Market orientation concerning Expert Consultant to provide Programme Support Facilitating Clean Cooking Transition

Reference number: 202611034

1. Organisation: The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (in Dutch: *Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland*, RVO) supports private and public organisations by providing funding, facilitating international partnerships, and offering access to knowledge and regulatory guidance. More information about RVO can be found on: www.rvo.nl and english.rvo.nl.

2. Programme

ReCCAWA (Regional Action for Clean Cooking in West Africa) is a regional programme that promotes the transition to clean, efficient and gender-sensitive cooking solutions mostly across the 12 ECOWAS member states. The programme is funded by the European Union and the Netherlands, and implemented through a partnership between ECREEE, AECID and RVO.
Despite significant progress in renewable energy deployment across West Africa, the majority of households in the region continue to rely on traditional biomass — firewood and charcoal — for cooking. This dependence drives indoor air pollution, deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and disproportionate health and time burdens on women and girls. Accelerating the transition to clean cooking requires coordinated action across policy, market development and demand stimulation.
Modern methods enable households, institutions and restaurants to cook in a healthier, safer and more efficient way. They produce less smoke in the home and reduce the need for firewood.
Women also spend less time collecting fuel and face fewer health problems. By providing access to clean cooking, ReCCAWA and its partners help to reduce indoor air pollution, reduce CO2 emissions, empower women, protect forests.

ReCCAWA activities take place in all ECOWAS countries: Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The programme's collaborative approach involves policymakers, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), institutions, sector organisations and NGOs.

ReCCAWA's goal is to promote market development of cleaner cooking solutions in the region, in the process providing 750,000 people in West Africa with access to clean, reliable and sustainable cooking solutions. The programme expects to contribute to reducing CO2 emissions equivalent to around 100,000 tons per year.

3. Purpose of the market orientation

The purpose of the market orientation is to identify the interest of organisations.

4. Purpose of the assignment

The objective of this assignment is to support RVO in close alignment with the implementation partners AECID and ECREEE with the steering, facilitation and connecting of ReCCAWA activities at regional and national level. This includes:

- Review and contribute to documents including concept notes, programmes, Terms of Reference, Requests for Expressions of Interest, Proposals for activities in the four impact areas of the programme;
- Support collection of knowledge, best practices and approaches to the benefit of improving programme implementation and the Community of Practice on clean cooking;
- Facilitate engagement and connections between partners, private sector, NGO and government entities in preparation, during and after the implementation of ReCCAWA activities;
- Represent the ReCCAWA Implementation Partners during missions, meetings, workshops, trainings and seminars to identify priority areas of impact with partners, connect various components and fine-tune implementation arrangements where opportune;
- Report, draft, provide analysis, research, collect data in support of programming of ReCCAWA activities.

5. Requirements

The consultant(s) / consultant team should have at least the following profile:

- A minimum of seven (7) years of professional experience in the energy access or clean cooking sector, with a demonstrated focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and at least three (3) years' experience in West Africa.
- In-depth understanding of the clean cooking sector in West Africa, including market dynamics, technology options, supply chain structures and key sector actors.
- Experience working on policy and enabling environment topics, including engagement with government institutions, regulatory agencies and regional bodies such as ECOWAS or ECREEE.
- Experience with quality standards, testing centres and labelling frameworks for clean cooking technologies, at national or regional level.
- Experience with SME support, business development or access to finance in the energy access sector is an asset.
- Familiarity with carbon finance mechanisms relevant to the clean cooking sector.
- Experience with designing or reviewing Terms of Reference, concept notes or grant agreements in a development programme context.
- A network of relevant contacts across the focus countries: Togo, Benin, The Gambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, including in government, sector organisations and the private sector.
- Full professional proficiency (C1) in both French and English is required, including the ability to produce high-quality (C1) written deliverables in both languages.
- Availability of at least 75 days (1 day being 8 hours) per year and ability to travel in the region.

6. Extent and duration

The assignment is expected to comprise 150 expert days delivered in the period from 1 March 2027 – 1 December 2028. Most work may be done remotely through exchange of documents and online meetings at the consultant's own facilities.

7. Budget indication

Maximum of € 133,000 excluding Dutch VAT* and including any applicable local (foreign) VAT, as well as all other costs and fees. No rights may be derived from this indication.

*Given the nature of this assignment, which includes development cooperation that exclusively benefits a developing country, a VAT rate of 0% Dutch VAT applies to the amount specified provided the Contractor is established in the Netherlands and the organisation is registered as an entrepreneur for VAT purposes. More information on this matter can be found within the decree issued by the Ministry of Finance on 21 September 2015 (no. BLKB/2015/76M).

8. Application

Interested organisations are invited to send an expression of interest to RVO by sending an e-mail to Francis van der Maas, francis.vandermaas@rvo.nl of the Procurement Office. Please state the name of the contact person of your institution and his or her e-mail address. Please do not include any additional documents.

As a result of the market orientation RVO can decide to start a follow-up process.
Interested parties can be invited in this process to submit a request for proposal.
If more than 5 applicants respond to the market orientation, a supplier selection can take place on the basis of a selection prior to the request for proposal.

Please note: Participation in the market consultation is not a requirement for involvement in the follow-up process. No distinction will be made between those who did or did not participate in this initial market orientation.

9. Deadline

The deadline for responding to this market orientation is set at **9 December 2026.**

Yours sincerely,

Francis van der Maas
Procurement Officer
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Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
Netherlands Enterprise Agency