

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Project:	Biodiversity Pilot Programme
Country:	Nefco's countries of operation
Funding sources:	Nordic Environmental Development Fund (NMF)
Type of contract:	Consulting Services
Type of notice:	Invitation for Expression of Interest
Issue date:	27 April 2022
Closing date:	10 May at 24:00 local time in Finland

Assignment Description: Nefco intends to procure consulting services for the development of a Biodiversity Pilot Programme.

As a pioneer in green financing, Nefco only finances projects that generate positive environmental and/or climate-related impacts. Nefco believes that all finance can and should be green, for good. More information on Nefco at: www.nefco.int and in our Environmental and Sustainability Report 2021: [Annual-report-2021-Environmental-and-Sustainability.pdf \(nefco.int\)](https://www.nefco.int/annual-report-2021-environmental-and-sustainability.pdf)

Currently Nefco is interested in increasing its knowledge on biodiversity and pilot actions in its investment portfolio. Nefco's Investment Fund portfolio comprises mainly of loans to Nordic small and medium sized companies operating globally but with a special focus on Eastern Europe.

The consultancy resources are required to assist in the selection of suitable portfolio projects/client companies (potentially in the range of 4-6 projects), carry out and plan capacity building and engagement workshops, assist in creating biodiversity management plans for the selected projects. Furthermore, the consultancy resources are required to advice on piloting and setting up biodiversity measures in selected projects, gather lessons learned and assist in monitoring and reporting the results.

Overall, the pilot programme aims to introduce and test concrete biodiversity conservation measures and lower the threshold for small and medium sized companies to take action. The results will be used for scaling up and mainstreaming the biodiversity efforts in Nefco's Investment Fund portfolio.

Assignment Start Date and Duration: The assignment is expected to start in August 2022 and last for 24 months / until end of 2024.

Maximum Budget Available for the Assignment: EUR 250 000 (exclusive of VAT) with a possibility for a scope increase at a later stage.

Funding Source: Nordic Environmental Development Fund (NMF)

Eligibility: There are no eligibility restrictions.

Submission Requirements: Interested consultant firms are hereby invited to submit their Expressions of Interest for the purpose of being shortlisted.

Nefco expects the consultants to bring in an outside perspective and knowledge on conserving biodiversity, maintaining and improving ecosystem services, and experience in setting up biodiversity management plans. Additionally, expertise of biodiversity financing is an asset. Nefco expects that there will be one key expert, who is mainly responsible for the assignment, but a pool of other experts are also needed.

The consultant should have experience from internationally financed projects and preferably have a network (subcontractors, offices, etc.) in Eastern Europe (/Europe) having expertise in ecology / biodiversity assessments.

In order to assess the qualifications and competence of the consultants seeking to be shortlisted, the information submitted should include the following:

- Company profile, organization (network of subcontractors) and staffing for the assignment;
- Details of experience in similar assignments, including their locations (assignments in Eastern Europe and references from other European countries);
- CV of the proposed Project Manager with at least 8 years of comprehensive experience in managing assignments in Nordic/EU/CIS countries; experienced in the promotion of transfer of knowledge and excellent presentation skills, experience in similar projects; and
- CVs of other relevant key experts available to work on the assignment.

The above information should not exceed 10 pages, excluding CVs.

Next steps: Based on the documentation received, Nefco will prepare a shortlist of the interested consultants. Nefco will also be responsible for the possible procurement and contracting of the consulting services in question.

Notes:

1. The short list of qualified and experienced firms will be made from responses to this notification. The short-listed Consultants will be asked to submit technical and financial proposals, from which the highest-ranked Consultant will be selected.
2. The shortlist selection criteria are:
 - Consultant's proven services capabilities and experience in similar engagements – **[20%]**
 - Consultant's experience in and knowledge of the biodiversity assessment and planning of nature positive measures, knowledge of existing biodiversity tools/frameworks and databases, expertise of biodiversity financing and professional knowledge internationally as well as in the Eastern Europe (/ Europe) – **[30%]**
 - Qualifications and competence of the consultant's project manager / support team– **[50%]**.

The preliminary timeline is as follows: Nefco expect[s] to distribute a Request for Proposal, including Terms of Reference with specific evaluation criteria among the shortlisted consultants during May 2022. The expected submission deadline for consultants' proposals is mid-June 2022 and during August the assignment is expected to start in Helsinki.

Expressions of Interest shall be submitted in English in pdf file by email to Nefco at procurement@nefco.fi and project manager Katariina Vartiainen, katariina.vartiainen@nefco.int, subject: Biodiversity Pilot Programme - Expression of Interest to reach Nefco no later than **10 May 2022 at 24:00 hrs. local time in Finland.**

Nefco reserves the right not to procure any services.