

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Opportunity: Individual Consultant or Consultancy Firm

Title of Research: Conduct research to assess gaps in governance of carbon markets, identifying challenges and opportunities for achieving high integrity projects and propose workable solutions based on international best practices on transparency and integrity in carbon market projects.

Application Closing Date: February 28, 2025

Location of Consultancy: Karachi/Remote

BACKGROUND

At COP 29, Pakistan launched Policy Guidelines for Carbon Markets duly approved by the Cabinet in December 2024. Carbon markets are considered as an effective mechanism to help address climate change by targeting the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere as envisioned in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. These markets provide economic incentives for transitioning to more sustainable sources, which are crucial for Pakistan to meet its targets as set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 2021

However, there are integrity, transparency and accountability risks in the carbon markets which are further exacerbated due to governance gaps, insufficient monitoring, and inequitable benefit-sharing mechanisms which can affect the credibility and effectiveness of the carbon credit and offset projects. This consultancy will address these issues by proposing solutions that enhance transparency, accountability, and equity in the carbon markets, aligning practices with international standards while fostering local and global confidence.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct desk review and interviews (wherever necessary) to critically analyze the existing governance framework for Carbon Markets and benchmark against global standards such as Verra, Gold Standard, and Paris Agreement.
- To identify gaps in implementation mechanisms and highlight risks related to double counting, financial mismanagement, and exclusion of marginalized groups.
- Evaluate and assess project selection criteria to ensure alignment with transparency, accountability, and integrity principles in carbon market initiatives.
- To develop actionable frameworks input for robust monitoring, transparent credit transactions, carbon credit registries and equitable benefit-sharing mechanism, based on international best practices on transparency and integrity in carbon market projects.
- Liaison with TI Pakistan team during the process of compiling a research report.

- Assist in organizing national level stakeholders' workshop in Islamabad (tentative) to disseminate findings or the report.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The consultancy will span three months, with the following deliverables:

S. No:	Deliverable	Description	Deadline
	Inception of the Research		10 th March 2025
1	Inception Report	Detailed work plan, research methodology, and stakeholder engagement strategy.	20 th March 2025
2	Draft Research and Data Collection Methodology	Comprehensive methodology for data collection, stakeholder consultations, and analysis.	25 th March 2025
3	Stakeholder Consultation Summary	Consolidated insights from interviews, with key stakeholders.	10 th April 2025
4	Draft Integrity and Transparency Framework	Proposed MRV systems and National Carbon Registry recommendations.	25 th April 2025
5	Equity and Inclusion Strategy	Recommendations for equitable benefit-sharing and grievance redressal mechanisms.	10 th May 2025
6	Final Report	Comprehensive report incorporating stakeholder feedback, including actionable recommendations.	20 th May 2025
7	Review by TI Pakistan	Finalisation of the Report for Dissemination	30 th May 2025
8	Stakeholders Workshop	To disseminate findings of the report on carbon markets governance and transparency	25 th June 2025

All deliverables must be submitted in English, electronically, and adhere to high standards of editing and quality control.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The eligible candidate must possess at least Master's Degree or higher qualification in the field of public policy, climate change, social development, economics, business, development studies, social sciences or relevant field. For consultancy firms, the qualification of the lead researcher will be considered against the requirement.
- At least 07 years research expertise in climate legal and/or policy contexts with a strong background and understanding of international carbon markets, standards, legal and policy frameworks, relevant international climate conventions, protocols, as well as policy reforms.

- Proven track record in developing actionable frameworks and conducting capacity-building initiatives.
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English.
- Excellent quantitative and qualitative analysis skills.

REMUNERATION AND COSTS

The consultant will receive a lump sum payment based on the successful completion of agreed-upon milestones and deliverables.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the consultant/consultancy firm has demonstrated understanding of the task, experience of previous and similar work, capacity and how the proposed approach aligns with the needs and tasks. Only shortlisted applications will be notified for interview. Applicants may be asked to provide additional or clarifying information and details on the assistance requested.

The award will be made to a person or the firm whose offer meets the eligibility requirements, or exceeds the minimum required technical specifications, and is judged to be of the best value for money offer based on a technically acceptable basis. The application will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria set out below.

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Past Performance: Record of well-established and successful delivery of similar research.	30
Technical Approach: Demonstrated evidence of technical knowledge. CV of lead researcher should demonstrate extensive knowledge and experience in research around climate governance and policy frameworks	30
Costs are reasonable and within allocable budget	40
TOTAL SCORE	100

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants and firm should submit the following documents in English as part of their application package:

1. Lead Researcher and Firm's Profile highlighting qualifications and relevant experience.

2. A brief proposal describing the approach to the assignment, research methods, and a detailed cost breakdown.
3. At least one sample of relevant previous work (e.g., reports, frameworks, toolkits).

Applications should be submitted by 28th February 2025 to comms@transparency.org.pk with the subject line: *Application for Research Position: Pakistan's Carbon Market Transparency*.