**RFP N ASB/GCF - 01/003**

“ARMSWISSBANK” CJSC

**READINESS AND PREPARATORY SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

**“SCALING UP GREEN FINANCE PRACTICIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA” PROJECT**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Engagement of consulting firm for implementation of the survey among the beneficiaries of “green finance” instruments**

**Background**

Within its strategy to promote enabling framework for introducing environment resilient practices, the Government of Armenia plans to significantly scale up the utilization level of green finance instruments and to secure a more pro-active participation of the private sector in implementing interventions in climate adaptation and mitigation domains.

Within that overall strategy, the Government of Armenia through the Ministry of Environment (Designated National Authority) has requested support of Green Climate Fund (GCF) within the framework of “Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme” to implement comprehensive assessment of the constraints for further expansion of “green finance” practices, mapping of available instruments and to come up with comprehensive set of methodological, awareness raising and capacity building interventions.The Readiness Project will design a Green Finance Roadmap, as key political document outlining current state, existing impediments for green finance development and establishing comprehensive vision for green finance strategy contributing to implementation of Armenia’s NDCs and Paris Agreement. The Roadmap and further activities aimed at implementation of the activities proposed will benefit from Repository of “Green Finance Instruments” that will be compiled during project execution stage and further handed over to Central Bank for maintenance and updates upon completion of the Project. The main objective of the Readiness Project is to achieve paradigm shift in design and utilization of “green finance” instruments through incorporating into policies, operational modalities of national banks and non-banking financial institutions the climate-resilient approaches and guidelines, as well as regulatory simplification and introduction of policy incentives for designing respective on-lending facilities. To achieve this objective, interrelated chain of activity clusters, including assessment of baseline, regulatory review and simplification, assessment of best international practices, design of methodological baseline and further capacity building activities will be implemented.

The “ARMSWISSBANK” CJSC one of the leading Armenian banks that also seek accreditation with GCF (under direct access modality) has been awarded the contract for implementation of “Scaling up Green Finance Practices in the Republic of Armenia” Project.

**Objective of the Assignment**

Green finance refers to financial services provided for economic activities that are supportive of environment improvement, climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate resilience, and more efficient resource utilization. These economic activities include the financing, operation and risk management for projects the following areas but not limited to such as environmental protection, energy savings, clean energy, green transportation, and green buildings.

The objective of this assignment is the following: to establish baseline for assessment of the responsiveness of the “green finance” products and identify avenues for improvement (through carrying out survey/evaluation of 400 recipients - private companies that benefited from “green finance” products from local banks and non banking financial institutions).

The assignment should include consultation with banks, institutional investors and financial regulators, quantitative survey of beneficiaries that have already taken advantage of GF or similar instruments, identify innovative mechanisms to scale access to green finance and, finally, increase the demand for sustainable financing products

**Scope of Work**

The scope of the Consultant’s work includes implementation of survey/evaluation of 400 recipients - private companies that benefited from “green finance” products from local banks and non-banking financial institutions.

The aim of this exercise is to establish the baseline for assessment of the responsiveness of the products and identify avenues for improvement. The activities will be aimed to support international and local experts (to be contracted separately) working on mapping out existing green practices in Armenia and analysis of them *vis-a-vis*regulatory constraints, information and methodological shortages and, more importantly, potential market for such financial instruments.

Specifically, the Consultant will:

* Identify potential beneficiaries among SMEs and, if applicable, private households
* Design the appropriate survey instrument (selection method, questionnaire design, pilot interviews and adjustments in the questionnaire)
* Select and train professional interviewers
* Conduct pilot interviews
* Adjust the survey instrument, if necessary
* Conduct the interviews
* Encode data
* Analyse data and draft report

These results of the quantitative survey will be collated with and contribute to the overall Scoping study assessing current status with and existing instruments of “green finance” in Armenia and addressing existing gaps

The Consultant shall also be available to provide presentations of their work in the relevant seminars within the Project, including the period of at least six months after the completion of their assignment under these terms of reference.

**Selection Criteria**

1. **Technical Proposal – 70%**
2. Expertise of the Firm – **30%**
* At least 5 years of work experience and at least 5 assignments in: conducting project design and evaluations, development and/or application of performance indicators, targets, and methodological guidelines, research, policy and procedure development and/or evaluation in “green finance” and/or “green economy”
* Experience in organization, supervision, data collection and analysis of large-scale quantitative surveys
* Institutional track record on successful delivery of high-level expert advice to banks, governments and/or international organizations in the relevant fields
1. Description of approach, methodology and work-plan – **40%**
2. Qualification of proposed staff – **30%**

*Prospective bidders are invited to nominate teams, composition of which from their experience fits the best for the implementation of the Study.*

1. **Financial Proposal - 30%**

**Timeframe, deliverables and reporting**

The overall duration of the “Scaling up Green Finance Practices in the Republic of Armenia” Project is 24 months.

Required services will have to be delivered during June – August 2020.

**Submission Requirements**

Submission Packages comprised from Technical Proposal should be submitted by 10/06/2020 at 18:00 Yerevan time (15 days after announcement) to the following e-mail address: procurement.gcf@armswissbank.am. Financial Proposal should be submitted by 10/06/2020 at 18:00 Yerevan time (15 days after announcement) to the following e-mail address: priceoffer.gcf@armswissbank.am.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of this RFP.

The Proposal that complies with all of the requirements meets all the evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be selected and awarded the contract. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected.