



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

Call for Partnership (CFP)

Water and Urban: Climate-resilient Water Services (CRWS)
Project

CFP Ref.: CFP-0007

CLOSING DATE: 21st November 2024

CLOSING TIME: NOT LATER THAN 16:00, Central European Time (CET)

INFO SESSION: Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 11:00 CET (meeting link will be shared on request).

CONCEPT NOTES RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE AND TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



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1. Background

1.1. Introduction to this Call for Partnership

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) invites registered non-profit organizations (including local and international non-government organizations, community-based organizations, universities, companies limited by guarantee) to submit concept notes for the development and delivery of a Climate Resilient Water Services Masterclass in various countries across Africa and South Asia.

1.2. Introduction to the Global Center of Adaptation

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 livelihoods, food security, water supply, health, security, and economic growth. The work of 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 Europe, Africa, and South Asia.

GCA’s ambitious 2020-2025 business plan and strategy have three pillars:

- Programs: Food Security; Using Nature for more resilient infrastructure; Water for Urban Growth and Resilience; Climate Finance; Youth Leadership.
- Knowledge: Building adaptation knowledge globally through cutting edge products such as the State and Trends in Adaptation Report and the Adaptation Knowledge Portal.
- Advocacy and Awareness: Formulating policy messages to move the global, regional, and local adaptation agendas forward.

2. Climate-resilient Water Services (CRWS) Project

2.1. Context & Overview

- **Water lies at the core of sustainable development, playing a vital role in both socio-economic development and ecosystem health.** It is central to societal growth and is closely tied to the delivery of nearly all the United Nations’ Sustainable Development goals. Water drives the supply and preservation of a wide range of ecosystem services, benefiting both people and nature. Given its cross-cutting and foundational nature, water is crucial for climate adaptation, bridging the climate system, human society, and the environment.
- **African countries face the challenge of recurring floods and droughts driven by climate change, which significantly impacts access to water services.** Recurring floods disrupt countries’ capacity to provide adequate water and sanitation services.
- **Climate change adds pressure to already strained water supply systems, posing a threat to achieving universal access to water.** Access to potable water and sanitation services in most African countries is currently less than 50%, with even lower access in rural areas. Although urban populations in countries like Kenya, Cote d’Ivoire, and Namibia benefit from improved water services, most of the rural population have limited access to equivalent level of service. Significant disparities exist across countries and climate change further exacerbates the challenges to provide safe water and sanitation services to both rural and urban populations.
- **The impacts of climate change on water resources in Africa are already evident; they create complex development challenges for communities, ecosystem integrity, and governments.** The growing frequency and intensity of wet and dry events, coupled with variable precipitation due to climate change, are impacting the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water across landscapes. Transboundary river basins face additional complexities, as collaborative management becomes crucial but challenging.
- **Strengthening climate adaptation capacity is essential to establishing resilient watersheds, building resilience of water services, ensuring water security under diverse climate scenarios, and supporting social and economic development.** Integrating climate change impacts and risks into watershed management, planning, and implementation – through both grey and nature-based



solutions - offers significant opportunities for enhancing ecosystem integrity and human well-being for the future.

