Procurement Notice Number: 121
Expression of Interest: Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program Advisory Services

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) requests Expressions of Interest in order to execute and implement high level services in accordance with developing and implementing GCAs Africa Adaptation Program.

INTRODUCTION
The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization that works as a solutions broker to catalyze action and support for adaptation solutions, from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate resilient future. Adapting to impacts of climate change provides a “win-win” for health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. The work of the GCA elevates the visibility and political importance of climate adaptation and facilitates solutions, such as smarter investments, new technologies and better planning to become more resilient to climate-related threats. GCA is a rapidly growing organization with offices in Abidjan, Beijing, Dhaka, Groningen, and Rotterdam.

The GCA has an ambitious 2020-2025 business plan with three pillars:
- Programs: GCA’s Programs include: Food Security; Using Nature for more resilient infrastructure; Water for Urban Growth and Resilience; Climate Finance; Youth Leadership
- Knowledge: Building adaptation knowledge globally and in countries through cutting edge knowledge products such as the State and Trends in Adaptation Report; Data and Knowledge Platform
- Advocacy and Awareness: Formulating policy messages to move adaptation agenda forward globally and in countries.

GCA’s work program in Africa is of paramount importance. All of the components of GCA’s Business Plan must succeed to support changing the momentum and pace of adaptation in Africa. Guiding GCA’s program in Africa are two flagships: 1) Africa Adaptation Accelerator Program (AAAP), co-created and implemented with African Development Bank Group (AfDB) to support African countries on key adaptation initiatives; and 2) State and Trends in Adaptation: Africa, a flagship knowledge publication prepared with the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), and regional and global knowledge partners to advance the knowledge base and provide evidence-based knowledge for African countries to take stock of progress and develop improved adaptation measures.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: AFRICA’S CHALLENGE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Nowhere are the challenges of achieving sustainable development in the face of a changing climate more acute than in Africa. Adaptation and investment in climate resilience remain high development and investment priorities.

Contributing a meager 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is more victim than contributor to climate change, with the bulk of its emissions deriving from deforestation and land use change. Climate change is already negatively affecting the continent’s progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and their important principle, that of “leaving no one behind”. While today’s one-degree Celsius warmer climate is already critically affecting Africa, warming in the range of three to four degrees Celsius would have disastrous consequences for the region, including extreme heat affecting the vast majority of the continent, heightened risks of extreme drought (particularly in
southern Africa), reduced yields and crop failures, and flooding. There is an urgent need to safeguard Africa’s future, as the continent continues to urbanize, modernize and develop according to African priorities.

Food security is a paramount priority and an acute issue in the region. Across Africa, agriculture is a dominant sector in the economies of most countries, accounting for between 30 to 40 percent of gross domestic product. The sector is a leading source of jobs for over two-thirds of Africa’s population. And yet, even though it has the potential to be an agricultural power on the global stage, challenges regarding productivity, policy frameworks and current climate impacts mean Africa is actually the world’s most food-insecure region.

The impact of climate change on Africa’s agriculture is already being felt and is set to become increasingly severe. A rise in average temperatures of 2 degrees Celsius by the middle of the century is projected to reduce expected yields by up to 20%. Vulnerability to climatic shocks is especially acute in dryland areas, which have a fragile ecology limiting agricultural potential. In these areas, land has already been degraded—de-forested, eroded, and nutrient depleted—over time, increasing its sensitivity to weather-induced shocks and reducing the resilience of rural populations and ecosystems. These drylands areas in Africa will only expand and shift as the result of climate change. Some zones might even become incapable of sustaining livestock production and intensive agriculture. According to the World Bank, in the driest scenario, the extent of drylands could increase up to 20%. Climate change impacts will be most immediately and acutely expressed through water, notably through changes in water quantity, quality and distribution relative to human needs and in extreme events, such as flooding and droughts. Along with climate, water dictates the diversity and distribution of the terrestrial biosphere. There is no doubt that water and its effective management are central to climate adaptation and resilience.

