

Request for Proposals

Scoping Study for Fiscal Institutes

1. Background

The African Climate Foundation (ACF) works to strengthen Africa's resilience, fiscal autonomy, and agency in global and regional debates on finance, climate, and development. ACF operates at the nexus of development and climate, seeking to bridge gaps between fiscal policy, sustainable development, and climate action. Its mission is to support African institutions, governments, and civil society to shape solutions that respond both to immediate fiscal challenges and the long-term imperative of a just and green transition.

In recent years, African governments have faced rising debt burdens, heightened climate risks, and constrained fiscal space. These pressures underscore the need for credible, independent policy institutions that can provide Ministries of Finance and other stakeholders with robust analysis, capacity building, practical recommendations, and politically informed options for reform. ACF is therefore commissioning a scoping study to assess the feasibility of supporting fiscal institutes in Africa. The study will provide a systematic mapping of existing institutions, analyze their strengths and weaknesses, identify opportunities for strategic partnerships, and recommend practical models for ACF engagement. The study will therefore help inform how philanthropies like ACF should strengthen macro-fiscal capabilities across Africa to meet current and emerging macro-fiscal, public financial management (PFM), and climate-finance needs.

2. Objectives

The study will:

- Assess the demand (needs) of Finance Ministries and relevant actors.
- Map the types of organizations that can meet these needs, highlighting their mandates and capabilities in fiscal policy, debt management, public financial management, and climate/development finance and so forth.
- Assess capabilities and gaps – analyze which skills, resources, and institutional functions already exist in Africa and which need to be developed or strengthened.
- Identify which non-African institutes meet similar needs and what partnership or adaptation models are applicable to Africa.

Board of Trustees:

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- Typologies of institutes – explore different models: (i) stand-alone fiscal institutes, (ii) institutes embedded within academic centres, (iii) coordinating networks that can be mobilized.
- Peer learning and South-South collaboration – recommend how fiscal institutes can learn from one another, and how cross-country peer-to-peer platforms could be structured.
- Define how philanthropic actors can create, strengthen, and sustain fiscal management capabilities as part of a wider ecosystem of institutions.
- Advice on ecosystem design – provide recommendations on what a strong African fiscal institute ecosystem should look like, including:
 - What new capabilities may be needed.
 - Where to invest for long-term skills development.
 - How to embed peer-to-peer learning and networks.
 - How African-led institutions can play leadership roles, including through consortia with non-African partners.
- Pilot country recommendations – select two countries and up to two candidate institutes per country for potential ACF support.
- Propose models for ACF engagement, embed sustainability considerations, and a draft monitoring and results framework with indicators.
- Include an analysis on why traditional technical-assistance (TA) models have had mixed impact on the continent and identify principles/structures that correlate with success. The study should review delivery modalities commonly used in Africa; embedded advisors, short-term missions, resident twinning, programmatic/budget support-linked TA, workshops etc.

The shortlisted institutes may be leveraged as delivery anchors for deeper in-country workstreams that ACF envisages. This may include countries of interest such as Ethiopia or Tanzania.

3. Deliverables

Three key deliverables are expected under this assignment: an inception report, a mapping note, and a final scoping report to be delivered within a 6–8-week timeframe from contract signature.

1. **Inception Report** – This will outline the methodology, analytical framework, mapping criteria, and a detailed workplan with timelines.
2. **Mapping Findings Note** – This will present the longlist of potential institutes, institutional profiles, and an initial assessment of their capabilities.
3. **Final Scoping Report** – This will include:
 - Selection of two pilot countries and two recommended institutes per country.

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- Ecosystem analysis and advice on capabilities needed, including recommendations for regional networking, peer-to-peer learning mechanisms and long-term skills development.
- The role of philanthropy and models for ACF support and sustainability considerations.
- Draft monitoring and results framework with indicators.

4. Qualifications of the Consultant/Team

Proposals are invited from firms or individuals with the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree(s) in economics, finance, public policy, or related field.
- At least 10 years of demonstrated experience in public financial management, fiscal policy, or macroeconomic governance in Africa.
- Proven expertise in advising or providing technical services to fiscal councils, fiscal institutes, parliamentary budget offices, think tanks, research institutes or similar institutions in developing countries.
- Strong track record in conducting institutional diagnostics, political economy analysis, and applied research.
- Strong knowledge of the African policy and think-tank landscape.
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- Ability to engage with diverse stakeholders (government, civil society, donors) and produce actionable, policy-relevant outputs.
- **For non-African applicants:** proposals must clearly demonstrate a partnership with a local African institution.

5. Proposal Requirements

- Technical Proposal: outlining brief methodology, workplan.
- Financial Proposal: including daily rates, and total estimated budget.
- Overview of relevant past assignments.
- CVs

Interested service providers are invited to submit their proposals by email with the subject line: **Proposal Submission: Scoping Study for Fiscal Institutes** to **RFP@africanclimatefoundation.org** no later than **October 31st, 2025**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Any enquiries or requests for clarification regarding this RFP should be directed in writing to: **awa@africanclimatefoundation.org**.

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Only shortlisted applicants may be contacted for further discussions or clarifications.

Evaluation and scoring matrix

Criteria	Description	Weight (%)
Understanding of the Assignment and Approach	Demonstrates a clear understanding of ACF's objectives for the fiscal institutes scoping study, contextual awareness of Africa's macro-fiscal and institutional landscape.	25
Methodology and Workplan	Soundness, clarity, and feasibility of the proposed methodology and analytical framework; quality of the proposed mapping criteria and approach to institutional assessment; realism of the proposed workplan and timeline.	25
Team Composition and Qualifications	Relevant experience of the consultant(s) in public financial management, fiscal policy, institutional diagnostics, and African policy systems; mix of skills; inclusion of African expertise or partnerships.	25
Relevant Experience and Track Record	Demonstrated experience with similar assignments (institutional diagnostics, think-tank ecosystem analysis, fiscal council support, etc.	15
Cost Effectiveness and Value for Money	Realism and cost efficiency of the financial proposal, daily rates, and resource allocation relative to expected outputs.	10
Total		100

Responses to questions received will be provided in the following spreadsheet: [Link](#)

The African Climate Foundation reserves the right to request additional information, negotiate terms with potential grantees. The ACF is not obligated to provide feedback on unsuccessful proposals. All submitted materials will be treated confidential.

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