

“Regional Pilot Project on Circular Economy (RPCE).
Transition to a clean energy circular economy through
the optimization of energy-intensive value-chains in the
high-impact sectors”

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project Proposal Template

(Please read these application guidelines carefully)

Submission deadline:

8 October 2025, 23h59 Cape Verde local time

Supported by:



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1. INTRODUCTION

In the backdrop of the project “*Regional Pilot Project on Circular Economy. Transition to a clean energy circular economy through the optimization of energy-intensive value-chains in the high-impact sectors*”, implemented by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) with the support of National focal institutions in ECOWAS Member States and funded by Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), ECREEE is launching a call for proposals in order to select projects that will promote smart agriculture and clean energy solutions in agricultural value chains in beneficiary countries, namely Benin, Nigeria and Senegal. The awarded projects will receive a non-reimbursable **co-funding grant for the capital expenditure** in activities that will improve the source of economy in rural communities through the provision of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in specific value chains.

The available funds are 436,200 Euros, with a **maximum grant of 50,000 Euros** to allocate to each successful project. This means at least 2 projects for Senegal (phase I), at least 3 projects for Benin (phases I and II) and at least 3 projects for Nigeria (phases I and II).

Further information about the conditions for access to the grants and guidelines for the submission of proposals in response to this call can be found in the following sections.

2. BACKGROUND

The project “*Regional Pilot Project on Circular Economy. Transition to a clean energy circular economy through the optimization of energy-intensive value-chains in the high-impact sectors*” is a 26-month project that is being implemented in 3 different countries of ECOWAS region, being them, **Benin, Nigeria and Senegal**. Through this project, ECREEE and AECID intend to enhance livelihood in targeted rural communities and improve the source of economy by improving energy efficiency in energy-intensive agribusiness sectors, creating employment and through the adoption of technological innovations in circular economy in value-chains where women and young are well-represented.

The interventions will also spur the adoption of low-carbon technologies in the communities, they will contribute to building resilience and mitigating the negative effects of climate change in the region.

This project will directly contribute to the achievement of the targets of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy, the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy and the ECOWAS Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy, adopted by the ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments in 2013 and 2017 respectively. Moreover, the interventions planned for the project will also be aligned with ECREEE’s flagship programme, Water and

Energy for Food and Circular Economy and will contribute to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

CONTRIBUTION TO SDGs



3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The general objective of the project is to “*Enhance livelihood in targeted communities and improve the source of economy in rural communities*”.

The outcomes of the project will be the following:

- Outcome 1: Energy efficiency improved in 4 energy-intensive agribusiness.
- Outcome 2: Employment created in energy intensive agribusiness sectors in targeted communities.
- Outcome 3: Technological innovations in circular economy adopted in the promoted value-chains **where women are well-represented**.

To attain the objectives and maximize the impact of the project while allowing the scale up of interventions, we have assessed the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries in the participant countries to identify the most significant value chains in terms of market potential, private sector interest, investment potential and growth needs for each value chain.

The preliminary assessment identified several important value chains. To this end, local stakeholders with in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of value chains in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors were consulted, and four value chains in each country were presented, discussed and validated by national stakeholders in workshops in Dakar, Cotonou and Abuja held on 30th April, 16th May and 25th June 2024, respectively.

For more information about the consultative process, you can check the following link on our website:

4. PRIORITIZED INTERVENTIONS

As a result of the research and consultation process, the agricultural value chains summarized in Table 2 were selected for further gap assessment in this project, leading to the recommendations in Table 3.

	BENIN	NIGERIA	SENEGAL
CASHEW NUT	X		
CASSAVA	X	X	
PINEAPPLE	X		
PALM OIL	X	X	
RICE		X	X
TOMATO		X	X
PEANUTS			X
MANGO			X

Table 2: Prioritized value chains for this project in each country

Applicants proposing one or more of the specific interventions listed in Table 3 will receive a higher score during the evaluation process for the selection of projects. However, the application is not limited to these technologies: applicants may propose any other interventions that contribute to improving the productivity of value chains and income generation through the provision of renewable energy or improving energy efficiency in agribusinesses.

Country	Prioritized Value Chains	Recommended Interventions					
		Improved parboiling	Shared solar powered cold storage	Biochar briquette	Small farm level decentralized biogas system	Solar irrigation as a service	Solar-powered juice producing factory
Benin	Cashew Nut / Fruit				X		X
	Cassava				X		

	Pineapple		X		X	X	X
	Palm Oil			X			
Nigeria	Cassava				X		
	Palm Oil			X			
	Rice	X		X		X	
	Tomato		X			X	
Senegal	Rice	X		X		X	
	Tomato		X			X	
	Peanuts			X		X	
	Mango		X			X	X

Table 3: Recommended interventions under RPCE project in each country

In the case that the applicant wants to submit project proposals comprising countries, they must be sent separately, that is, one independent and complete proposal for each country.

5. EXPECTED RESULTS

The results we expect to achieve with the implementation of the project and the indicators to measure the attainment of the targets are indicated in the table below.

Result Description	Indicator
Goal: Poverty reduction among communities assisted with clean energy technologies promoting circular economy	✓ Average daily expenditures of beneficiaries in assisted communities (to be disaggregated by value chain and sex) ✓ Average annual income of assisted energy-intensive MSMEs in beneficiary communities
Outcome 1: Improved agricultural productivity among assisted communities as a result of adopting clean energy technologies	✓ MT/ha of crops harvested by assisted communities in the participating countries ✓ Number of MSMEs supported for clean energy transition / persons who have adopted technological innovations in the promoted value-chains (to be disaggregated by men and women) - Rate of Energy saving due to new technology implemented

	✓ Number of persons employed in the agribusiness sectors in targeted communities (disaggregated by male/female-owned and age groups)
Outcome 2: Carbon dioxide emissions reduction attributable to the adoption of the RE solutions	✓ MT of Carbon Dioxide reduced as a result of adopting clean energy solutions
Outcome 3: Improved management of clean technologies that promote the circular economy	✓ Percentage of assisted communities who reported confident in managing the clean technologies that they have adopted

6. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The approach to the selection of applicants, implementation and monitoring of the projects is illustrated in Annex 2. Applications may be submitted by one entity or by a partnership of two or three organizations.

Applicants should submit their proposals using the proposal template included in Annex 1. All requested information, including the annexes, shall be completed in detail and supporting documents shall be attached and sent by e-mail through: technicalexpert@ecreee.org clearly indicating in the subject: "Call for proposals for RPCE project". **Deadline for Submission: 8th October 2025, 23h59 Cape Verde local time (0:59 GMT).**

The scoring methodology used will be Quality Cost Based Selection.

ANNEX 1: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

PART 1: OVERVIEW

a.1. Project Title:	<i>(full title and subtitle of project)</i>			
a.2. Project ID	<i>To be filled by ECREEE</i>			
a.3. 1 Name of Applicant:	<i>Name of Applicant</i>			
1.3.2 Type of Applicant	<i>(please select or specify)</i> - Private company - Other organisations (specify:)			
1.4.1 Total Project Cost	1.4.2. Total CAPEX of the project	1.4.3 Grant requested	1.4.4 Lead Applicant's Contribution (separate in-kind and cash contributions if applicable)	1.4.5 Partners' contribution (separate in kind and cash contributions if applicable)
EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
100%	in % of total	in % of total CAPEX	in % of total project cost	in % of total project cost
1.5.1 Proposed Technologies / Solutions <i>(Select all the options offered and delete the rest)</i>	- Clean cooking / processing solutions - Solar powered cold storage systems - Biochar briquette - Small farm level decentralized biogas system - Solar irrigation - Solar powered juice producing factory - Other (Specify:)		1.5.2 Project Duration <i>(max. 5 months)</i>	months
1.6.1 Country covered <i>(select country and population group(s) targeted – delete the rest)</i> <i>Projects should cover more than one solution.</i>	- Benin - Nigeria - Senegal <i>(please submit one proposal per country covered)</i>		1.6.2 Name of specific location including geographic coordinates if possible: (region/city/village) (geographic coordinates)	
			1.6.3 Targeted value chain:	

		- Cashew Nut / Fruit - Cassava - Pineapple - Palm Oil - Rice - Tomato - Peanuts - Mango Others (specify:)
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CAPEX (capital expenditure) covers all expenditure incurred by a company in connection with its tangible investments.