There is an urgent need to safeguard Africa’s future, as the continent continues to urbanize, modernize, and develop according to African priorities. It is estimated that by 2050 almost 60 percent of the people (800 million) in Africa will live in cities, increasing demand for transport, housing, water, and energy infrastructure. With the urban population in Africa projected to triple by 2050, Africa is one of the regions with the highest urbanization rates, leading to the increase of rapidly expanding cities. Some examples are Lagos, which has 17 million inhabitants, and Johannesburg, with a population of 13.4 million people. It is estimated that by 2050 almost 60 percent of the people (800 million) in Africa will live in cities, increasing demand for transport, housing, water, and energy infrastructure.

Africa’s growing cities will be increasingly exposed to climate shocks. To avoid locking cities into an irreversible pattern of vulnerability to rising sea levels, floods and other shocks, climate resilience will need to be built into the design and development, not just of cities themselves, but also of the wider range of urban infrastructure that is instrumental to their growth and sustainability, including water supply, drainage, and transport. To improve the conditions of these cities, an integrated approach is needed that focuses on the availability of infrastructure, the management of water systems, the availability of food, and the structuring of the cities in ways that optimize climate resiliency.

Urban water systems constitute a complex ecosystem whose health and balance are key to the resilience of cities and the communities that inhabit them. Urban water systems need to be seen in the context of their larger hydrological context. Industry, the environment, and citizens present competing demands within the city and across the basin. For example, mitigation of urban floods needs to consider upstream catchment areas. In order to build the resilience of any city, it is vital to understand and embrace the complexity of its urban water system. This means taking a holistic, water
cycle approach. A water resilient city is one that can cope, survive and thrive in the face of water-related shocks and stresses, and at the same time, adequately mitigate the impact on the urban system. It needs to also ensure consistent, adequate and high-quality water services for all its inhabitants and protect their wellbeing. Many cities lack the knowledge, capacity and financing necessary for effective climate change adaptation. Moreover, there remains a gap in understanding how incremental urban adaptation solutions can lead to faster and more long-term transformative adaptation. Transformative adaptation reorients urban climate actions around addressing entrenched equity and climate justice challenges. It focuses on systemic changes to development processes that improve people’s quality of life, enhance the social and economic vibrancy of cities, and ensure sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban futures.

It is clear that Africa has no choice but to adapt to climate change. The effect of the climate emergency will be felt across Africa, and across multiple sectors. The effect of climate change negatively affecting the continent’s progress towards the SDGs will only worsen on current trends. While efforts to mitigate the scale of change must increase drastically, efforts to mitigate the impacts also need to get going quickly. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) therefore supports African governments, city mayors, business leaders, investors, communities, and civil society in accelerating and scaling effective adaptation solutions to meet the climate challenge.

DELIVERABLES
In accordance with the above background GCA will require the following deliverables to be performed:

- Contribute, revise and update GCA’s Business Plan.
- Develop and implement GCA’s Results Monitoring System.
- Develop funding proposals to support GCA’s Adaptation Activities.
- Draft, formulate and promote GCA’s Policy Briefs on key topics.
- Formulate and contribute to GCA’s Partnership Action Plan.
- Formulate and implement GCA’s Private Sector Business Plan.
- Oversee and contribute to GCA’s Annual Report 2021.

REQUIREMENTS
If you wish to submit a proposal to provide the above services, please provide evidence of the following:

1. That you are a registered legal entity in your jurisdiction- (if applicable) (Please provide Registration Documentation /Company Profile/CVs for sole experts).
2. That your expert/s each have more than 20 years professional experience with international and/ or intergovernmental organizations in senior staff roles in climate adaptation in developing countries (Please provide documentary evidence).
3. That your expert/s have led at least two similar projects in line with the required deliverables of the project in the last three years in areas of climate adaptation activities in Africa (Please provide brief case studies).

HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST
The GCA looks forward to your EOI submissions to the following email address only:
procurement@gca.org

The closing date for submissions is 18.00 CET, 18th June 2021. Only those who have provided the required information in their EOI will be invited to submit proposals.