PRESIDENTIAL
CLIMATE COMMISSION
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

APPOINTMENT OF A SUITABLY QUALIFIED SERVICE PROVIDER TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS CASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIALLY OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT AT THE PERSEVERANCE INDUSTRIAL PARK IN NELSON MANDELA BAY, EASTERN CAPE

DATE OF ISSUE	17 February 2025
CLOSING DATE	Friday, 28 February 2025, 16h00

1. INTRODUCTION

The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) seeks to appoint a suitable service provider to develop a comprehensive business case for the establishment of a socially owned renewable plant at the Perseverance Industrial Park in Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape.

2. BACKGROUND

The PCC is a multi-stakeholder body established in 2020 by the President of South Africa to advise on the country's climate change response and support a just transition to a low-carbon climate resilient economy and society. The PCC conducts its work in an open and transparent manner with the aim of building social consensus around the complex and challenging decisions required to successfully navigate the climate transition. The PCC is committed to ensuring that the transition is socially just, and the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.

Procedural, distributive, and restorative justice are imbued in the programmes and projects of the PCC to realise a just transition. As the country transitions to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society, the shift away from fossil fuel to clean and renewable energy generation, the PCC seeks, through the transition, to redress historical socio-economic conditions and democratise energy generation through a range of ownership structures.

In 2024 the PCC published the Socially Owned Renewable Energy (SORE) Study which elevates concerns, risks, barriers, opportunities, and benefits of developing socially owned renewable energy plants in South Africa. Building on learnings from the global north and south, the paper proposes four models of socially owned renewable energy to be implemented in South Africa:

2.1 Mini-Grid Model - The Mini-grid model is recognised for the potential to benefit underserved communities, relieving energy poverty, and providing ownership and benefits to community members.

2.2 Township/Tenant Co-Op Model - The Township/Tenant Co-op model has the potential to provide energy security, cost savings, and stability, as well as address load-shedding issues.

2.3 Community Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement -This model is applicable to rural areas under communal land ownership, that is, through traditional authorities or communal property associations. In addition to have a share in the plant, communities' benefit through immediate rental income from the land.

2.4 Worker-Owned Renewable Energy model - The Worker-Owned Renewable Energy model received positive feedback for its potential to empower workers, reduce the risk of unemployment because of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and generate income.

The Perseverance Solar Park Project aims to tackle energy supply challenges, promote environmental sustainability, and drive socio-economic development in the

Perseverance Industrial Park, Nelson Mandela Bay. The region faces high unemployment, poverty, and infrastructure deficiencies. The project integrates renewable energy solutions while empowering marginalized communities through inclusive ownership, job creation, and vocational training.

The Perseverance Business Association and stakeholders propose developing a solar energy park to ensure power security, reduce the carbon footprint, and enhance local socio-economic conditions. This initiative aligns with the Presidential Climate Commission's SORE program and serves as a model for eco-industrial precincts nationwide.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant/service provider will be responsible for executing the following key activities:

3.1 Project Management

3.1.1 Develop a comprehensive project implementation plan, including timelines, milestones, and resource allocation.

3.1.1 Coordinate the execution of project activities to ensure alignment with objectives, budgets, and timelines.

3.1.3 Establish and maintain effective communication channels with stakeholders.

3.2 Feasibility and Technical Assessments

3.2.1 Conduct a detailed feasibility study to assess the technical, financial, and operational viability of the solar park.

3.2.2 Identify and evaluate potential sites for solar park infrastructure, including environmental impact and suitability assessments.

3.2.3 Analyse regulatory and compliance requirements, including local, national, and international standards like CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism).

3.3 Business Case Development

3.3.1 Based on the feasibility study findings, develop a robust business case for the solar park, including:

3.3.2 Financial modelling and projections.

3.3.3 Cost-benefit analyses.

3.3.4 Identification of funding and investment opportunities.

3.3.5 Strategic recommendations for scaling and replication.

3.3.6 Ensure the business case aligns with stakeholder goals and attracts funding from public, private, and international sources.

