

Call for Proposals for activities to be funded under The Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, July 29, 2002

Background

The Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (NTFESSD) was set up by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank in December 1999, replacing the many separate Norwegian trust funds on environment and social development that existed within the Bank. Since July 2001, the NTFESSD also covers funding for work on poverty issues.

The NTFESSD provides grant resources for activities aimed at mainstreaming the environmental, social and poverty-reducing dimensions of sustainable development. It is intended both to help develop the Bank's capacity and to promote inclusion of these cross-cutting issues into World Bank and client-led activities.

The trust fund, which is formally administered by the Environment Department (ENV) on behalf of the Office of the Vice-President, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESDVP), is managed by the Environment, Social, and Poverty Reduction Boards. The Boards manage three "windows" set up under the NTFESSD by selecting and monitoring activities, and allocating budgets. Representatives of other Sector Boards are invited to participate at key stages, such as selection of new activities, as needed. An advisory committee from across the Bank ensures inter-sectoral coordination.

New Areas and Priorities for a second round for Call for Proposals for FY03/04

Given that the funds earmarked for FY03 have not been fully allocated by the proposals we received in the Call for Proposals dated April 2002, it was agreed at the recent semi-annual meeting in Oslo to have a second call for proposals for FY03/04, for all the three "windows," focusing on two key areas. Work in the following will be considered for funding:

- Field testing and refinement of operational tools and techniques to support addressing environmental and social development issues in upstream analytical work and downstream impact analysis for Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Poverty Reduction Support Credits, and Country Assistance Strategies. Proposals addressing rural issues will be given higher priority;
- Integration of environmental and social development issues in pro-poor strategies for sustainable rural growth particularly: (i) upstream analytical underpinnings for poverty reduction; (ii) downstream analysis and evaluation of the impact of policy reforms on rural poverty; and (iii) social, environmental, and governance dimensions of scaling up rural poverty reduction initiatives especially community-driven development.

Proposals that promote cooperation across Bank sectoral units, with appropriate UN and other external institutions, and/or with Norwegian institutions will receive priority. (See the list of [Norwegian institutions](#) that may be interested in collaborating).

Eligible Countries and Regional Priorities:

The Trust Fund is limited to financing activities in countries included in the bottom three categories in the Official Development Assistance list (ODA) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (see Annex 1 for an the list of eligible countries).

- In addition, activities in the Palestinian Territory will also be eligible.
- Activities in South Africa could also be eligible at the discretion of the Africa Region.
- 50 percent of the funds should go to work in/on Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Elsewhere, preference will be given to IDA countries.

[The DAC List of Aid Recipients](#)

Proposals should clearly indicate linkages and integration with ongoing or planned regular Bank project or program activities. It should also clearly indicate the links to poverty reduction, and identify in specific terms the inputs from different units in the Bank wherever such inputs are expected.

The funds from the Norwegian TF should not be used to replace or duplicate activities for which BB and other TF funding is available, and cannot cover staff salaries and staff travel—these need to be covered by matching BB funds. Directly eligible expenditures are consultant fees/travel, workshops, training, etc.

The TF is multi-year, so we expect funds will be available in FY04 as well. Proposals can cover two years, the second half of FY03, FY04, and the first half of FY05, if they need to. However, all commitments will be on one-year basis.

Task Team Leaders will have to submit the following reports to the Sector Board: (i) a yearly progress report, (ii) an updated work schedule and budget for the coming year, justifying the continued relevance of the activity. Therefore, proposals should be structured in stages, roughly matching fiscal years where possible.

Guidelines on Submission of Proposals

1. Please use the attached form designed to facilitate standard presentation and review (see template below) . Proposals should include a logical framework of objectives, key performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation, and critical assumptions (see template below). Background information related to the activity should be submitted as an annex.

- Application form for Submission of Proposals
- TFESSD

2. Proposals for country-level work need to have the approval of the Country Director or coordinator (an email is fine, and should be attached when the proposal is submitted). Since Africa region is a targeted major recipient of NTF ESSD funds, all Africa-related proposals should be approved by Rick Scobey (Sector Manager, AFTES) and by Paula Donovan (Sector Director, AFTM1), as well as by the relevant Country Director(s) before they are submitted. You may also want to consult with your sector board member.

3. Since funds will not be available for the first half of FY03, please make sure your budget estimates are realistic on FY03 expenditures. We do not transfer funds until they are to be used or committed, and our funds are supposed to be spent in the FY they are given for.

4. Progress Reports on expenditures, outputs (and any outcomes) will have to be submitted every six months. There is no maximum funding per proposal, but we suggest that you use the same standards for budgets as you would for regular ESW and other analytical work. Since the NTFESSD strongly encourages local capacity building, we also suggest that for country-related activities you should try, as much as possible, to use local institutions and consultants.

Selection Process

Proposals should be sent to Nenuca Robles, Environment Department, by email (nrobles@worldbank.org) by September 30, 2002.

The proposals will be reviewed by a review committee with members nominated by the ENV, SD, Poverty, and Rural Sector Boards. Reviewers will give each proposal a rating based on relevance to thematic priorities, relevance to regional priorities (including linkage to Bank projects/programs), technical merit, and partnership/capacity building aspects. The Environment Department, acting in its capacity of NTFESSD secretariat, will present the results of the reviewers to the Sector Boards. The latter will identify

a list of project proposals that they would prioritize for funding. The final selection will be submitted to the Norwegian authorities for approval, and funding will be made available from January 2003.

Timetable

Call for Proposals: July 29, 2002

Deadline to submit proposals: September 30, 2002

Submission to Sector Boards: the week of October 28, 2002

Submission of final selection to the Norwegian authorities: week of November 11 2002

Decision by the Norwegian authorities: expected in December 2002

Activation of TFs: December 2002/January 2003

If you have questions about the process or would like to discuss your initial ideas for proposals, please contact your sector board member.