1.7 Summary of key features and main project concept:

Briefly describe and explain the key features, main concept, and rationale of the project. This may summarize the core problems, the objectives, expected results and the innovative technology/solutions to address these problems. What key activities will be undertaken to achieve the solutions, how the project will generate its main benefits, what are the benefits, who are the beneficiaries, and how the benefits and results will be sustained or replicated. A reader should be able to understand how the project works, why it is important and what the key features are.

PART 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 Problem Analysis

- ✓ *Describe the existing problems in the targeted region energy, the needs, and constraints of the target groups/final beneficiary groups of the project*
- ✓ *Describe which energy services are currently available*
- ✓ *Describe the linkages between the current energy situation and social, economic, and environmental problems (e.g., health, education, productivity, income)*
- ✓ *Indicate the broad national priorities to which the project contributes*
- ✓ *Describe the local and national relevant legislation and show that the project is in line with and fully respects them.*

2.2 Objectives

Please describe general and specific objectives of your proposed intervention.

- a. *General objective: these are changes in the lives of the beneficiaries, which can be changes in knowledge, skills, behavior or living conditions. It should reflect long-term transformations produced by the proposed intervention. The transformation may be at an economic, environmental, technological or other level.*
- b. *Specific objective(s): These are changes in the capacities, behaviors and/or performance of the beneficiaries that occur between the materialization of the project results/products and the fulfillment of what was established. The objectives should be described in a clear way, expressing a concrete and measurable change.*

2.3 Final Beneficiaries

1. *Describe the main target groups directly involved or concerned during project implementation and the final beneficiaries which are benefiting from the project results. Include disaggregated figures of men, **youth and women**.*
2. *How will the project identify and address their needs?*

2.4 Main Project Activities

List and describe the main activities needed for achieving the main project objectives described in 2.2 and who would be responsible for them. Check whether the activities are practical, realistic, feasible, and coherent. Ensure that the action plan is clear and feasible. The timeframe will have to be indicated in the time and expert deployment schedule in Annex 1.

Results	Main activities (extend as needed)	Objective to which the activity contributes (described in section 2.2)	Responsible partner	Deadline for each activity
1.1				
1.2				
2.1				
3.1				

4.1				
5.1				
...				

2.5 Feasibility and Efficiency of the Project

1. *Demonstrate the general feasibility of the project and the efficiency of the suggested implementation method. A realistic and achievable implementation strategy and effective division of labor between the partners is chosen.*
2. *The financial feasibility of the project must be clearly shown in the budget breakdown on 2.11.(if applicable). Co-funding must be secured. Signed partner agreement(s), letters of commitment, and/or co-facility letters confirming the contributions of each partner to the project and according to the budget breakdown shall be attached to the proposal (Annex 3). The administrative costs should be reasonable in relation to the overall project budget (max. 10%).*
3. *The applicant and its partners have stable financial sources of finance to implement the project. They must also have sufficient management capacity: adequacy of staff (number, qualifications, and expertise), adequacy of the management information system, and controlling (to be described also in 4.3).*

2.6 Sustainability and potential for regional replication or scaling-up

1. *Show the multiplier effect of the project. Supported projects have good potential for replication and should lead to widespread deployment. The project should suggest replication activities.*
2. *Explain how sustainability will be secured after completion of the project. There is adequate ownership of the project by the beneficiaries and project partners. The partners bring in co-facility and in-kind support. Once the project achieves its objectives the beneficiaries will use the services and will continue to provide and maintain infrastructure.*
3. *Constructed infrastructure will be procured locally as much as possible. The energy resources/feedstock are available locally and the technology will be obtained locally and will be imported only if necessary (necessary procurement will be made locally). The import component is as small as possible.*
4. *Financial sustainability is ensured and sources of revenue for covering all future costs (management, operation, maintenance, and equipment replacement) are identified. The finance of the project company is sustainable in the long-term view.*
5. *As much as possible local capacities are applied during the project: describe which training will be conducted before, during, or after the project implementation. Indicate target group(s) and methodology.*

2.7 Risk analysis

Describe the risk factors that will affect the implementation, completion, and sustainability of the project. This should include at least a list of risks associated with each activity proposed accompanied by relevant corrective measures to mitigate such risks. A good risk analysis would include a range of risk types including physical, environmental, political, economic, and social risks.

