

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: RG-X1244 P028

Selection Method: Competition Selection

Country: Regional

Sector: CMF/IFD

Funding – TC #: RG-X1244

Project #: ATN/CF-15571-RG

TC name: LAC Green Finance Program to Mobilize Private Investment in Mitigation Actions and Low-Carbon and Sustainable Business Models through National Development Banks

Description of Services: Green Bonds Transparency Platform Management Unit

Link to TC document: <https://www.iadb.org/fr/project/RG-X1244>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: March 4th, 2020, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

The objective of this consultancy is to hire an external firm that will provide high quality support to the IDB Connectivity, Markets & Finance Division (IFD/CMF) and will be responsible for operate and manage the Green Bond Transparency Platform for 20 months. The selected firm will therefore be responsible for the operational management of the Platform on a day to day basis and it will have operational autonomy in the ordinary management responsibilities of the Platform.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2765-1). All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described in the attached intended Terms of Reference for the assignment.

Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services, that will include:

- A team of dedicated qualified experts able to communicate both in English and Spanish and available to perform at full time different functions and activities identified in the attached terms of reference.
- Practical experience in the preparation, issuance and / or execution of green bonds (as examples, experience can be considered in activities as varied as bond structuring, verification of proceeds, validation or underwriting of the bond issuance).
- Experience in the execution and management of complex projects and in the coordination of multidisciplinary management groups;
- Participation in the preparation/execution of Green Finance projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Experience with investments and capital markets in Latin America and Caribbean.

The interested consulting firm can provide brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among existing staff, among others.

The Consultants with the best and significant experience will be selected to conform a shortlist of no more than six (6) firms and will receive an invitation to present proposals, in accordance with the information provided, procedures and rules set out in such invitation.

Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to: Maria Netto, mnetto@iadb.org; with copy to: Eduardo Sierra, eduardog@iadb.org; Evelyn Amaro, florama@iadb.org.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below by e-mail by March 4th, 2020. The estimated budget for this contract will be an amount of USD 1 million and will last 20 months, starting from July 2020.

Inter-American Development Bank

Division: [Connectivity, Markets and Finance \(CMF\)](#)

Attn: [Maria Netto, Financial Markets Lead Specialist](#); [Eduardo Sierra, Financial Markets Sr Specialist](#); [Evelyn Amaro, Consultant](#).

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Draft Executive Summary for the Request of Expression of Interest (REOI)

Terms of Reference – Green Bonds Transparency Platform Management Unit

INTRODUCTION

The transition to a green economy is crucial to ensure that the Latin America and the Caribbean Region can mitigate climate change and better hedge against climate risks. This transition requires substantial investments, for which Green Bonds emerge as a key financing instrument.

Transparent, accurate and timely information on the use of proceeds and impacts of Green Bonds is of essential value to investors. Supporting the harmonization of green bonds environmental performance data provides clarity for issuers and investors and can facilitate decision-making. Innovative technologies can simplify reliable, consistent, and traceable reporting.

In the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced the development of a Green Bond Transparency Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (GBTP or the Platform) that would receive expert input from key market players.

THE GREEN BOND TRANSPARENCY PLATFORM

The Green Bond Transparency Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean is an IDB project that will seek to support secure, consistent, transparent and reliable reporting of impacts generated by all green bonds in Latin America and the Caribbean, by allowing to track projects at use of proceeds level, in line with existing and evolving standards and methodologies and build a track record on the bond use of proceeds and generate confidence on the green bond market.

The Platform is currently under development with the aim to increase efficiency and ensure reliability, security and traceability of green bonds information.

The Platform will be open and updated by issuers and providers of external review services in real time and will be used by investors and other market players. Specifically, the Green Bonds Transparency Platform aims to:

- **Encourage** issuers by generating awareness about their green projects and investment portfolios.
- **Facilitate** green bond issuer pre- and post-issuance secure disclosure on use of proceeds and impacts.
- **Provide** investors with relevant and consistent information on environmental performance and impact.
- **Enable** informed investment decision making according to environmental performance criteria.
- **Lower the transaction costs** to analyze and select high-quality bonds.
- **Inform** about expected and realized project impacts.
- **Facilitate** the provision of external review services and lower transaction costs through the platform.

