

Terms of reference (ToRs) for the procurement of services below the EU threshold

**PRIORITISATION OF BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATION MEASURES**

**Project number/
cost centre:**

19.9010.0-005.00

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0. List of abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
AGB	Above Ground Biomass
BdeM	National Bank of Mexico
BGB	Below Ground Biomass
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GTCC	General Terms and Conditions of Contract (GTCC) for supplying services and work 2022
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCCRP	National Climate Change Response Policy
NDC	National Determined Contribution
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Context

Blue Carbon is the carbon stored specifically in seagrasses, salt marshes and mangrove forests. Blue carbon ecosystems are among the most productive on Earth and although blue carbon ecosystems cover less than 2% of the area of the global ocean, they are critical carbon sinks and are a key component of the global carbon cycle.

One of the most valued ecological roles of blue carbon ecosystems is carbon storage and sequestration. Blue carbon ecosystems can store up to 10 times more carbon per hectare than terrestrial ecosystems. In addition to their carbon sequestration benefit, blue carbon ecosystems also provide considerable biodiversity and socio-economic value and are prioritized for conservation. Blue carbon ecosystems are also considered the most vulnerable ecosystems on the planet as they are disappearing at an alarming rate in the tropical and subtropical to warm-temperate regions worldwide, through development pressure and habitat destruction. As climate change continues to escalate, it is unlikely that emissions reductions alone will be sufficient to curb the current trends in global warming, and therefore measures implemented towards enhancing carbon dioxide (CO₂) removals will be necessary.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, South Africa has made commitments towards reducing emissions, and aiming to achieve a just transition towards a resilient, low-carbon economy. While the largest sources of CO₂ emissions in the country are from the energy sector, the land sector has the largest potential to contribute towards CO₂ removals and shall include blue carbon ecosystems. In 2021, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) have carried out a “Scoping Study for a Blue Carbon Sinks Assessment in South Africa” to provide information on the carbon storage and sequestration potential of blue carbon ecosystems in the country and identify climate change mitigation opportunities for these ecosystems.

The results from the Blue Carbon Sinks Assessment have served as a critical step towards ensuring blue carbon ecosystems in South Africa are secured for the critical ecosystem services that they provide for biodiversity and socio-economic development, as well as for their potential to be incorporated into climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The study has made clear that South Africa has an opportunity to implement targeted climate change policies for marine and coastal ecosystems.

South Africa is also signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is part of the current negotiations for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The targets currently under consideration as part of the GBF include: “that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.” Furthermore, estuaries are under-represented in the protected areas estate of South Africa with only 18% of ecosystem types and 1% of estuarine area well protected. There is a long-term national target of 26% for the protection of mangroves, 24% for Arid Estuarine salt marshes, 24% Cape Estuarine salt marshes and 24% for Sub-tropical Estuarine salt marshes (National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy, 2016). According to the Blue Carbon Sinks Assessment (2021), recording the change in seagrass areas is more challenging than mangroves and salt marsh as they are submerged. Therefore, no percentage (%) is available on the long-term national target for protection of seagrasses.

Understanding the ecological dynamics of blue carbon ecosystems is key to the identification and implementation of appropriate climate change interventions as it can be used to determine in which blue carbon ecosystems can restoration measures and carbon stock enhancement be carried out. There is therefore a need to undertake a national assessment of blue carbon

ecosystems to understand their vulnerability, ecological functioning and to identify the potential contribution blue carbon ecosystems can make to South Africa's conservation estate and national restoration targets for ecological infrastructure.

The purpose of these Terms of Reference (ToRs) is to support the DFFE in the prioritisation of blue carbon ecosystems for design and implementation of restoration measures as part of operationalising the post 2020 GBF. The work and tasks to be undertaken by the contractor is explained in detail in the following sections.

