Terms of Reference

Climate Solutions Partnership

Issued August 2021

**Name of Programme Team: HSBC Climate Solutions Partnership**

**Overarching purpose:**

The overall aim of this assignment is to undertake a review of the current evidence and knowledge surrounding barriers to accessing finance for nature positive solutions including nature-based solutions.

**Background:**

WWF is one of the world’s largest independent conservation organisations, active in nearly 100 countries. Our supporters – more than five million of them – are helping us to restore nature and to tackle the main causes of nature’s decline, particularly the food system and climate change. We’re fighting to ensure a world with thriving habitats and species, and to change hearts and minds so it becomes unacceptable to overuse our planet’s resources.

WWF has partnered with HSBC and the World Resources Institute (WRI) to act as “Global Knowledge Partners” and support the development of a new USD98m, 5-year philanthropic programme. WWF-UK have been asked to advise them broadly across climate, nature and biodiversity as these issues relate to the finance sector. Our brief is to seek out the highest impact, game-changing solutions to climate change (i.e. renewables and more generally nature-based solutions), to demonstrate their viability, and support them to rapidly scale up.

This new HSBC programme will be a 5-year philanthropic initiative, focusing on identifying and scaling innovative and impactful solutions to climate change which are currently not commercially viable.

The goal is to enable systemic change by supporting an enabling regulatory & policy environment, demonstrate the commercial viability of sustainable business models, and promote the possibility of market development & financing.

There are 5 work packages to this program:

1. Energy transition in Asia
2. Innovation – low carbon ventures
3. Nature Based Solutions Accelerator
4. Sustainable Palm Oil in Asia
5. Global Knowledge Partnership

**Project scope and objectives:**

The overall aim of this assignment is to undertake a review of the current evidence and knowledge surrounding barriers to accessing finance at scale for low-carbon, nature positive solutions such as Nature Based Solutions (NbS).

We are particularly interested in understanding from the global finance perspective, what is preventing investment in nature positive solutions which may include nature-based solutions from an investors perspective. This is likely to be structural and behavioural barriers. Issues to consider may be lending rules, ESG rules, access to investments, evidence base for returns.

It may be useful to use case studies as examples of how these barriers have restricted investment in nature-positive solutions. It may also be useful to provide profiles of investors globally that are investing in nature-positive solutions.

The intended audience of this assignment is WWF-UK. Specifically, to help inform the theory of change for the Nature Based Solutions Accelerator work package. We may utilise the insights in this assignment to shape our program, including the learning and knowledge sharing component. This is focusing on NBS-projects in addition to potential investors of NBS.

**Timelines:**

Assignment to commence October 2021

Assignment to be complete mid November 2021. We suggest a 6 week assignment is sufficient.

**Roles and responsibilities [*if applicable*]**

WWF-UK is leading this piece of work, in partnership with HSBC and the World Resources Institute.

The supplier shall:

* be under the direction of the Design and Impact Advisor managing this assignment;
* commit to regular check-ins with WWF (at least weekly) and inform WWF if and when issues arise between these check-ins;

WWF shall:

* Work closely with the selected supplier;
* Provide feedback on draft versions of the report;
* Provide a list of resources which can be used as a starting point for research (including prospective interviewee names and documents);
* Be on hand to answer queries;
* Provide final sign-off of report.

**Submission of Proposal:**

Proposals should include:

* a proposed methodology for undertaking the review.
* relevant background of the supplier/consultant(s) involved, CVs of consultants   
  who will participate in the project,
* cost estimate for the project to include the daily rate, the number of days/breakdown of cost by task/milestone. Please also include any applicable charity discounts you may offer.
* detailed timeline for delivery by 17 November 2021.
* a brief overview of your organisation’s environmental and social activities

The proposal should be no longer than 4 sides of A4 plus CVs of participating consultants/suppliers

Proposals will be assessed using a selection of criteria, including: fit to brief, previous experience of consultancy, how quickly the work can be completed, value for money, credible proposed methodology.

**Closing date to submit proposals:** 30th September 2021

**Delivery of final report**: 17th November 2021

**Guidance on budget available**: £20-25,000

**Date:** 07/09/2021

**Commissioned by:** WWF-UK, Living Planet Centre, Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LL

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Suggested source reading:

Price, R. (2021) Nature-based Solutions (NbS) – what are they and what are the barriers and enablers to their use? [1006\_Nature-based\_Solutions (NbS).pdf (ids.ac.uk)](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/16737/1006_Nature-based_Solutions%20%28NbS%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)