



## **Study on Just Energy transition and resilience to climate change shocks in Uganda**

### **Terms of reference (ToR) and call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) September 2023**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) and the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), are implementing a project on mitigating the negative impacts of oil and gas on nature and people for improved livelihoods. The project involves a study on just energy transition. The intention of the study is to inform the national strategy on a just energy transition which the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) is also interested in. ACODE in collaboration with NRGI are therefore interested in recruiting a consultant(s) to conduct a study on just energy transition for Uganda. These Terms of Reference (ToR) are intended to guide the expression of interest to undertake the study. The expectation is that the consultant should demonstrate appreciation of the scope and study objectives as well as ensure that the study provides the necessary practical content, delivers in-depth analysis of the subject and provides actionable recommendations.

#### **2.0. Background**

Scientists argue that temperature rise of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would lead to catastrophic consequences. In the same breath, temperatures above 2°C would lead to irreversible consequences on all the global ecosystems. Limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C and below 2°C; and limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society with clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems. However, there are significant policy, practice and research gaps in the nature of interventions required to achieve the 1.5-degree world. In 2015, the parties to the Paris Agreement pledged to limit the average temperature rise to below 2 degrees, while actively aiming for 1.5 degree above pre-industrial levels. This was endorsed as a global target by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018. Since then, this has been pursued in all climate dialogues. One of the recommendations for limiting global warming was the shift from the use of fossil fuels and coal to cleaner energy sources.

#### **2.1. The energy transition debate**

Energy transition is becoming a priority for resource-rich developing countries. While this was previously a priority for developed countries, it is now a global policy agenda, because of the increasing demands for cleaner reliable energy that aims at reducing and ultimately mitigating catastrophic consequences arising from the climate change crisis. While Africa accounts for approximately 3.8% of global carbon dioxide emissions, it is the most vulnerable in terms of climate impacts on the environmental and economic development. The continent has started to take the decarbonization agenda as a priority with several African

countries signing up to the Paris Agreement and agreeing to include climate resilience and low carbon emissions in their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Some African countries have also made commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 55% by 2030. South Africa, for example, government made a commitment to cut emissions by a further 28% by 2030, compared with the country’s 2015 pledge.

Large financing institutions are also increasing their focus on providing financing to fast track the energy transition. For example, Standard Bank Group, which is Africa’s biggest lender by assets, plans to raise as much as US\$20 billion by 2026 to help fund renewable energy projects. The African Development Bank aims to commit around US\$2.8 billion in new financing to South Africa over the next five years including a special package to help state-owned power utility Eskom transition towards cleaner sources of energy.

However, changing to a cleaner source of energy is one part of the energy transition challenge. Done right, energy transition is a fundamental system redesign challenge that includes changes to the demand and supply side, the interactions between the two, and the broader national value chain. This means that countries need to develop comprehensive strategies to ensure that energy transition results in sustainable development. The Energy Transitions and Climate Change area focuses on the changes in energy production, transformation and use which are needed to avoid dangerous climate change while meeting other sustainability and development challenges.

### 3. Rationale for the study

With climate action requiring an economic transformation in countries around the world, disruptions affecting livelihoods and lives should be expected across the socio-economic landscape. A just transition will therefore be necessary to ensure that no one is left behind<sup>1</sup>. Widely used to refer to ‘greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind’<sup>2</sup>, the need for a just transition has been formalized in international agreements<sup>3</sup>. With over fifty signatories at COP24, the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration brought the just transition into the climate change context, emphasizing that “just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs are crucial to ensure an effective and inclusive transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.”<sup>4</sup> At COP26, fourteen countries, along with the European Commission, signed the Just Transition Declaration, which aims to “ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to a net zero and climate resilient future.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See The African Development Bank’s Just Transition Initiative to Address Climate Change in the African Context: Discussion Paper

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organisation (2023). Report VI Achieving a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, 111<sup>th</sup> Session.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/social-finance/WCMS\\_825124/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/social-finance/WCMS_825124/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>4</sup> COP24. 2018. Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration.

<sup>5</sup> COP26. 2021. Supporting the Conditions for a Just Transition Internationally.

Currently, Uganda is in the process of developing an energy transition strategy. The energy transition strategy is aimed fully mobilizing national energy resources and potentials; bringing energy to the top of national agendas; and taking approaches that put the country directly on to innovative, low carbon energy development pathways; while avoiding the fossil fuel lock-in now facing most industrialized and emerging economies. The development of comprehensive strategy requires better understanding of the demand and supply side aspects of the energy landscape which this study is expected to generate. The study will collect demand side strategic pre-requisites aimed at better understanding of the country's energy demand for both domestic and industrial supply including challenges for storage of renewable energy and the exploitation of transitional minerals. The information on energy demand optimization becomes a key consideration guide capital investment and maintenance decisions relating to primary energy conversion and energy storage assets. Supply side constraint prerequisites relate to the challenges of securing reliable low emission and economically viable energy to support sustainable economic development and livelihoods. Making clear supply side strategic decisions also provides countries with the opportunity to reduce risk to future returns as related to carbon taxation and fuel price uncertainty in compliance with net-zero ambitions.

