

TERMS OF REFERENCE
GGWG WOMEN NBS PROVIDERS TOOLKIT PROJECT

A. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

(Provide a description and context of the project and identify the most important deliverables)

BACKGROUND

In October 2020, the ILO and WWF released [‘How nature-based solutions can power a green jobs recovery’](#), highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions (NBS) to “create employment while simultaneously protecting nature, mitigating climate change, and making human societies safer, healthier and more resilient.” The report found that NBS “often provide cost-effective approaches that could contribute to achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those relating to poverty, food and water security, human health and climate action”, while creating jobs in “reforestation, ecosystem or watershed rehabilitation and restoration, management of invasive species and the use of agroecological approaches in food production.”

In the lead up to the upcoming climate change and biodiversity COPS, it has become increasingly clear that NBS is seen as a win-win opportunity for achieving joint climate and biodiversity results in both mitigation and adaptation. There has also been increasing emphasis on NBS and gender, with women seen as both particularly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and household responsibilities, and well placed to take advantage of economic opportunities in these spaces. While there is still ongoing debate over the use of the term NBS, there is no doubt that many of its component parts – forestry, agriculture, water, coasts and oceans – will be on the receiving end of significant increases in donor attention and both public and private finance. In addition, many of these sectors/ecosystems will become eligible to produce carbon and biodiversity credits for what are expected to be rapidly scaling carbon offset and ecosystem-services markets.

In October 2020, a number of GGWG members agreed that an explicit focus on NBS and MSME PSD could represent a valuable addition to the work of the DCED. The sub-group later decided to further focus on MSMEs that were most relevant to women’s economic empowerment (i.e. women-led businesses, women entrepreneurs, and businesses involving many women in supply chains). This specific target group – which we will now refer to as “women NBS providers”, has not yet been the focus of the DCED or its working groups.

To date, the DCED and its working groups have helped advance our understanding of, and access to tools for, integrating gender and elements of “green growth” into private sector development. The Green Growth Working Group and its members have focused on PSD and the Circular Economy, Green PSD, Green growth and COVID recovery, and gender-linkages to the above. Partners within the Women’s Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEEWG) are working and have worked on issues related to climate change resilience, low carbon COVID recovery and WEE, GE and biodiversity, and Women’s Leadership for Climate-Neutral and Circular Industries.

OBJECTIVES

Given that the GGWG believes there is a development need and growing market demand for affordable, gender-responsive, nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity in developing countries, and that women – as entrepreneurs, business owners, workers and supply-chain actors - are particularly well positioned to help address this need, the ultimate objective of this project is:

Increased availability of profitable and affordable, gender-responsive, nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation with biodiversity co-benefits in developing countries from women NBS providers (women-led businesses, female entrepreneurs and/or MSMEs with significant numbers of women in their supply chain).

At an intermediate level (the direct result of our project leading to the ultimate objective above), the project outcome would be:

Increased provision by women NBS providers of affordable, gender-responsive, nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation with biodiversity co-benefits in developing countries.

This brings us to the immediate level changes that the beneficiaries need to arrive at the intermediate outcome. The immediate outcomes would be:

- 1. Enhanced awareness and capacity of women NBS providers to develop and offer nature-based climate solutions with biodiversity co-benefits**
- 2. Increased access of women NBS providers to markets and solutions, including technologies, enabling environments, and/or finance (e.g. tailored gender responsive business development (technical assistance, advisory, marketing services, legal services), patient capital, microcredit, grants and tailored financial solutions) for nature-based climate solutions with biodiversity co-benefits**

In non-results based management language, GGWG wants to this work to result in **an increased number of women entrepreneurs, business owners, workers and supply-chain actors who are willing and able to participate in and benefit from NBS markets.** To achieve this, the GGWG needs project deliverables targeting potential women NBS providers that **increase awareness of opportunities, and increase capacity and access to solutions** so they can translate their desire to offer these NBS into concrete business activities that are mutually beneficial.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

(Describe the type of consulting work that will be required indicating particular areas to be covered, expected level of detail to be accomplished and qualifications)

The consultants are expected to conduct research based on secondary sources/existing reports and interviews with existing and potential women NBS providers; key players in NBS markets/ecosystem such as business associations, industry providers, financial institutions and investors, think tanks and research centers, women's producers organizations, and private sector federations, etc.; and public and private funders of future current and future NBS, to inform the toolkit and outreach strategy (Section C below).