- **Countries are investing in water resources management programs and projects to address local flooding and drought risks, adapt to climate change, and improve the climate resilience of water and sanitation services.** GCA provides technical assistance to International Financial Institution (IFI) - financed projects to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience is incorporated in project technical designs. This support leads to improvements in climate resilience of water and sanitation systems and contributes to the long-term sustainability of access to water and sanitation services.
- **Technical and institutional capacity building, along with financial support and partnerships is urgently needed to enhance the feasibility and effectiveness of climate adaptation solutions across physical, natural, and social infrastructure.**¹ GCA plans to contribute to capacity development efforts to ensure resilience of investments in water and sanitation services delivery. This will be done through a Climate-Resilient Water Services (CRWS) masterclass to build the capacity of government water sector officials, including water service providers in several countries in 2025, by collaborating with local institutions to ensure sustained expertise long after project implementation ends. The Climate-resilient Water Services masterclass will contribute to enhancing the capacity of national and local governments to accelerate and scale high-impact climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts in delivering water services. The CRWS masterclass seeks to continuously enhance capacity to promote a virtuous cycle of continuous reflection and improvement of tools, methods, and approaches. It will flexibly deploy targeted support through a suite of capacity building actions. This will enable the government water sector and other officials to address climate related challenges affecting the delivery of water and sanitation services under different climate scenarios. The CRWS masterclass will deliver practical knowledge relevant for climate resilient infrastructure planning and development, policy (i.e. legislation, regulation), climate resilient water utilities, and service delivery (both formal and informal) – serving the needs of diverse actors from all sectors (water resources, irrigation, fisheries, WASH), ensuring that capacity is built across these linked sectors in an integrated way.
- **GCA is seeking a capacity building partner to deliver a Climate Resilience Masterclass for government officials in several African countries.** GCA invites concept notes from partners with experience in delivering learning materials and facilitating training for public officials on climate resilience in water resources management, WASH, and other related disciplines in Africa. This learning program will focus on strengthening climate-resilient water services and will be delivered in at least seven countries.² The masterclass should be designed as a one week (five-day) intensive course in each country.

2.2. Project Objectives

- **GCA's Climate-Resilient Water Services masterclass aims to address the challenges related to climate change and water resources management.** GCA plans to partner with a qualified organization to develop and deliver a Climate-Resilient Water Services (CRWS) masterclass aimed at strengthening the capacity of government water sector officials and service providers in several African countries as part of its technical support to IFI-financed water and sanitation projects. The masterclass will deliver targeted learning materials and capacity building to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience are adequately considered in the design of water and sanitation investments. The CRWS masterclass will focus on:
 - Addressing the dual challenge of expanding and sustaining access to improved water services under a changing climate.
 - Enhancing the climate resilience of water services.
 - Strengthening the climate resilience of sanitation services.

2.3. Project Deliverables

The project deliverables include:

¹ IPCC, 2022.

² Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Namibia, and Mauritania.



2.3.1. Climate Resilient Water Services Masterclass handbook.

The Climate Resilient Water Services masterclass handbook will cover five modules, co-developed with GCA and GCA partners. The five modules will cover topics including the following:

- Introduction to water resources climate resilience and adaptation concepts.
- Understanding climate risks and water services resilience in the local context.
- Integrating climate resilience in Integrated Water Resources Management.
- Climate resilience and adaptation for surface water and groundwater supply schemes.
- Step by step guidance for ensuring climate resilient water and sanitation services, considering specific gender climate vulnerability and necessary actions.
- Building Climate Resilience in Rural and Vulnerable Communities, including gender considerations.
- Technology and innovation – monitoring (e.g. IoT, satellite data, etc.), predictive analytics and early warning systems, and circular economy (desalination, water reuse, and recycling).
- Step by step guidance for financing climate resilient water and sanitation services infrastructure.
- Climate adaptation options for enhancing climate resilience of water utilities.
- Effective incorporation of gender considerations in climate resilient water and sanitation services delivery.
- Financing climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Case studies and practical applications relevant for local environments.

2.3.2. Five Masterclass modules outlined (delivered in PowerPoint format), covering content including that outlined in section 2.3.1

2.3.3. Five-day masterclasses delivered in person to public service participants.

A five-day masterclass will be delivered by the partner organization in each of at least seven (7) countries in Africa.³ The target audience will include junior, middle, and senior level public and water utility officials. GCA will work together with the partner organization to identify and finalize the masterclass participant list for each country. The masterclass will be delivered in English or French, depending on each country's language preference.

2.3.4. Masterclass delivery report for each masterclass delivered.

A masterclass workshop report will be outlined after each CRWS masterclass delivery. The report will be in English, for English-speaking countries, and French for French speaking countries. For Cameroon, the report will be prepared in English and French.