Specifically indicate the relevance of conducting an environmental and social impact assessment.

Main risk factors	Probability (1 to 5)	Impact (1 to 5)	Mitigating measures

1 is the lowest; 5 is the highest

2.8 Gender

- The gender inclusiveness aspect of the project should be indicated, identifying how the project will ensure equal opportunities for men and women as it concerns improvement in quality of life.*
- The applicant must justify that the project design will not lead to unintended negative gender impacts as a result of the energy project; the project should incorporate gender-sensitive measures that are necessary to achieve the intended goals and should capitalize on opportunities to reduce gender disparities and improve overall development outcomes.*

2.9 Technical Solution

- Describe in detail the technical characteristics of the system (e.g. for biogas: choice of digestion process, reception, treatment and loading equipment, digester with internal components and stirring system, type of gas tank, method of digestate storage, use of biogas) and attach a diagram.*
- Describe for each piece of equipment the international standards certification and the performance guarantees that will be sought during the procurement.*
- Negative and positive social, economic, and environmental externalities and their interrelated costs were considered in the selection process of the best technology alternative (such as local pollution and GHG emissions).*
- The project levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) should be compared with different alternatives.*
- Demonstrate the renewable energy resources/feedstock available in the long term. The use of the resources shall not have negative effects concerning food and water availability or environmental impacts.*

6. *Describe the expected performance of the system. Information provided should include, but are not limited to:*
 - *Number of hours per day and days per year of service*
 - *Technical data of the equipment to be installed (For example: Solar panels, batteries, converters, irrigation pumps, wet or dry fermentation or a combination of the two for biogas, temperature at which the gas is used).*
 - *Lifespan of the main equipment(s)*
 - *Non-technical losses/theft*
 - *Minimum and monthly average state of charge of the batteries*
 - *Percentage of electricity or heat produced from renewable energy sources on a yearly average*
7. *Describe how the project will incorporate energy efficiency in its design, management, operation, and maintenance. The project should ensure that relevant stakeholders are aware of the benefits of the implementation of energy efficiency measures.*
8. *If the proposed intervention aims to strengthen and enhance the services provided by an existing project, the description of the technical solution has to include both the existing system and the proposed one*
9. *Give the reasons for choosing this technical solution.*
10. *Specify the provisions for the electrical safety of personnel and the safety of installations.*
11. *Indicate the measures taken to ensure climatic resistance of the system.*
12. *Indicate the local authorisations, permits and approvals required for this technical solution and the steps taken in progress or to be taken to obtain them.*

2.10 Pricing and tariff scheme (if applicable)

1. *Describe and quantify the foreseen annual management, operation maintenance, and equipment's replacement costs*
2. *Describe in detail the foreseen tariff scheme and the annual incomes it will generate*
3. *Indicate whether the tariff will be based on energy consumption, power demand, services provided, if it will be a flat rate or a combination of these approaches (if applicable)*
4. *Are social tariffs envisaged? Will there be different tariffs for households, commercial businesses, or public institutions?*
5. *Describe how the tariff will be established and approved and indicate for each step the responsible local or national authority*
6. *In the case where the tariff scheme is (or will) be defined by subnational or national authorities, please specify. Indicate the values of the standard national or subnational tariff scheme, if available.*
7. *Explain who's going to be in charge of collecting the tariff*
8. *How much are the final users expected to pay? How is it related to their willingness and ability to pay?*

