> <p>Proposed actions should contribute to one or more of the following to be considered eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring natural ecosystems or enhancing forest, coastal, or soil carbon stocks, while supporting rural livelihoods - Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions, and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, while supporting rural livelihoods - Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, and developing livelihood options for local communities 	<p>15%</p>

	<p>- Addressing the climate vulnerability of coastal systems⁶ and communities</p> <p>An indicative estimate of climate benefits (mitigation, adaptation and resilience strengthening), and co-benefits (e.g., biodiversity) should be identified, as should the economic and social opportunities associated with the proposed activities.</p>	
MDB Partnership	The EoI provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and explains if and how the work envisioned under the program will build upon existing CIF-supported work. It reflects indicative investment opportunities with partner MDBs and other co-financing in the context of the NPC program.	10%
Leadership	The EoI confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	10%
Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization	The EoI, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources that are aligned with CIF modalities.	10%
Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality	The EoI, including annexes, identifies gaps women, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion face in access to sustainable use of natural resources. It explains how these gaps would be addressed by proposed activities. The EoI includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society.	15%

⁶ Coastal systems host an abundance of natural resources, on land and at sea, that provide vital ecosystem services and help buffer against severe weather events. These resources play a key role in the economic and physical resilience of coastal regions to existing and future challenges.

Table 2. CIF Nature, People and Climate Investments Program – Indicators for Consideration by the Independent Expert Group

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Historical GHG emissions from land-use change and forestry (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions FAO Stat
Historical GHG emissions from the agriculture sector (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions FAO Stat
Activities from the AFOLU sector included in the country’s relevant low-carbon development plans	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry , BUR submissions
Country’s tree cover loss	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index’s Tree Cover Loss indicator ⁷
Country’s sustainable nitrogen management index	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index’s Sustainable nitrogen management index ⁸
Mountain Green Cover Index (Changes in area of green vegetation in mountain areas: forests, shrubs, pastureland, and crop land) (SDG 15.4.2)	Most recent data	FAO data (links to SDG 15)
Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1)	Most recent data	FAO data (links to SDG 15)
Country’s vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index ⁹	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index
Country’s water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings

⁷ The Tale’s indicator measures the total area of tree loss in areas with greater than 30% tree canopy cover divided by the forest cover in the year 2000. It applies a five-year rolling average to better capture trends in forest management strategies. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

⁸ The Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index uses nitrogen use efficiency and crop yield to measure the environmental performance of agricultural production. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

⁹ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.