2.4. Alignment with GCA Values and Commitment & Experience in Partnership Engagement

- Demonstrated support of the core values of GCA and its commitment to climate action and adaptation.
- Active engagement in partnerships and initiatives with, inter alia, United Nations, intergovernmental, national, subnational, industry or sectoral, non-governmental and other related organizations in support of climate, environmental and/or social causes.
- Demonstrated support of the principles of sustainable development, including inclusion and social and environmental corporate responsibility.
- Compliance with recognized environmental and social standards.

3. Submission Guidelines

3.1. How to Apply

- Only **registered non-profit organizations (INGO, NGO, CBO, Company Limited by Guarantee)** are eligible to receive a sub-grant from GCA.
- The organizations responding to this call **must meet the minimum eligibility criteria** and demonstrate their capacity to **implement all the technical criteria**.

³ Tentatively Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Namibia, and Mauritania. The final list of countries will be shared at the start of implementation of the project.



- The concept note and all supporting documents must be **submitted as a PDF**, no later than 21st November 2024, 16:00 **Central European Time (CET)** to subgrants@gca.org and cc'd to shaimaa.zakaria@gca.org .
- The concept note **must include**:
 - **Annex 1**: Concept note template addressing the details outlined in this call.
 - **Annex 2**: Completed Partner Information Document & Minimum Required Documents.
- An **information session** with all organizations interested in applying and learning more about the application process and project requirements will take place on **13 November 2024 at 14:00 CET**. The meeting can be accessed on that day and time. The link for the meeting will be shared on request.
- **Important to note**:
 - All interested registered non-profit organizations are encouraged to respond to this call and complete the templates in as much detail as possible.
 - Responses to **Annex 1** will be considered even if there is a lack of detail or if the form is incomplete.
 - Responses to **Annex 2** will be considered even if some details are lacking, if justified.
 - The template serves as a tool for interested organizations to showcase their technical expertise and experience in response to the call.
 - Organizations need only meet the minimum eligibility criteria to be considered.
- Concept notes **received after the closing date and time will not be considered**. Organizations will be notified once a decision about the Sub-Grant is made.
- For all questions or requests for additional information contact subgrants@gca.org with copy to shaimaa.zakaria@gca.org. The email subject heading should be clearly marked with the following information: **CFP-0007**.
 - If an interested organization has concerns about completing the template, please reach out to subgrants@gca.org .
- The concept notes and all supporting documents must be drafted **in English**.
- GCA reserves the right to decline disclosure of the specificity of decision derived by GCA mission due to reasons related to confidentiality.
- GCA reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions, and to annul the selection process and reject all submissions at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected implementing partners.

3.2. Process Overview

- After the deadline, all submissions will undergo an evaluation process.
- The most suitable partner will be selected based on the evaluation outcomes.
- The selected partner will be contacted to conduct a due diligence assessment through in-depth meetings.

4. Selection Criteria & Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the organization's eligibility, and the adequacy of the technical expertise of respondents. The evaluation consists of two sets of selection criteria:

- (1) **Minimum Eligibility Criteria**
- (2) **Technical Expertise**

The first section specifies the minimum eligibility criteria that an organization must meet to qualify for the call. This set of criteria is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Only organizations that pass this initial assessment will proceed to the next stage.

The technical expertise is evaluated based on the relevance and depth of experience and expertise in relation to the criteria outlined in the call, specifically how well these align with achieving the expected results.



4.1. Selection Criteria

The eligibility and selection criteria are outlined in the table below.