2. Tasks to be performed by the contractor

The contractor will undertake a national assessment of blue carbon ecosystems to quantify the extent of degradation over time and determine which blue carbon ecosystems should be prioritised for protection and restoration measures. This work will be commissioned in a series of four (4) phases. The first phase will be the project inception phase. The second phase comprises a literature review of blue carbon ecosystems in South Africa. The third phase will start with generation of a national blue carbon ecosystem cover map, development of a baseline for changes in blue carbon ecosystems and to present the results of the baseline during a knowledge exchange workshop and participate in an international learning exchange. The fourth phase will involve consolidating and report writing of the findings in the form of a project closeout report. The report must use the baseline data to provide advice on an approach for implementation of policy and management in different blue carbon ecosystems, as well as contain a table with possible partners and spatial locations of prioritised blue carbon ecosystems, in addition to where implementation can be initiated in the short, medium, and long-term. The service provider must adhere to the structure as set out in the ToRs.

The contractor will be responsible for providing the following services:

Phase 1: Project Inception Phase

- The service provider is expected to participate in the inception meeting as scheduled by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC will consist of members from the DFFE Biodiversity and Risk Management, Climate Change Monitoring, Evaluation and Mitigation Chief Directorate and the GIZ. In this session, the service provider will be expected to present on the methodology, approach, and timelines as proposed. The service provider will further document the discussions (in minutes) as well as decisions taken during the inception meeting.
- Following the inception meeting, the service provider will prepare an inception report for consideration and sign-off by the PSC. The inception report must reflect decisions taken during the inception meeting, the project timelines and proposed knowledge transfer to DFFE officials.
- Following this meeting, the service provider must coordinate and convene monthly progress meetings with the PSC. The service provider must set up a recurring calendar appointment with tentative dates for the progress meetings. The service provider is expected to prepare and submit formal meeting minutes for PSC meetings.

OUTPUT: A project inception report that captures the decisions and timelines agreed upon during the inception meeting.

Phase 2: Literature Review

- The service provider must undertake a literature review of blue carbon ecosystems in South Africa. The review must document deforestation, forest degradation, as well as biodiversity loss occurring in blue carbon ecosystems. Furthermore, the literature review should also document degradation and biodiversity loss occurring in mangrove, salt marshes and seagrass ecosystems.
- The literature review must provide detailed information of the state of blue carbon ecosystems with focus on two aspects as listed below:

Carbon benefits:

- Carbon storage in the above ground biomass (AGB), below ground biomass (BGB) and the soil.
- Description of GHG emissions and carbon sequestration within blue carbon ecosystems.
- Carbon storage potential of intact blue carbon ecosystems.
- Area available for restoration, expansion, and protection.

Biodiversity Conservation

- Drivers of human induced biodiversity loss.
- Description of patterns and trends of biodiversity loss.
- Other disturbances causing biodiversity loss in blue carbon ecosystems.
- Biodiversity benefits of healthy and intact blue carbon ecosystems.

Socio-economic benefits

- Benefits of intact and healthy blue carbon ecosystems.
 - Threats to livelihoods resulting from degradation of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses including spatially explicit information on populations benefitting or depending on these ecosystems.
 - Socio-economic development opportunities linked to restoration.
- The DFFE will make available the scoping study for a blue carbon sinks assessment to the service provider and relevant spatial datasets developed during the scoping study as a key resource during project implementation (**Annexures A – C**).

OUTPUT: A literature review report on the state of blue carbon ecosystems in South Africa.

Phase 3: Development of a baseline for changes in blue carbon ecosystems and participate in one (1) knowledge exchange workshop and one (1) international learning exchange

