

Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) FY07 Call for Proposals (First Stage)

I Background

The Norwegian-Finnish Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) will allocate approximately US\$3 – 3.5 million in FY07 for a number of strategic proposals aimed at innovative work on the environmental, social and poverty-reducing dimensions of sustainable development. The intention is to encourage inter-linkages between these dimensions while supporting the implementation of the corporate strategies. Half of the funding goes to activities in Sub-Saharan Africa in the context of the Africa Action Plan.

Zambia and Senegal will get additional and separate funding for country-based, strategic and integrated packages of proposals that respond to the priority themes listed below. TMs, who plan to submit proposals for these countries, should coordinate their projects with the respective country teams. Proposals for other African countries follow the normal procedures.

II Concept Note

The TFESSD FY07 application process will consist of two stages. **This Call is the first step and seeks the submission of a short concept note. The concept notes will be assessed according to the Priority themes for FY07 TFESSD and the Selection criteria for Concept Notes as outlined below.** Please see attached template for Concept Note.

In order to be considered:

- the concept note should be submitted by January 23, 2006
- the concept note should be cleared by the relevant sector manager **before** submission
- all the eligibility criteria listed below have to be met

The selection process for this first stage will take place in February. The finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal by April 6, 2006. You are encouraged to consult with your sector board member before submitting the proposal and copy him/her when submitting it.

Priority themes for FY07 TFESSD proposals

The open-call themes aim to operationalize the key recommendations of the recent World Development Reports such as Equity and Development (WDR 2006), Making Services Work for Poor People (WDR 2004) and Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World (WDR 2003).

This call for concept notes invites proposals on analytical work and action research to **strengthen the enabling policy and institutional environment for pro-poor responses** as well as **assessment of the experience with local level responses** across four priority themes:

1. Natural disasters
2. Inequality and barriers to inclusion, including a special focus on access to natural resources and vulnerable groups
3. Crime, violence and access to justice, including tenure and usufruct rights
4. Adaptation to climate variability and change

TFESSD funds will not be utilized to finance current Bank operations; nonetheless the proposals will need to demonstrate operational relevance.

Selection Criteria for Concept Note

Priority will be given to proposals that have the potential to achieve significant development impact. The Sector Directors for SDV, ENV, POV and SP and their respective Sector Boards will assess and rate all the concept notes according to the following strategic priorities of the TFESSD:

- **innovative and catalytic**, setting the stage for future operations, clearly indicating the linkages of the proposed project with, and value added over, ongoing or planned regular Bank analytical, program or project activities
- in line with **sectoral and country strategies**, indicating how the proposed activities support in the design, implementation and monitoring of national poverty reduction strategies in the countries concerned
- **multi-sectoral**, interlinking themes relevant to social development, environment, poverty and/or social protection and including more than one network in the proposed activity

The three criteria will have equal weight, and each criterion will be given points from 0 to 3. Activities in Sub-Saharan countries will be given extra points.

The recommended concept notes will be listed according to the average rating of the four Sector Directors/Sector Boards. The recommended list and all concept notes will be sent to the Donors. The Donors' list of approved concept notes will be sent to the TTLs who will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Eligibility criteria for TFESSD proposals

- *Eligible Task Managers*: The Trust Fund is Bank executed and proposals can only be submitted by, and task managed by, Bank staff who are accredited to manage trust funds. The TTL is accountable for ensuring that the Bank's fiduciary responsibilities are met. Specifically, s/he ensures that TF proposals are

consistent with donor agreements and program guidelines and that progress reporting (twice a year) and monitoring of the achievement of the TF outcomes and objectives are carried out.

- *Eligible expenditures:* Project preparation work will not be funded, nor components which could be funded as part of ongoing operations. Funds cannot be used for staff salaries, staff travel or grants. Eligible expenditures are consultant fees/travel, workshops, training, publications etc. Bank procurement regulations apply in all cases.
- *Eligible countries:* The TFESSD is limited to financing activities in countries included in the bottom three categories in the OECD/DAC ODA list.¹ Fifty percent of TFESSD funds shall, according to the legal agreement, go to work in/on Sub-Saharan Africa. Elsewhere, preference will be given to IDA countries.
- *Bank Commitment:* At the time of the final proposal, TTLs must indicate adequate BB commitment to execute activities (i.e. cover staff expenses) and include the activity in the Work Program Agreement (WPA).

III Full proposals

The details for full proposal submission will be provided to the finalists after the first stage. These proposals will be assessed by a group of Technical Reviewers. Here is information on the selection criteria for the technical review and the guidelines for how to submit a full proposal – *these pertain to the full proposal, not the concept note.*

Selection Criteria for Full Proposal

The full proposals will be rated against the following criteria:

- Realism and doability, clear outcome and sustainability indicators
- Technical sound, cost effective and replicability
- Collaboration with and capacity building within institutions in developing countries
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination of the results

General guidelines

- *Funds release:* Work can span up to three fiscal years (FY07-09). While an overall amount is tentatively allocated when the project is approved, funds are released in installments as needed. Funding beyond the first year will be released based on good performance as reported in progress reports.
- Proposals should indicate *milestones and monitorable indicators*, especially if they are multi-year, since progress will be reviewed annually based on progress reports. They should include a *clear budget, with planned expenditures by type of expenditure, FY, and source of funds (BB, TFESSD, other sources)*. There is no

¹ See <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/51/35832713.pdf>

minimum or maximum limit per proposal, but we require you to use the same standards for budgets that you would use for regular ESW and other analytical work.

- Proposals for country-level work need to be *approved by the Country Director* or whomever the CD has designated to give such approvals (an email is fine, and should be attached when the proposal is submitted). Innovative upstream work such as forward looking operational research within the priority areas of the call may, in some cases, be considered for funding, without explicit country demand.
- The funds from TFESSD are untied. National partners (experts and institutions), as well as potential partnerships with UN agencies, and Norwegian/Finnish researchers/ institutions are encouraged and should be indicated in the application.

Deadline: Proposals should be sent to Joyce Chinsen, with copy to Ann Hjetland, by January 23, 2006. Incomplete or late proposals will not be considered.

Timetable

Call for Concept Notes: December 13, 2005

Deadline to submit Concept Notes: January 23, 2006

Results of first stage sent to TTLs, Call for Full Proposals: March 6, 2006

Deadline to submit Full Proposal: April 6, 2006

Submission of final selection to the Donors: April 27, 2006

Final decisions by Donors: May/June

Activation of TFs: July

For further information

- Check the TFESSD website at www.worldbank.org/tfessd

FY07 TFESSD Funding Proposal
Concept Note (One page Maximum)

Project:

Task Manager:

Estimated Total Budget:

TFESSD Grant, Total/FY07:

BB Commitment FY07:

Cleared by Sector Manager/Unit:

Date:

List of Beneficiary countries (incl. % of grant going to activities in Sub-Saharan Africa):

List of Different Units/Networks involved:

(1) Brief description of the activities to be carried out, including Capacity building and Dissemination strategy

(2) Fit with Sector and Country Strategy, Grant Development Objective(s), Key Performance Indicators (up to 3 Quantifiable Indicators)

(3) Expected Outputs/Results