



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Terms of reference for the recruitment of a local consultant responsible for the development of a National Investment Program in the Climate Change Resilient Water Sector (PNIE).

COUNTRY: BURUNDI

August 2025

1. Background and rationale

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA), whose Secretariat is hosted by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in Entebbe, is implementing the African Union's Action Plan on Climate Change (AU-AP) through the Multi-Country Readiness Program in Burundi. This initiative is part of a broader continental effort to strengthen climate resilience in the water sector. GWPEA's role includes providing technical support, mobilizing resources, and coordinating stakeholder engagement to ensure that Burundi's National Investment Program aligns with AU strategic priorities and meets the requirements of climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change, which has a particular impact on water, including increased droughts and floods, water scarcity, and waterborne diseases. In addition to this pronounced vulnerability, many African countries have limited capacity to access strategic investments in water resources. Access to climate finance for water sector resilience in Africa is critical to achieving the AU Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change and Resilient Development (2022-2032), which recognizes the need to make water systems climate resilient under Axis 2: Adopting Mechanisms for Transformative and Climate-Resilient Development. The Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) to address the growing need for investment in water resources. The AIP comprises five pillars that aim to reduce the investment gap in the water sector in Africa, namely: (i) mobilizing high-level political commitment and leadership for investments; developing and implementing the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard to enhance mutual accountability, transparency and efficiency of water resources financing and investment; (ii) develop capacities to develop regional and national climate resilience investment programs to address the investment gap in the water sector; (iii) Establish the AIP International Investment Facility for Water Sector Climate Resilience as a mechanism to mobilize public-private financing; and (iv) promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in climate resilience investments.

Burundi is contextually targeted among the first 15 countries to benefit from a National Investment Program in the Climate Resilient Water Sector (PNIERCC). This program is particularly aligned with intervention axes 9, 10 and 11 for strategic orientation n°3 of the PND BURUNDI 2018-2027. The country recognizes the importance of the water and sanitation sector in improving the living conditions of its population, because water is life and sanitation is dignity. The water sector has assets in water supply through rainfall marked by climate disruptions with negative impacts on water resources, the environment and life in general.

The north and northeast of the country are vulnerable to rainfall shortages and climate change, while the plains in the west experience both rainfall shortages and flooding.

In rural areas, the population's access to basic drinking water and sanitation services remains low due to inadequate management and poor distribution of water resources.

In addition, the water sector presents challenges including (i) weak protection of watersheds (ii) overexploitation of land and forests due to high population growth; (iii) degradation of biodiversity; (iv) insufficient protection of rivers in general and the action zone in particular; environmental problems are experienced in terms of degradation of land, water and forests, ecosystems ^(1) and the living environment of the population; (vi) high erodibility index of land due to high rain erosion, (vi) insufficient forecasting of meteorological data, (i) insufficient hydraulic infrastructure, (vii) low investment rate to meet the challenges compared to coverage rates, (ix) lack of master plans for the construction of drinking water and sanitation, (X) low involvement of women in the management of water resources etc. Good management of natural resources and the environment requires concerted and coordinated actions by all development actors, including the promotion of coordinated environmental management, rational management of land, water, forests, preservation of ecological balances and conservation of biodiversity.

Proper management of water resources would inevitably contribute to poverty reduction and socio-economic development in Burundi. Considering the political and legal framework, it is necessary to update the regulatory frameworks governing the water and sanitation sector resilient to climate change.

The National Investment Program in the Climate Change Resilient Water Sector is one of the solutions provided to contribute to the increase of water resources in quantity and quality, the development of water resources through rainwater collection systems, anti-erosion control devices, the increase in agricultural productivity through the establishment of irrigation systems; reforestation, agroforestry and landscape restoration practices will contribute to strengthening resilience to climate change and reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change, the protection of wetlands, buffer zones and water source protection zones will contribute to increasing water recharge and its availability to meet the needs of the population. Rational management and development of water resources will contribute to job creation and income for the population. Given that women are at the center of difficulties related to water problems and climate change; its involvement in actions aimed at resolving these problems is essential.

The National Investment Program in the Water Sector Resilient to Change must be inspired by this basic situation, taking into account all of the above; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2040 vision for emerging countries, 2060 for developed countries, the National Development Plan (NDP) and sectoral policies.

Under the support of the AU within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa - Priority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) to meet the growing need for investments in water resources, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa wishes to recruit a national consultant who will be responsible for developing the National Investment Programme in the Water Sector Resilient to Change (PNIERCC for Burundi

2. Mission objective

The general objective is to develop the National Investment Program in the Water Sector Resilient to Change (PNIER) with a view to ensuring sustainable and resilient management of water resources.