- The service provider must develop a baseline for changes in blue carbon ecosystems to support the further development of policies and strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the restoration efforts in these ecosystems. The data sources, assumptions and methodologies used for this activity should be clearly explained.
- The baseline must assess and cover the following aspects with regards to blue carbon ecosystems:
 - True extent (area coverage): The 1990, 2014 and 2018 national land cover maps show inconsistent extents of blue carbon ecosystems. Therefore, there is a need to determine the true area and area changes for monitoring and evaluation of changes over time.
 - The service provider must generate a national land cover map of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses within marine and estuarine ecosystems to enable total area coverage and change in extent between the periods 1990, 2014 and 2018 to be determined. The DFFE will make available the national land cover datasets for the three time periods.
 - The service provider will collate information on drivers of degradation, transformation, and biodiversity loss for blue carbon ecosystems in different estuaries. The list of drivers must include the extent of alien invasive plant infestation and bush encroachment, as well as specific details about what needs to be done to address the drivers in the different estuaries investigated.
 - The information on drivers of degradation, transformation and biodiversity loss should also include which industries and sectors are the main causes of driving the degradation, as well as the social and economic costs of reducing the drivers of degradation and biodiversity loss.
- The service provider must prepare to present the results of the baseline during a knowledge exchange workshop. The knowledge exchange workshop should engage with stakeholders working on a parallel project to pilot the implementation of restoration measures in the Berg River estuary, as well as to learn from the ongoing implementation experience in order to develop appropriate interventions for blue carbon ecosystems.
- The service provider is expected to set up a virtual meeting for the knowledge exchange and distribute the invitations to the relevant stakeholders. Relevant details required for the knowledge exchange arrangements will be provided by the DFFE and the GIZ.
- The National Bank of Mexico (BdeM) is working on a study that focuses on financial instruments for rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems which is being supported by the GIZ. The service provider is expected to participate in an international learning exchange with the BdeM on financial instruments for rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems. The service provider must prepare to present the data sources, assumptions and methodologies used to develop the baseline for changes in blue carbon ecosystems. The international learning exchange will be facilitated by the GIZ.

- The service provider is expected to prepare and submit formal meeting minutes for the knowledge exchange and international learning exchange.

OUTPUTS: (1) A comprehensive blue carbon ecosystems dataset that can be integrated with the national land cover map, (2) One stakeholder knowledge exchange workshop to present the results of the baseline, and (3) One international learning exchange with BdeM.

Phase 4: Project completion and closeout

Develop a report on the ownership and level of protection of blue carbon ecosystems

- There is a need to establish the extent at which blue carbon ecosystems fall within state-owned land protected areas to be able to enhance their level of protection. The service provider must investigate the percentage split of blue carbon ecosystems that fall within protected areas, private lands, and communal lands.
- The service provider must use the above information to provide advice on an approach for the protection, rehabilitation and expansion of blue carbon ecosystems, and the scope for implementation of policy and management of the different blue carbon ecosystems investigated. The advice on the approach must detail the measures available for rehabilitation and protection including a cost benefit analysis of their implementation.
- Each blue carbon ecosystem must be ranked according to a level of priority from the highest priority to the lowest priority. The criteria used to rank the ecosystems as well as for choosing the measures to be implemented must be clearly outlined.
- The service provider must also generate a table with the spatial location of blue carbon ecosystems and recommendations where implementation can be initiated in the short, medium, and long-term, the nature of the interventions, as well as possible partners that can support with the implementation of the interventions.

OUTPUT: A project close out report containing policy, management advice, and a table with spatial locations where interventions can be implemented, level of priority, and possible implementation partners.

Certain milestones, as laid out in the table below, are to be achieved by certain dates during the contract term:

Table 1: Project deliverables and timelines

Deliverables	Timelines
Phase 1: Project inception phase	
a) Inception meeting; and b) Inception report	a) Meeting within two (2) weeks of contract signature b) Report within two (2) weeks after inception meeting
Phase 2: Literature Review	

A literature review report on the state of blue carbon ecosystems in South Africa	One (1) month after inception meeting
Phase 3: Development of a baseline for changes in blue carbon ecosystems and participation in one (1) stakeholder knowledge exchange workshop and one (1) international learning exchange	
1. A comprehensive blue carbon baseline dataset	Two (2) months after inception meeting
2. A stakeholder knowledge exchange workshop	Three (3) months after the inception meeting
3. An international learning exchange	Four (4) months after the inception meeting
Phase 4: Project completion and closeout	
Project closeout report	Five (5) months after the inception meeting

Period of assignment: From 1 December 2022 until 31 May 2023.

3. Concept

In the bid, the bidder is required to show how the objectives defined in Chapter 2 are to be achieved, if applicable under consideration of further specific method-related requirements (technical-methodological concept). In addition, the bidder must describe the project management system for service provision.

Technical-methodological concept

Strategy: The bidder is required to consider the tasks to be performed with reference to the objectives of the services put out to tender (see Chapter 1). Following this, the bidder presents and justifies the strategy with which it intends to provide the services for which it is responsible (see Chapter 2).