3.4 Stakeholder Engagement

3.4.1 Design and implement a stakeholder engagement strategy to foster collaboration among the Perseverance Business Association, government bodies, community members, and private investors.

3.4.2 Organize and facilitate meetings, workshops, and public consultations.

3.5 Ownership and Partnership Models

3.5.1 Evaluate social ownership models and develop the most appropriate model addressing ownership and governance structures.

3.5.2 Propose partnership structures to attract investment and encourage stakeholder buy-in.

3.6 Capacity Building and Vocational Training

3.6.1 Conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify the skills requirements of the solar plant and the needs of related industries.

3.6.2 Engage with local educational institutions and vocational training centres to gather insights and explore potential partnerships for future collaboration.

3.6.3 Provide a detailed report with findings and recommendations based on consultations, outlining the most relevant capacity-building and vocational training initiatives to address identified gaps and needs.

3.9 Environmental and Social Governance (ESG)

3.9.1 Develop a detailed ESG framework for the project, incorporating principles of sustainability, circular economy practices, and community engagement initiatives.

3.9.2 Provide recommendations for ongoing ESG monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure compliance with best practices and long-term sustainability goals.

3.10 Identification and Acquisition of Land

3.10.1 Guide the team on any Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) applicable to the project, including legal, regulatory, and procedural requirements, stipulating the requirements to comply

3.10.2 Provide recommendations to ensure land acquisition aligns with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, incorporating sustainable and ethical practices.

3.11 Policy and Regulatory Compliance

3.11.1 Address policy issues related to land acquisition, water use, and renewable energy generation, and any regulations.

3.11.2 Liaise with municipal and national authorities to ensure project compliance with relevant legal frameworks.

4. DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAMES

The following deliverables are envisaged in line with the indicated delivery timelines:

DELIVERABLE/ ACTIVITY NO.	DELIVERABLE/ACTIVITY	TIMELINE
1	Inception Meeting	One (1) week after signing of contract
2	Detailed Project Implementation Plan • A comprehensive project plan outlining timeline, milestones, resource allocation, and monitoring mechanisms. • Risk management and mitigation strategies to address potential challenges during implementation.	
3	**Feasibility Study Report** • A detailed assessment covering the technical, financial, and operational viability of the solar park. • Evaluation of potential sites, including environmental and regulatory compliance analyses. • Recommendations addressing policy, land acquisition, water use, and energy sector regulations.	
4	**Business Case Report** • A robust business case providing: • Financial modelling and cost-benefit analysis. • Funding strategies, including potential public-private partnerships and international grants. • Strategic recommendations for scaling and replication of the solar park model.	
5	**Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Reports** • A strategy document outlining approaches for effective collaboration with key stakeholders, including community representatives, government agencies, and private investors.	three (3) months after signing contract

	• Documentation of stakeholder consultations, agreements, and resolutions	
6	**Ownership and Partnership Model Framework** • A report proposing equitable ownership structures, such as community and worker ownership models. • Recommendations for sustainable partnership structures to secure investments and long-term stakeholder commitment.	Four (4) months after signing contract
7	**Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) Integration Plan** • A detailed ESG framework incorporating sustainability, circular economy practices, and community engagement initiatives. • Recommendations for ongoing ESG monitoring and reporting mechanisms	
8.	**Land Identification and Acquisition Report** • Guidance on applicable Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and regulatory requirements. • Recommendations to ensure land acquisition aligns with ESG principles and sustainable practices.	
9.	**Policy and Regulatory Compliance Report** • A summary of regulatory requirements and actions taken to ensure compliance with local and national policies. • Analysis of the project's alignment with CBAM and other international frameworks.	
10.	**Policy and Regulatory Compliance Report** • A summary of regulatory requirements and actions taken to ensure compliance with local and national policies. • Analysis of the project's alignment with CBAM and other international frameworks.	
11.	**Final Project Implementation Report** • A consolidated report summarizing all activities, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during the project. • Recommendations for replication of the Perseverance Solar Park model in other regions.	

