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Call for Partnership (CFP) for the IsDB Zamfara State Climate Change Adaptation and Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (ZACADEP), Nigeria

GCA Food Security Program

CFP Ref.: CFP-0018

CLOSING DATE: 03 April 2025

CLOSING TIME: NOT LATER THAN 16:00 hours (04:00 p.m. o'clock), Central European Time (CET)

PROPOSALS 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 (CFP)

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) invites registered non-profit organizations (local and international non-government organizations, community based organizations, universities, companies limited by guarantee) to present proposals to provide technical assistance to the Zamfara State Climate Change Adaptation and Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (ZACADEP), in Nigeria, being implemented by the State Government of Zamfara (in Nigeria), and financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). GCA is providing technical support to strengthen the project's climate resilience through key interventions such as the assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities profile for the key commodities value chains and agricultural communities in Zamfara State; as well as, the supporting the design of a digital extension and early warning system; and the design and implementation of capabilities enhancement for climate adaptation programs in the State.

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 Abidjan, Beijing, Dhaka, Groningen, and Rotterdam.

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. Support Project

The Zamfara State Climate Change Adaptation and Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (ZACADEP), in Nigeria, aims to improve climate resilience, enhance agricultural productivity, and strengthen value chains for key crops in 14 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Zamfara State.

The project is financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in collaboration with the Government of Zamfara State, Nigeria and other development actors. GCA is providing climate resilience support to the project. In essence the project's key objectives are to:

- Increase agricultural productivity through improved inputs, mechanization, and irrigation.



- Enhance market access by investing in processing infrastructure and rural road networks.
- Strengthen climate adaptation measures through sustainable land and water management.
- Improve livelihoods by creating jobs in agro-processing and value chains.
- Support gender inclusion by empowering women and youth in agribusiness.
- Strengthen financial inclusion through microfinance and agricultural credit schemes.

GCA's specific interventions will focus on the following:

- Support climate risks and vulnerability assessment of the key commodities value chains and agricultural communities in the 14 local governments of Zamfara.
- Support the development of a statewide digital extension and early warning system.
- Support design and implementation of focused capacity enhancement for climate adaptation.

3. Sub-Grant Project

The key objective of the project is to transform Zamfara's agricultural landscape by building a climate-resilient and market-driven agricultural sector while addressing food insecurity, rural poverty, and economic vulnerability in one of Nigeria's most challenged States.

Specifically, the sub-grant project is seeking to strengthen the climate resilience of the ZACADEP Project. **GCA is seeking a partner organization to provide technical assistance for the assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities profile of selected commodities value chains and farming communities in 14 local government areas of Zamfara State; develop a framework and invest analysis for the establishment of an early warning system in the State; as well as, strengthen the capacity of project stakeholders for climate adaptation through targeted trainings.**

3.1. Project Outcomes & Outputs

The main expected outcome for the project is **to reduce poverty and enhance food and nutrition security for vulnerable populations in Zamfara State by sustainably developing agricultural value chains for selected crops** (rice, maize, millet, soya beans and groundnut).

Output 1	Support climate risks and vulnerability assessment of the key commodities value chains and agricultural communities in the 14 local governments of Zamfara.
Sub-Output 1.1	Produce comprehensive, in-state climate risk and vulnerability assessments that integrate gender responsiveness. The findings will inform the selection of priority value chains, and guide climate adaptation and resilience planning for the project.



Sub-Output 1.2	Engage/Convene stakeholders, in assessment processes and consultations to validate findings and ensure that gender-sensitive (women farmers-focused) challenges are addressed in the final assessment report.
Output 2	Support the development of a statewide digital extension and early warning system
Sub-Output 2.1	Generate a gender-inclusive digital agriculture and adaptation profile for Zamfara State that assesses the status of digitalization of climate adaptation advisory and early warning systems—including identifying capabilities gaps and opportunities for scaling.
Sub-Output 2.2	Generate ex-ante analytics/investment forecast for establishing and/or strengthening a gender-responsive digital extension and early warning system over the next 5 – 10 years in Zamfara—recommend potential financing sources (public and private).
Output 3	Support design and implementation of capacity enhancement for climate adaptation
Sub-Output 3.1	Produce a report on the gender-responsive assessment of specific climate adaptation capacity needs in Zamfara—including current capacity needs and gaps
Sub-Output 3.2	Design training plans and modules to address climate adaptation needs and gaps—ensuring active participation of all stakeholders in both the design and delivery of training programs (using delivery media that enhance accessibility for smallholder farmers, particularly those with lower literacy levels).
Sub-Output 3.3	Implement at least four (4) training sessions—in Zamfara state.
Sub-Output 3.4	Develop training curriculum and reports that incorporate gender-responsive digital climate information and advisory services; and synthesize key lessons and learnings from the training implementation to inform future training support.