The bidder is required to present the actors relevant for the services for which it is responsible and describe the **cooperation** with them.

The bidder is required to present and explain its approach to **steering** the measures with the project partners and its contribution to the results-based monitoring system.

The bidder is required to describe the key **processes** for the services for which it is responsible and create a schedule that describes how the services according to Chapter 2 are to be provided. In particular, the bidder is required to describe the necessary work steps and, if applicable, take account of the milestones and contributions of other actors in accordance with Chapter 2.

The bidder is required to describe its contribution to knowledge management for the partner and GIZ and promote scaling-up effects (**learning and innovation**).

Other specific requirements

See the requirements for interns under Section 4: Personnel Concept

Project management of the contractor

The project will be led and coordinated by the DFFE Climate Change Monitoring, Evaluation and Mitigation Chief Directorate, with support from DFFE Biodiversity and Risk Management Chief Directorate and the GIZ. Both organisations will be responsible for ensuring the planned activities and results are delivered on time and within budget. The contract will be administered by the GIZ. All intellectual property generated during or as a result of this project will be the property of the DFFE and GIZ and is not to be shared or published without the written approval from the Department.

A project steering committee (PSC) will be established to support the implementation of the project. All services performed and deliverables submitted will be evaluated by the DFFE and GIZ and must be approved and signed off by the DFFE officials, to effect invoice payment. **The service provider must obtain the approval and sign-off from DFFE and GIZ, prior to submitting the invoice.**

The bidder is required to explain its approach for coordination with the DFFE and GIZ project management team. The following tasks, amongst others, will be expected by the contractor:

- The contractor is responsible for selecting and steering the experts assigned to perform the services.
- The contractor will be required to report and account for hours spent on performing the services using **timesheets**. A standard template will be provided by the GIZ.
- The contractor manages costs and expenditures, accounting processes and invoicing in line with the requirements of GIZ.
- The contractor reports regularly to GIZ in accordance with the general terms and conditions of contract for supplying services and work (GTCC) of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH from 2022.

The bidder is required to draw up a **personnel assignment plan** with explanatory notes that lists all the experts proposed in the bid; the plan includes information on assignment duration and expert days as well as locations of the individual members of the team complete with the allocation of work steps as set out in the schedule.

The bidder is required to describe its backstopping concept. The following services are part of the standard backstopping package, which (like ancillary personnel costs) must be factored into the fee schedules of the staff listed in the bid in accordance with section 5.4 of the GTCC:

- Service-delivery control
- Managing adaptations to changing conditions
- Ensuring the flow of information between GIZ and DFFE
- Process-oriented technical-conceptual steering of the consultancy inputs
- Securing the administrative conclusion of the project

- Ensuring compliance with reporting requirements
- Sharing the lessons learned by the contractor and leveraging the value of lessons learned on site

4. Personnel concept

The bidder is required to provide personnel who are suited to filling the positions described, on the basis of their CVs (see Chapter 7), the range of tasks involved and the required qualifications.

The below specified qualifications represent the requirements to reach the maximum number of points.

A due diligence consideration of **gender** and **diversity** must be prioritized and reflected in the team composition.

Team leader: Principal Scientist

Tasks of the team leader

- Overall responsibility for the advisory packages of the contractor (quality and deadlines).
- Coordinating and ensuring communication with GIZ, partners and others involved in the project.
- Personnel management, in particular, identifying the need for short-term assignments within the available budget, as well as planning and steering assignments and supporting local and international short-term experts.
- Regular reporting in accordance with deadlines.

Qualifications of the team leader

- Education/training (2.1.1): A Master's Degree in Ecology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Management or equivalent.
- Language (2.1.2): Good business language skills in English.
- General professional experience (2.1.3): 10 years of experience in the field of Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change.
- Specific professional experience (2.1.4): 5 years of experience in working in blue carbon ecosystems.
- Leadership/management experience (2.1.5): 4 years of experience in management of complex projects and providing advice on prioritising sites for implementation of restoration or rehabilitation measures.
- Regional experience (2.1.6): 5 years of experience in the country of South Africa and knowledge of national policies, plans, legislation, and strategies to address land degradation and biodiversity loss in South Africa.
- Development Cooperation (DC) experience (2.1.7): N/A
- Other (2.1.8): N/A

Expert 1: Land Use and Land Use Change expert

Qualifications of expert 1

- Education/training (2.2.1): A Degree in Ecology, Natural Sciences, Environmental Management or equivalent.
- Language (2.2.2): Good business language skills in the English language.