Initial areas that the sub-group have identified include:

- 1) The business case for gender responsive NBS and women NBS providers. Consultants should build the business case addressing the question of why this matters to the economy, the planet, people, women, the business sector, etc., and insofar as possible, estimate the market potential for women NBS providers. Ideally, the consultants would draw on evidence of the importance of natural resources to women for livelihoods and reproductive responsibilities, the related knowledge and leadership of women in these areas, and links to viable income earning activities for and by women in NBS market offerings.
- 2) What are the most promising nature based solutions – i.e. that involve protecting, restoring and sustainably managing ecosystems to address society's challenges and promote human well-being - that lend themselves to PSD approaches. This should include particular attention to climate change adaptation and not just mitigation and consider the potential impact of carbon and biodiversity credit markets. Among these NBS, which have the greatest potential to be gender-responsive or gender transformative?
- 3) What are key goods and services from MSMEs (e.g. technical assistance and capacity building, seeds and seedlings, data and information systems, conservation agriculture and agro-forestry inputs, etc.) that could be required for the adoption/scaling up of nature-based solutions addressing challenges of climate change and biodiversity preservation, and among these, where might women NBS providers have a competitive advantage? Could we also identify key entry points for women's inclusion along the most promising NBS value chains (perhaps a deep dive value chain analysis of 3 or 4 key value chains)?
- 4) How could women NBS providers be best supported to deliver NBS and benefit from these markets/opportunities? What would the optimal format of the toolkit be and how could it best be disseminated.
- 5) NBS terminology: There are ongoing discussions about the ideal term to use when referring to what we are using as NBS. Many find the term confusing and unhelpful. While some of us wish to support the adoption of the IUCN definition as the overarching framework that we feel includes approaches like ecosystem based approaches or "nature-positive", we would defer to the consultants to recommend terminology that is most easily communicated, understood and adopted by targeted beneficiaries. Note however that if a decision is made at COP26 to adopt NBS formally, we suggest this toolkit follow suit.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Ideally we wish the consultant(s) to have recent and extensive knowledge and experience in the following areas: PSD/MSME support and outreach; women’s economic empowerment; climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions; gender equality; support to women-led business/women entrepreneurs; nature-based solutions or equivalents in ecosystem based adaptation /ecosystem services; forestry/agro-forestry; watershed management/water ecosystems (fresh and saline); coastal ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs; disaster risk reduction

C. DELIVERABLES/SPECIFIC OUTPUTS EXPECTED FROM CONSULTANT

(Description of the deliverables, delivery schedules, and acceptance criteria for the deliverables)

There are two specific deliverables needed to achieve project outcomes:

1. Toolkit development: A plain-language toolkit (ideally in English, French and Spanish) for women NBS providers to support their provision of affordable, gender-responsive nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation with biodiversity co-benefits in developing countries. Due March/April 2023; For acceptance the toolkit should be deemed useful by an advisory group including donors, PSD business development service providers and select targeted beneficiaries (women NBS providers)
2. Toolkit outreach: Using the networks of GGWG and DCED members, design and support an outreach strategy for disseminating the toolkit to both donors and PSD supporters, as well as potential women NBS providers in the field. Due May 2023 following incorporation of final suggested edits by advisory group). Acceptance would require successful completion of a webinar in each toolkit language and active dissemination of the toolkit to recommended outlets for WEE/Green Growth PSD/NBS/MSMEs/Women’s Entrepreneurship information hubs

D. SPECIFIC INPUTS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE CLIENT

The GGWG will put out a call to all DCED members to share their organization’s current and past work/thinking in this (NBS, WEE, MSME/PSD and GE) area including reports, tools, recommendations on filling gaps, upcoming events, known networks/info sources, etc.

The sub-group will also compile a list of resources to share with the consultant, including:

KEY REFERENCES:

The Nature Based Solutions for Climate Manifesto: Developed for the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 [Background document for the global preparatory meeting for the \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/nbs/manifesto)

The Nature-based Solutions Initiative is an interdisciplinary programme of research, education and policy advice based at the University of Oxford to enhance understanding of the potential of Nature-based Solutions to address multiple global challenges and support their sustainable implementation worldwide. [Nature-Based Solutions Initiative \(naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org\)](https://naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org)

[What are Nature-based Solutions? : Nature-Based Solutions Initiative \(naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org\)](http://naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org)

[Finance Earth GPC - Market Review of NbS Report - May 2021.pdf \(greenpurposescompany.com\)](#)

[Finance_Earth_GPC_Infographic_v5FINAL.pdf \(greenpurposescompany.com\)](#)

[Promoting nature-based solutions for gender equality- INBAR](#)

[PFAN | Gender-Smart Practices in Climate Entrepreneurship Support: Insights from an ecosystem workshop - PFAN](#)

Women as Environmental Stewards: <https://www.undp.org/publications/women-environmental-stewards-experience-small-grants-programme>

UNDP Equator Prize. <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/equator-prize/all-winners/>

E. SPECIAL TERMS & CONDITIONS / SPECIFIC CRITERIA

None