4. Alignment with GCA Values and Commitment

- 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.

5. Submission Guidelines

5.1. How to Apply

- Only **registered non-profit organizations** (e.g., INGO, NGO, CBO, Universities, **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**.
- Proposals and all supporting documents must be **submitted as a PDF**, no later than **03 April 2025 by 04:00 p.m., Central European Time (CET)** to subgrants@gca.org and cc'd to Oluwabunmi.Ajilore@gca.org and Oluyede.Ajayi@gca.org.
- Proposals **must include**:
 - **Annex 1**: Project Document (proposal template) addressing the details outlined in this call.
 - **Annex 2**: Completed Partner Information Document & minimum required documents.
 - **Annex 2a**: Budget and Financial Report Template.
- **Important to note**:
 - All 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.
- Proposals 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 Oluwabunmi.Ajilore@gca.org. The email subject heading should be clearly marked with the following information: **Call for Partnership – IsDB Zamfara ZACADEP Project**.
 - If an interested organization has concerns about completing the templates, please reach out.
- Proposals 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.

5.2. 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.

6. Selection Criteria & Evaluation

The evaluation's purpose is to assess the organization's eligibility, and 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.

6.1. Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Score
EC	Minimum Eligibility Criteria	Pass/Fail
EC1	Evidence of registered not-for-profit entity status with a legal presence and registration in the project country	
EC2	Experience in the following areas: agricultural research and development, climate adaptation, climate risks and vulnerabilities assessment, crops value chain development, digital agriculture/digitalization of extension systems, digital early warning systems development, investment analytics for digital extension and early warning systems, and capacity building for climate adaptation.	
EC3	Experience in work in locations of interest to GCA (i.e., Africa, South Asia, Small Island Developing States).	
EC4	Established working presence in project country – Nigeria.	



EC5	Demonstration of regional experience of at least seven (7) years in implementation of similar tasks and projects in North-West Nigeria.	
TC	Technical Expertise Relevance of experience and expertise to achieve expected outcomes and outputs.	Max Score: 100
TC1	Relevance of organizational profile and experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience (at least 7 years) of working within the agricultural research and development, agricultural advisory sector in Nigeria—with specific experience working in the North-West States of Nigeria. • Experience working in the locations of interest of the project (i.e. North-West Nigeria). • Organizational capacity to design and implement capacity building for farmers, institutions and key project stakeholders on climate adaptation, digital extension services and early warning systems implementation. • Organizational capacity/credibility to convene all relevant stakeholders for capacity workshops and validation engagements. Experience working and convening relevant stakeholders on the ground must be shown. 	30
TC2	Relevance of methodology and approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of innovation, suitability, clarity, structure and sequencing of the proposed methodology in achieving project objectives (outputs and outcomes). • Previous experience applying in similar projects to achieve related outputs/outcomes. 	25
TC3	Relevance of proposed activities to achieving expected outcomes and outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of detail, clarity and relevance of the proposed activities and work plan to complete the project and achieve outcomes and outputs. • Demonstration of a thorough understanding of the project's objectives, outcomes and outputs—and in the key tasks and activities required to achieve them. • Demonstrated ability to manage all logistical aspects of capacity building and training events effectively. • Include description of potential capacity building/training modules. 	25
TC4	Relevance of institutional and project team expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 7 years, both institutional and project team, experience in the areas of expertise listed in TC1, and the specific projects outcomes and outputs (section 3.1.). 	15



TC5	Alignment with GCA values and experience <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>	

6.2. 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.

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.	

6.3. 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: Sub-Grant Project Document

To be downloaded from website

Annex 2: Partner Information Document

To be downloaded from website

Annex 2a: Budget & Financial Reporting Template

To be downloaded from website