The development of Uganda's Energy Transition strategy however needs to be informed by a clear understanding of transformations of the energy system needed in the short, medium and long term to achieve the energy transition by identifying frameworks to support the development of sectoral and technological detailed, policy-relevant and country-driven strategies consistent with the national development agenda and the Paris Agreement goal. The findings of the study are expected to inform the country strategy by providing the country with a strategic map to successfully navigate the uncertainties rooted within the energy transition, and provide a set of recommendations on strategic energy choices, to address the demand side and supply side of the operations.

#### **4 . Objectives of the study**

The study will be guided by the following objectives;-

1. To ascertain the current energy demand, and available energy resources, energy supply choices options and potentials.
2. To analyse the key policy frameworks that support Energy Transition and resilience to climate change.
3. To Document the key institutional capacity gaps, needs, strengths and transformations needed in the short, medium and long term to achieve the energy transition.
4. To document experiences and approaches of other countries on energy transition that are relevant to Uganda.
5. To generate proposals and strategies that avoid the fossil fuel lock-in, and are consistent the national development agenda and the Paris Agreement goal.

## 5. Scope/Tasks of the consultant

The consultant shall carry out the following tasks;-

- (a) Ascertain the current energy demand, identify the available energy resources, choices and potentials and capacity to generate, store and transport clean energy.
  - (b) Analyse the existing key policy frameworks that support Energy Transition and resilience to climate change and identify strengths and gaps.
  - (c) Map key institutions required for energy transition agenda and assess their current level of preparedness (strengths and weakness, competence in driving the energy transition agenda).
  - (d) Document the challenges to equity and justice in energy transition and propose strategies for resilience.
- a) Document the transformations of the energy system needed in the short, medium and long term to achieve the energy transition.
  - b) Identifying frameworks to support the development of sectoral and technological detailed, policy-relevant and country-driven strategies consistent with the national development agenda and the Paris Agreement goal.
  - c) Assess best practices for innovative low carbon energy development pathways, avoiding the fossil fuel lock-in now facing most industrialized and emerging economies.
  - d) Propose different strategic choices available for Uganda to achieve energy transition objectives.

## 7. Methodology

The consultant is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach, ensuring close engagement with responsible Government agencies and organized institutions, both at national and local level that are taking leadership in implementation of Uganda's Energy transition agenda. A mixed research approach is therefore envisaged. Although the consultant is expected to develop and submit a detailed methodology for executing the assignment, it is envisaged that both Quantitative and qualitative methods will be used. These may include; among others; designated meetings with key stakeholders, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, review of literature, and other desk research methods seeking in-depth understanding of the subject in order to triangulate the findings. Any other such methods that will generate reliable data and thus contribute to empirical richness, analytical rigour, policy relevance, and augment theoretical soundness are highly encouraged.

There will be regular exchanges between the researcher and ACODE/CSCO and other ACODE-identified reviewers with the view to enriching the study during inception process, data collection, and report writing. ACODE/CSCO will organize a validation meeting and

before the report can be for peer review and the comments will be shared with the researcher to enrich the draft before final submission.

## **8 . Referencing and Ethics**

ACODE, at present, prefers Chicago style of referencing. Researchers are required to find and read the 16<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Chicago Style in order to familiarize themselves with expectations regarding referencing. Any cases of plagiarism, where found or reported, may lead to cancellation of the contract, and other penalties as may be considered fit during and after executing the assignment. Researchers are strongly dissuaded from any temptations of plagiarism as widely understood in the research and/or scholarly community.

## **9. Expected Deliverables**

The consultant will submit the following deliverables to ACODE within the agreed time frame. All submissions should be done in soft copies and hard copies as and when required.

- (i) An Inception report outlining the detailed methodology and approach, methodology and tools for conducting the assignment.
- (ii) A draft report that will be presented to a team of researchers and stakeholders for comments and stakeholders for validation.
- (iii) A final publishable paper (not more than 60 pages) with an executive summary which will have undergone processes of peer review.

### **1.10 Qualification Requirements**

The successful candidate for this assignment should possess the following;

- At least a Master's Degree in Development economics, Natural Resources Management; Petroleum and Energy studies, Renewable Energy, Climate Change or related fields;
- Excellent understanding of Uganda's Energy sector including policy and legal framework, development programming, planning and execution of Uganda's climate change and greening ambitions, institutional arrangement, community concerns and the potential opportunities and energy sector issues.
- Extensive research experience and publication.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.
- Good communication and facilitation skills.
- Excellent command of oral (social) and written (academic) English language.
- Ability to deliver excellent results in a timely manner.

### **1.11 Call for Expressions of Interest**

ACODE calls upon interested and competent researcher(s) to submit technical and financial proposal for the assignment.



The **deadline** for submission of the proposal is 26<sup>th</sup> September, **2023**.

All Expressions of Interest should be hand-delivered or emailed to:

**Hand Deliveries**

ACODE Offices

Plot 96, Kanjokya Street, Kamwokya

P.O. Box P.O Box 29836,

Kampala – UGANDA

**Emails:**

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