Criteria	Description	Score
EC	Minimum Eligibility Criteria	Pass/Fail
EC1	Evidence of registered not-for-profit entity status with a legal presence and registration	
EC2	Expertise in the following: Climate Risk Analysis, Nature-based Solutions, Climate Adaptation and resilience, Water Resources Management, WASH, Irrigation, Water Governance, Groundwater management, Water Utilities Management, Natural Resources Management, postgraduate program delivery, extension service delivery, and gender.	
EC3	Experience in work in locations of interest to GCA (i.e., Africa, South Asia, Small Island Developing States).	
EC4	Established working presence in a country in one of the following African regions: East, Central, Southern, or West Africa.	
EC5	A minimum of 10 years of experience delivering programs in water resources management (including groundwater), climate adaptation and resilience, and natural resources learning, with a minimum of five (5) years specifically in sub-Saharan Africa.	
EC6	Bilingual in English and French. Knowledge of Portuguese is an added advantage.	
TC	Technical Expertise <i>Relevance of experience and expertise to achieve expected results</i>	Max Score: 100
TC1	<i>Relevance of technical expertise:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of project staff in delivering project objectives with evidence of past projects illustrating capability and successful delivery. ▪ Examples of established reporting and monitoring practices. 	25
TC2	<i>Relevance and level of experience in proposed approach and methodology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative techniques or strategies planned for project implementation • Examples from past projects to illustrate capabilities and success in using approach and methodology • Examples of established reporting and monitoring practices. 	25
TC3	<i>Relevance and level of expertise in proposed activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of similar activities successfully implemented 	20
TC4	<i>Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant successes from previous projects proofing ability to deliver similar outcomes. • Relevance of methodology to deliver expected outcomes. 	20
TC5	Language: Bilingual in English and French	5
TC6	<i>Alignment with GCA values and experience</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment to GCA values & commitments • Experience with partnerships engagement 	5
	<i>Scoring for Criteria is based on maximum points. Grading for each criterion under technical expertise will be conducted using the following scale: 0 = not included, 2 = scarcely included, 4 insufficient, 6 good enough, 8 good, 10 excellent to above expectations</i>	



4.2. Exclusionary Criteria

GCA will not engage with any entity whose public image is severely compromised by past activity or advocacy in one of the categories below, or in other areas which may be deemed, at any given time, to reflect negatively on GCA. GCA will not engage with institutions on the list of ineligible firms to provide services to any international financing institution (for example the World Bank Group, African Development Bank, etc.) or other GCA partner.

Name	Description	Score
EXC	Exclusionary Criteria	Pass/Fail
EXC1	Systematic failure to demonstrate support of the core values of GCA and its commitment to climate action and adaptation.	
EXC2	The organization is not involved in illicit behavior, including organized crime, trafficking, corruption, terrorism or violations of internationally agreed sanctions.	

4.3. Evaluation

After assessing whether organizations meet the minimum eligibility criteria, the organization with the highest score in the technical evaluation will be considered for the sub-grant. The scoring allows GCA to identify the most suitable partner.

A preliminary capacity assessment will be conducted based on the information provided in Annex 2. This assessment aims to identify organizational and programmatic risks and will not impact the evaluation scoring or partner selection. The insights gained from this assessment will inform the comprehensive due diligence assessment that the selected partner will undergo.



Annexes

Annex 1: Partner Concept Note Template (Outcome)

Respondents to the Call for Partnership are encouraged to complete the following concept note template in as much detail as possible. However, please be assured that your responses will be considered even if there is a lack of detail or if the form is incomplete.

1. Eligibility against Selection Criteria

- *Outline your organizations alignment with the eligibility criteria stated in the call.*

2. Project Interest & Organizational profile (max 250 words)

- *Explain your interest in applying to the call.*
- *Describe what qualifies you to successfully implement the project (for instance, relevant experience in similar processes in regions and/or areas of GCA's program).*

3. Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes (max 500 words)

- *Outline your organization's proposal to implement the activities described in the call.*
- *Provide examples of similar activities you have successfully implemented, highlighting any challenges faced and how they were overcome.*
- *Briefly describe how your organization's experience and expertise will contribute to achieving the anticipated project results.*
- *Highlight relevant successes from previous projects that show your ability to deliver similar outcomes.*
- *Focus on the correlation between your experience and anticipated results to build a strong case for your capability to meet project goals.*

4. Approach/Methodology (max 200 words)

Detail the organization's approach or methodology to implement the project/ Detail the organization's experience in implementing the proposed approach or methodology.