5. Action Plan and Proposed Implementation Plan

5.1 The project will be executed in six key phases:

5.1.1 Phase 1: Feasibility Study

- Conduct technical feasibility studies, including Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) analysis.
- Explore community-centered social ownership models.
- Engage stakeholders to address regulatory, environmental, and land acquisition issues.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Business Case Development

- Develop a comprehensive business case based on findings from the feasibility study.
- Outline the financial, social, and environmental justifications for the solar park project.
- Identify funding requirements, projected returns on investment, and economic multipliers.
- Address key risks and propose mitigation strategies.
- Present the business case to potential investors, government bodies, and stakeholders to secure funding and commitments.

5.2.3 Phase 3: Planning

- Finalize detailed designs for the solar park infrastructure.
- Develop comprehensive business plans, incorporating the approved business case.
- Secure necessary permits and regulatory approvals.

5.2.4 Phase 4: Pilot Phase Implementation

- Secure land for the pilot phase and install solar panels at Borbet SA.
- Provide accredited training for local technicians and engage local SMMEs for implementation.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns to build community support

5.2.5 Phase 5: Full-Scale Implementation

- Expand solar installations across the Perseverance Cluster.
- Implement community and worker ownership models.
- Support youth- and women-owned SMMEs with grants, technical assistance, and mentorship programs.

5.2.6 Phase 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team to oversee project outcomes.
- Conduct stakeholder surveys, environmental audits, and progress assessments.

- Use feedback mechanisms to refine strategies and explore replication of the model in other regions.

6. PROJECT TEAM

The successful individual/project team must demonstrate the following relevant experience:

6.1 Renewable Energy Expertise: Demonstrated experience in solar energy project design, development, and implementation.

6.2 Business Case Development: Strong background in financial modelling, cost-benefit analysis, and investment planning.

6.3 Project Management Skills: Proficiency in managing large-scale, multi-stakeholder projects within defined timelines and budgets.

6.4 Feasibility Study and Technical Analysis: Ability to conduct detailed technical, financial, and environmental impact assessments.

6.5 Community Engagement: Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including community groups, businesses, and government agencies, with a focus on collaboration and inclusivity.

6.6 ESG Integration: Knowledge of environmental, social, and governance principles, as well as expertise in implementing sustainable practices.

6.7 Vocational Training and Capacity Building: Expertise in identifying skills gaps and designing training programs tailored to the needs of disadvantaged groups

6.8 Regulatory Knowledge: Familiarity with South Africa's renewable energy policies, land use regulations, and compliance standards.

7. PROJECT GOVERNANCE

The Project will be led and coordinated by a project manager from the PCC Secretariat and a PSC (project steering committee) will be established to oversee the implementation of the entire project. The PSC will be finalised during project inception and will continue to manage the project until completion.

TIMEFRAMES

8. PROJECT TIMELINES

The project is scheduled to be completed within 9 (nine) months, after the signing of the contract.

9. REQUIREMENTS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDER

Any person (natural or juristic) may make an offer or offer in terms of this bid. In-line service providers must submit the following documents as part of the response to this request for quotations:

9.1 COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTATION

- CIPC Company registration documents.
- Tax clearance certificate issued by SARS.

9.2 PROPOSAL DOCUMENTATION

- The proposals must contain the following, with a table of contents, referenced by number and in the order below.

9.2.1 COMPANY PROFILE

- Brief description and history of the bidder's firm, and any proposed subcontractor(s).
- Include length of time in business, number of employees, and core competencies.
- If using sub-contractor(s), please, include the same information as above for anyone else assisting with the project.

9.2.2 BRIEF COVER LETTER

Name and address of vendor, name, and address of the person submitting the quotation, including management and directorship responsibilities (who is authorized to make representations for the organization?)

9.2.3 TECHNICAL APPROACH

Detailed proposal on how the project is going to be outlined.

9.2.4 BUDGET AND PRICING

- Detailed breakdown of the proposal budget, including cost, expenses and pricing.
- Detailed breakdown of project phases cost.