3. Expected results

- Major challenges and issues in the water and sanitation sector are identified and defined and translated into opportunities for improvement of water resources
- PNIE development vision is formulated;
- The National water investment programme is developed
- Strategy for mobilizing partners and resources is defined
- PNIE Action Plan is developed with a well-detailed schedule integrating monitoring and evaluation aspects;
- Climate change aspects and gender-sensitive aspects are integrated into the PNIE

4. METHODOLOGY

- Carry out the diagnosis of the national political and strategic framework for planning investments in climate resilience for water management through the development of the water investment program taking into account the SDGs and other national strategic documents; in line with the continental AIP and in accordance with the guidelines, criteria and the 2024-2027 strategy of the GCF (outcome 2.1 of the Readiness Program) on investments for the resilience of the water sector to climate and
- Define the challenges and major issues in the water, environment and sanitation sector
- Formulate the vision of the PNIE;
- Conduct a documentary review in the water sector
- Conduct stakeholder consultations
- Carry out field visits to verify the consistency of the data collected in the available documents
- Analyze and process the collected data

- Organize pre-validation and validation workshops
- Produce the report
- Present a strategy for mobilizing partners and means/resources for the implementation of the PNIE;
- Develop the performance framework for the Ministry's strategic plan;
- Establish implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

5. Consultant's missions (Scope of Work)

Under the direct authority of the Project Coordinator and the supervision of the technical commission, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

- Develop an inception report outlining the methodology and the proposed timeline for the delivery of activities delivery
- Develop a short situational analysis document reviewing the challenges and issues to be implemented for the sustainable development of this sector (analyze data on water resources, the contribution of technical and financial partners in the sector, infrastructure, water demand, identify critical areas in terms of access to drinking water and sanitation and the challenges linked to climate change, water pollution and watershed management, analyze existing institutional and regulatory frameworks);
- Mapping available and possible sources of funding and financing mechanisms towards water resources management
- Organize stakeholder consultation sessions (public and private institutions, NGOs, donors and users) to gather needs and expectations
- Conduct a SWOT analysis of the program
- Define the program's areas of intervention (drinking water supply, sanitation, irrigation, water resource management and infrastructure)
- Develop the implementation strategy
- Develop the financing strategy
- Finalization of the document after validation

6. Expected outputs

Inception report

reports/minutes from stakeholders' consultations

draft and final versions of the financing strategy

draft and final version of the national water investment programme

6. Consultant Profile (Qualification Criteria)

- Have at least a Master's degree in **Hydraulic Engineering, Water Resources Management, Hydrogeology, Water and Sanitation, Environmentalist or similar field**;
- Have proven experience in the areas of developing strategy and policy documents;
- Have at least seven years of professional experience in the development of policies and strategies (i.e. Water, environment, Agriculture, Management of Natural Resources resilient to climate change, etc.);
- Have a good knowledge of the SDGs to which Burundi is aligned.
- Have knowledge and experience in developing and implementing management mechanisms for development projects/programs financed by Multilateral Development Banks (GCF, AU, WB, AF etc.);
- Have experience in environmental protection and combating climate change;
- Have carried out or participated, as an expert, in at least one Environmental and Social Impact Study or socio-economic assessment of action, etc.);
- Experience in gender and social inclusion is an advantage
- Be familiar with international legal texts relating to transboundary water management, environmental and social safeguards Integrated with climate resilience.
- Knowledge of the political framework and Burundian legal texts relating to the environment, water resources and forests;
- Be able to work under pressure,
- Have good teamwork skills and produce quality results within the given deadlines
- Have excellent writing and communication skills in French and English
- Have good command of IT tools (Word, Excel, Power point and data processing software).
- Qualifying female applicants are strongly encouraged.

7. Duration of the mission (Level of Effort) and deliverables

The duration of the mission is 65 days calendar days.

	Activities	Deliverables	Proposed Delivery schedule

1.	- Methodology, Approach and Work plan are developed	Inception report	10/09/2025
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major challenges and issues in the water and sanitation sector are identified and defined and translated into opportunities for improvement of water resources - PNIE development vision is formulated; - The National water investment programme is developed - Strategy for mobilizing partners and resources is defined - PNIE Action Plan is developed with a well-detailed schedule integrating monitoring and evaluation aspects; - Climate change aspects and gender-sensitive aspects are integrated into the PNIE 	Submission of the PNIE provisional report and its financing strategy pre-validated in mid-July.	15/10/2025
3.	- Validation of the PNIE and its financing strategy	Submission of the final report of the PNIE and its financing strategy.	10/11/2025
<i>Note: All deliverables will be expected to be submitted in French (draft version) and English (final version)</i>			

8. Remuneration

This will be a lumpsum contract where payments will be made as per agreed measurable deliverables and the fees shall also be based on a daily rate both agreed at contract negotiation. Payments for this assignment shall be made in United States Dollars Currency.

9. Evaluation Criteria

The assessment of the consultants shall be done in the following 2 stages;

- i) Shortlist assessment based on the requirement of the ToR in No. 6 Above.**
- ii) Technical discussions in an online interview to enable the evaluators get to know the consultants better and make the final selection.**

10.Submission of offers (How to Apply)

Interested consultants shall include the following with their application:

- A motivation letter
- A copy of the diploma, identical to the original, from the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research
- A detailed and up-to-date CV
- Certificates of service rendered and any other document likely to provide information on the Candidate's skills (personal work, reports, bibliographic references, etc.)
- A statement (brief proposal) setting out the understanding of the mandate and assignment to be carried out and a clear methodological proposal specifying the approach to be adopted.
- An indication fees based on the daily rate and any related reimbursables (operational costs) that will be agreed at contract negotiation.
- **The offer should be submitted not later than 5th September 2025 through the email below: gwpvacancy@nilebasin.org**