- General professional experience (2.2.3): 4 years of experience in understanding key drivers of change in South African ecosystems.
- Specific professional experience (2.2.4): 3 years of experience in understanding drivers of change in blue carbon ecosystems.
- Leadership/management experience (2.2.5): N/A
- Regional experience (2.2.6): 5 years of experience in the country of South Africa.
- Development Cooperation (DC) experience (2.2.7): N/A
- Other (2.2.8): N/A

Expert 2: Geographical Information Systems (GIS) expert

Qualifications of expert 2

- Education/training (2.3.1): A postgraduate qualification in Geographical Information Systems, Geographical Sciences, or equivalent.
- Language (2.3.2): English business language skills with excellent ability to conduct scientific language editing, data fact checks and content analysis.
- General professional experience (2.3.3): 5 years of experience in GIZ land use mapping over time.
- Specific professional experience (2.3.4): 3 years of experience in the use of spatial analysis tools to assess land degradation and other drivers of change in blue carbon ecosystems, as well as an understanding of biodiversity loss and key policies associated with biodiversity conservation, forest management and climate change.
- Leadership/management experience (2.3.5): N/A
- Regional experience (2.3.6): 5 years of experience in working with South African government entities and stakeholder engagement processes.
- Development Cooperation (DC) experience (2.3.7): N/A
- Other (2.3.8): N/A

Soft skills of team members

In addition to their specialist qualifications, the following qualifications are required of team members:

- Team skills.
- Ability and willingness to take initiative.
- Excellent communication, research design, data collection, analysis, presentation, and strong report writing skills.
- Sociocultural competence.
- Efficient, partner- and client-focused working methods.
- Interdisciplinary thinking is encouraged.

The Climate Support Programme (CSP) has a project-based intervention which aims to enhance capacities within the field of climate change and related topics in South Africa. As a means of implementation, it is required that the appointed service provider takes on board an additional capacity in the form of an intern, to capacitate and expose them to various tasks during project implementation. The training should range from meeting attendance and participation, data collection, support project management and conducting research activities. The intervention targets individuals from a previously disadvantaged background who possess an undergraduate and/or postgraduate qualification or equivalent in a similar field as the project in question. The appointment period is always recommended to be linked with the project period in question. Below are the requirements for the project intern, in reference to this particular project:

Expert 3: Project intern

Qualifications of project intern 1

- Education/training (2.4.1): An undergraduate or post-graduate degree in environmental science, geography, chemical engineering, science, or economics.
- Language (2.4.2): Proficiency in the English language as a medium of communication.
- General professional experience (2.4.3): Basic computer and communication skills, reliable and available to participate full-time in the project or may be studying part-time.
- Specific professional experience (2.4.4): N/A
- Leadership/management experience (2.4.5): N/A
- Regional experience (2.4.6): N/A
- Development Cooperation (DC) experience (2.4.7): N/A
- Other (2.4.8): N/A

The service provider must cost for the inclusion of the interns as part of this project into their financial project proposal. As part of their technical proposal the service provider must also outline the potential candidate(s) as well as the **appointment process** of the intern, in the event that the contract is awarded.

The Service Provider **must guarantee** the presence of a team leader or expert in charge throughout the duration of the contract. If the senior person must leave the project, a period of at least a month is required, in which the experts must work parallel with their replacement (senior consultant with similar expertise and equal years of experience) appointed to be able to transfer skills and knowledge. The service provider is required to inform GIZ and the DFFE **in writing** of any staff changes that may occur during the period of assignment.

5. Costing requirements

Assignment of personnel

Team leader/Expert 1 & 2: Assignment in country of assignment for 105 expert days
Expert 3: Assignment in country of assignment for 66 expert days

The service provider is expected to cost for the **105** expert days and **66** intern days as indicated above. These should also include **travel days** and **stakeholder engagement meetings**.