9.2.5 QUALIFICATIONS OF CORE PROJECT TEAM

- Detailed CVs of the individual and/or members of the team that will be working on the project indicating the experience and qualifications of all team members.
- Staff who will be involved in this project, titles, and their respective qualifications.

9.2.6 SERVICE PROVIDER MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO DEMONSTRATE EXPERIENCE

- Short descriptions of previously completed similar arrangements, including,
- Three signed client reference letters from contactable references linked to these assignments

10. SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

10.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

To meet the requirement for appointment the preferred service providers, the bidders should demonstrate competence and expertise and will be evaluated in terms of the following criteria:

The minimum functionality points of seventy (70%) are required to qualify to be evaluated for pricing. The following evaluation criteria will be utilized:

5= Excellent, 4 = Good, 3 = Satisfactory, 2 = Poor, 1= Unacceptable

The below matrix will be used in scoring the submissions:

EVALUATION CRITERIA	**% ALLOCATION**	**GUIDELINE FOR CRITERIA APPLICATION**
Competence and expertise of bidder measured in years of experience and other indicators		
A. What is required	**% Allocation**	**Application of evaluation criteria**
Detailed company experience measured in company operational experience on similar or related projects	30%	5 = 10 or more years of experience 4 = 6 - 9 years of experience 3 = 5 years of experience 2 = 3 - 4 years of experience 1 = 1 - 2 years of experience
The project lead and team's CV display an extensive experience in ESG, Stakeholder Management and Environmental Management. Qualifications: Masters/ Degree in Environmental Science or Developmental Studies and Social Science.	30%	5 = 10 or more years of experience with relevant master's or degree qualification 4= 9 or more years of experience with relevant master's or degree qualification 3 = 8 or more years of experience with relevant master's or degree qualification 2= 7 or more years of experience with relevant master's or degree qualification

		1 = 6 or more years of experience with a relevant master's or degree qualification
B. Similar projects completed		
What is required	**% Allocation**	**Application of evaluation criteria**
Client reference letters bearing the letterheads from former clients on similar/related completed projects as set out above. Reference letters that do not meet the listed requirements will not be considered.	20%	5 = 3 reference letters 3 = 2 reference letters 1 = 1 reference letter
C. Methodology and Approach		
What is required	**% Allocation**	**Application of evaluation criteria**
Provide a detailed methodology, timing, and approach for the delivery of the full program, indicating a clear understanding of the project brief and a realistic implementation	20%	5= detailed methodology 4= adequate methodology 3= satisfactory methodology 2= poor methodology 1= Unexpectable

8. CONTRACTING AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The African Climate Foundation is the fiscal host of the PCC for some of its donor funds and will be the contracting party for this work, on behalf of PCC

11. DISCLAIMER

This RFQ is a request for quotations only and not an offer document. Answers to this RFQ must not be construed as acceptance of an offer or imply the existence of a contract between the parties. By submission of its quotation, bidders shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms & Conditions of this RFQ.

The PCC makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsements to tenderer concerning the RFQ, whether about its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and the PCC shall have no liability towards the tenderer or any other party in connection therewith. The final decision and successful appointment will be made by PCC and no correspondence will be entered into thereafter. The PCC reserves the right to cancel this bid or ultimately decide not to appoint any service provider in terms of this call for quotation

11.1 To Note

11.1.1 The final decision and successful appointment will be made by the Presidential Climate Commission, and no correspondence will be entered into thereafter.

11.1.2 The PCC reserves the right to cancel this bid or ultimately decide not to appoint any service provider in terms of this call for quotations.

12. SUBMISSION AND ENQUIRIES

12.1 The deadline for submission of quotations is 28 February 2025 at 16h00. No extensions of the deadline will be considered.

12.2 Service providers should send their quotation and accompanying relevant documentation to SCM at procurement@climatecommission.org.za ONLY!

12.3 Procurement queries regarding this RFP should be emailed to Abdul Rashid Cassim at Abdul@climatecommission.org.za

12.4 Technical enquiries regarding this RFQ should be emailed to Devan Pillay at devan@climatecommission.org.za