- *Describe any innovative techniques or strategies you plan to employ in implementing the project.*
- *Describe your organization's experience in implementing the proposed approach or methodology.*
- *Mention specific examples from past projects to illustrate your capability and success in using these approaches.*
- *Outline how your organization reports and monitors program activities.*

5. Commitment to GCA Values & Experience in Partnership Engagement

Outline how your organization aligns with GCA's commitment to sustainability and partnership engagement.

- *Describe demonstrated support of the core values of GCA and its commitment to climate action and adaptation.*
- *Outline experience engaging in partnerships and initiatives with, inter alia, United Nations, intergovernmental, national, subnational, industry or sectoral, non-governmental and other related organizations in support of climate, environmental and/or social causes.*
- *Outline support of the principles of sustainable development, including inclusion and social and environmental corporate responsibility.*
- *Outline compliance with recognized environmental and social standards.*



6. Summary Budget

Please provide a summary budget. **The tentative budget** will not be considered for evaluation but will be the basis for discussion while setting up the sub-grant agreement. Please note that the budget should be in Euros.

Expenses	Amount (€)
Direct Personnel Cost	
Consultants	
Transportation/Travel Costs	
Direct Project Activities	
<i>Outcome 1</i>	
<i>Outcome 2</i>	
<i>Outcome 3</i>	
Total	

7. Timeline

Specify how you would implement the project within the proposed timeline.

Dates	Milestone / Deliverables
	▪
	▪
	▪
	▪

Annex 2: Partner Information Document

Please complete the following information to the best of your ability. GCA will use this information to perform a preliminary capacity assessment.

Section 1. Organizational Overview	
Name of prospective partner	
Call Ref. Number	
Type of Registration (INGO, NGO, CBO, Company Limited by Guarantee)	
Registration (Please provide proof of registration)	Certificate No.
	Date of first Registration
	Expiry Date
Official Address	Postal Address
	Website/s
	E-Mail
	Telephone
Number of staff (Female and Male)	
Number of interns & volunteers (Female, Male)	
Name, position, email and mobile number of secondary contact of organization	
Geographical coverage	<i>Country, province, district</i>
Is your organization affiliated to any political, ethnic, or religious group, or armed group?	Y/N
	<i>If yes, explain</i>

Section 2: Share project donors, interventions and target population, outreach and program area implemented in the past 3 years					
Name of Donor	Role of Donor	Program Intervention	Program location (State/District/County)	Target Group	Outreach - # of beneficiaries



Section 3: Governance

Name your current Board members

Name	Sex M/F	Position on the Board	Date of joining	Profession	Contact (mobile and email)

Section 4: Senior Management Team Composition

Please provide names and qualifications of your senior management team

Name	Sex M/F/Prefer not to say	Position	Years in Position	Key Qualifications	Contact (mobile and email)

Please attach an organogram

Section 5: Funding sources in the past 3 years

Please provide a list of all your funders in the table below

Name of Funder/Donor	Contact Person and Email Address	Year when funding started	Funding Period (Years)	Amount of Funding (Indicate Currency)



Section 5: Funding sources in the past 3 years

Please provide a list of all your funders in the table below

Please attach audited financial statements and project audits for the previous 3 years.

Section 6: Policies & Procedures

Please provide a list of all your policies and procedures in the table below.

Policy/Document	Requirements	Policy Holder	Last Updated	Next Updated
Finance Policy				
Anti-Fraud & Anti-Corruption Policy				
PSEAH Policy				
Code of Conduct				
HR Policy				
Salary Scale and Fringe Benefits/Terms and Conditions of Employment				
Procurement Policy/Manual				
Cost Allocation Policy				
Internal Control Framework				
Risk Management & Risk Registration				
Monitoring & Evaluation				
Authorization Matrix				
Program Planning and Implementation Procedure/Policy				
Audited financial statement for past 3 years				



Section 6: Policies & Procedures

Please provide a list of all your policies and procedures in the table below.

Project audits for the previous 3 years				
Organogram				
Partnership Policy				
Add other policies as necessary				

Please attach copies of the policies listed above