Travel

The bidder is required to calculate the travel by the specified experts and the experts it has proposed based on the places of performance stipulated in Chapter 2 and list the expenses separately by daily allowance, accommodation expenses, flight costs and other travel expenses.

If restrictions are introduced to combat coronavirus/COVID-19 (restrictions on air travel and travel in general, entry restrictions, quarantine measures, etc.), GIZ and the contractor are obliged to make adjustments to their contractual services to reflect the changed circumstances on the basis of good faith; this may involve changes to the service delivery period, the services to be delivered and, if necessary, to the remuneration, workshops, meetings, and presentations.

The contractor must implement the following meetings in addition to the inception meeting:

- Monthly project progress meetings.
- Presentation of the preliminary and the final results to the PSC.

6. Inputs of GIZ or other actors

GIZ and DFFE will make the following available:

- Contact details of relevant colleagues at DFFE and BirdLife South Africa.
- Contact details of the relevant colleagues at BdeM.

Equipment cost

All equipment costs must be explicitly included in the budget.

NB: The service provider must remember to budget for both the online and offline resources necessary for implementation of all deliverables in this project.

7. Requirements on the format of the bid

The structure of the bid must correspond to the structure of the ToRs. In particular, the detailed structure of the concept (Chapter 3) is to be organised in accordance with the positively weighted criteria in the assessment grid (not with zero). It must be legible (font size 11 or larger) and clearly formulated. The bid is drawn up in English (language).

The complete bid shall not exceed 10 pages (excluding CVs).

The CVs of the personnel proposed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the ToRs must be submitted using the format specified in the terms and conditions for application. The CVs shall not exceed 4 pages. The CVs must clearly show the position and job the proposed person held in the reference project and for how long. The CVs must also be submitted in English (language).

If one of the maximum page lengths is exceeded, the content appearing after the cut-off point will not be included in the assessment.

Please calculate your price bid based exactly on the aforementioned costing requirements. In the contract the contractor has no claim to fully exhaust the days/travel/workshops/ budgets. The number of days/travel/workshops and the budget amount shall be agreed in the contract as 'up to' amounts. The specifications for pricing are defined in the price schedule.

Other Requirements

- Please submit your proposal (technical and price proposal) in separate files/folder to ZA_Quotation@giz.de no later than **10.10.2022**, all documents must be in PDF.
- Please do not mention any price for this measure on your cover letter/Technical proposal.
- Please submit your tax clearance certificate with the bidding documents.
- Please submit your price proposal in ZAR.

- Our General Terms of Conditions (attached) shall not be changed/amended should you be the winner of this tender. These General Terms and Conditions will form part of the contract should you be awarded this contract. By submitting your proposal we will conclude that you have read and accepted these terms and conditions.
- Bidders are not allowed to communicate directly with any other person regarding this bid other than the procurement official/s. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to your bid being disqualified.
- Bidders must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests. Bidders found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Bidders, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this EOI and tender process, if they:
 - a) are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by GIZ or the Interim Supply Chain Management Council to provide services for the preparation of the design, specifications, Terms of Reference, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used for the procurement of the services in this selection process;
 - b) were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this EOI and tender;
 - c) are serving or have been serving in the past three months in the structures of the Interim Supply Chain Management; or
 - d) are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of GIZ.
- In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of a potential conflict of interest, Bidders must disclose to GIZ, and seek GIZ's confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists.
- Similarly, the Bidders must disclose in their proposal their knowledge of the following:
 - a) if the owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, of the bidding entity or key personnel are family members of GIZ staff involved in the procurement functions and/or the Interim SCM Council or any Implementing partner receiving services under this EOI or tender; and
 - b) all other circumstances that could potentially lead to actual or perceived conflict of interest, collusion or unfair competition practices.
- **Failure to disclose such an information may result in the rejection of the proposal or proposals affected by the non-disclosure.**
- **Questions & Answers will be placed on the link provided.**

Bids sent via Dropbox and WeTransfer will not be accepted.

8. Annexes

Annexure A: Scoping study: A Blue Carbon Sinks Assessment for South Africa

Annexure B: Blue Carbon Sinks spatial datasets

Annexure C: Blue Carbon GHG baseline data