PART 3: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

3.1 Total eligible direct project costs and requested grant amount: (in EUR)

Provide a detailed budget breakdown of the total eligible direct project costs and funding structure as indicated in the example below. **Please note that the ECREEE grant will be limited to Capital Expenditure (CAPEX).** Give a realistic overview of the co-funding from different partners. Projects with a higher co-funding rate will be rated better during appraisal. **You are requested to send the Excel sheet document that you used to produce the budget below along with your application.**

Total Direct Costs (all activities)		
Budget Items	Costs	% of total costs
A. Personnel Costs		
B. Travel and Subsistence		
C. Equipment and Supplies		
D. Construction works		
E. Services		
F. Workshops and Training		
G. Other Costs		
H. Evaluation & Audit		
I. Contingency Reserve (5%)		
Subtotal Direct Eligible Costs		
Administrative Costs (max. 10%)		
Total Costs		

Budget Items	Total Cost Eligible	ECREEE Grant	ECREEE Grant co-Funding in %
A. Equipment and Supplies			
B. Construction works			
C. Others (only CAPEX)			
Total Costs			

You are also requested to send the **project cash flow**.

PART 4: APPLICANT INFORMATION

A **minimum of two (2) years of existence** of the (lead) applicant is expected. Signed partner agreement(s), letters of commitment, and/or co-funding letters confirming the contributions of each partner to the project and according to the budget breakdown shall be attached to the proposal (Annex 3). Indicate the type of organization of all project partners: Private Business, Government Agency, Private Research, Public Research, Government enterprise, Private university/Public university, NGO, charitable organization, Community Based Organization, Cooperative Organization, etc.

In addition, the company must be duly registered in the country in which it wishes to submit its proposal.

4.1 Applicant and partners

Name of Partner	Type of Organization	Year of Establishment	Legal Registration No.	Contact Person	Full Postal Address	E-mail Address of the Contact Person	Office and Mobile Phone Numbers of the Contact Person (add country code)
Applicant							
Partner 1							
Partner 2							
Partner 3							

4.2 Type of partnership

Select one (mark with "x"):

Private – Private	
Private – Public	

4.3 Capacity and Experience of Applicant and Partners

Provide a brief description of the capacity and experience of the Lead Applicant and Partner(s) to execute the project. Types of projects undertaken, management experience, nature of operations, number of employees, branches (if applicable, the experience of companies and particularly of the engaged project team).

Lead Applicant (specify name):

Partner 1 - (please specify name):

Partner 2 - (please specify name):

Partner 3 - (please specify name):

4.4 Experience / expertise of project team:

Highlight experience / expertise of relevance to the proposed project. Curriculum Vitae have to be attached in Annex 4.

Project team	Name	Highest educational qualification	Summary of Professional Experience (Up to two paragraphs)
Team Leader			
Expert 1 (position)			
Expert 2			

...			
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PART 5: CERTIFICATION BY LEAD APPLICANT

Signature:	
Name:	
Position in organization:	
Date and Location:	
Organizational Stamp of Lead Applicant:	

Annex No. 1) Time and Expert Deployment Schedule

Complete and modify the Excel sheet according to your needs and copy and paste the graph into the Full Project Proposal as below:

	Month 1				Month 2				Month 3				Month 4				Month 5			
Activities	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.1																				
1.2																				
2.1																				

	Working Days per Month (w/month)				
Name of Experts/Consultant	1	2	3	4	5
Name of Expert (Team Leader)					
Name of Expert 1					
Name of Expert 2					
...					
Total					

Annex No. 2) Attach Budget Breakdown Excel File

Annex No. 3) Attach Photos from the Project Site (if available)

Annex No. 4) Attach signed partner agreement(s), letters of commitment and/or co-funding, approvals received.

Annex No. 5) Attach Curriculum Vitae of the experts of the project team.

Annex No. 6) Letter of endorsement from the ECREEE National Focal Institution (NFI)

ANNEX 2: Process of implementation of the project

Process of Implementation of the Regional Pilot Project on Circular Economy (RPCE). Transition to a clean energy circular economy through the optimization of energy-intensive value-chains in the high-impact sectors”