The Green Bonds Transparency Platform will be governed by the following principles:

- **Completeness:** All labelled green bonds issued in the Latin America and the Caribbean will be in the Platform
- **Transparency:** The Platform will allow to disclosure the use of proceeds, impacts, and methodologies and standards utilized
- **Traceability:** Simplified and automated processes leveraging DLT to ensure reliability, security and traceability of the bonds.
- **Comparability:** The Platform will facilitate data filters to assess the environmental performance by different criteria and methodology-linked data reflecting market practice and evolving green bonds guidelines, standards and methodologies

- **Openness:** The Platform will allow to get unrestricted easy access to all labelled green bonds issuances in LAC for issuers, external review service providers, investors and underwriters to present, verify and retrieve data on impact metrics and use of proceeds.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONSULTANCY

The objective of this consultancy is to hire an external firm that will be responsible for the operational management of the Green Bond Transparency Platform since its launch in July 2020.

The selected firm will therefore be responsible for the operational management of the Platform on a day to day basis. It will have operational autonomy in the ordinary management responsibilities of the Platform; however, it will respond to the IDB regarding strategic decisions or structural changes that are made and affect the functioning of the Platform¹.

The main functions expected to be fulfilled by the selected firm will be to:

- Attend the operational administration of the Platform and ensure its proper functioning
- Keep active Engagement and Outreach with all existing and ensure engagement of new issuers in the region
- Authorize and register users to upload data on the Platform
- Monitor the bond market, identifying latest methodologies, trends and new or potential issues for ensuring that the Platform reflects reporting requirements
- Develop and maintain relationship with users, including issuers, investors, standard setters, validators and public in general
- Ensure information and data on green bond issuances are efficiently updated on the Platform
- Development of technical content, data analytics, and market trends based on the platform data
- Carry out marketing and promotion activities with users, investors and other market players regarding the use of the Platform
- Prepare follow-up, budget and monitoring reports on the Platform activities and results
- Conduct administrative work related to the Platform

In addition, the firm is expected to liaise with and receive guidance from IDB and regularly report information to the IDB on the use of the Platform including but not limited to the number of registered and active users, bonds published on the Platform, general public users of the Platform (visitors), sponsors and / or investors supporting the Platform, ensuring that the Platform is running smoothly and highest reach possible.

Term of contract. The estimated budget for this contract will be an amount of USD 1 million and will last 20 months, starting from July 2020.

EXPECTED FIRM REQUIREMENTS

The selected firm is expected to have a renowned international prestige in industries or sectors related to the development of green finance.

Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the scope of services, that will include:

- Practical experience in the preparation, issuance and / or execution of green bonds (as examples, experience can be considered in activities as varied as bond structuring, verification of proceeds, validation, standard setting and application or underwriting of bond issuances).
- Experience in the execution and management of complex projects and in the coordination of multidisciplinary management groups
- Participation in the preparation/execution of Green Finance projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Deep knowledge and experience with investments and capital markets in Latin America and Caribbean.

The selected firm must be responsible for managing a team of experts, that can work fluently in Spanish and English, who are responsible for managing the operational activities of the Platform. With this purpose, the selected firm will

¹ A strategic decision will be those changes that affect the purpose of the Platform itself, its vision or business model. These alterations will have to be material and / or referred to changes in the operating regulations of the Platform prepared by the IDB.

be required to present a team of key specialists who will be in charge of the main administration functions of the Platform. Specifically, it is expected that, once preselected, firms will include in their proposal:

- A dedicated **senior business developer and GBTP manager** who will represent the Platform as an expert of recognized international prestige in the green finance industry.
- A dedicated **green bond technical specialist**, who will support and work together with the Senior Business Developer. The green bond technical specialist will prepare and coordinate a technical knowledge agenda using data from the Platform and being update on the evolving state of the art of green bond market and its trends in general, and impact reporting and the LAC market, in particular.

Both experts will represent the GBTP in key global, regional, and national events and workshops. A full-dedicated additional team will support in the following activities:

- Administrate the Platform and will engage and keep working relationships with issuers and other users to ensure data completeness.
- Provide services to ensure programing and backstopping to the Platform;
- **Provide administrative and legal backstopping** services to ensure day to day running of the platform, including budget management, documentation management and documentation track recording, legal advice on specific queries.

The overall management of the program should be undertaken at the offices of the selected firm and include operating and equipment costs.

Note: The most relevant factors in the selection process will be the indication of well-known experts in the main key dedicated expert positions. Also, it is essential that the firm can ensure these key staff could retain the position during the two years of execution (or be replaced by someone of similar level that will be decided by the IDB).