

GUIDELINES

Request for proposals to co-design just energy transition interventions in Mpumalanga

1. Background

The Embassy of France in South Africa is inviting proposals to **lead and facilitate an inclusive and participatory process to co-design just energy transition interventions in the Mpumalanga province.**

This work will be funded under the programme “*Contributing to a just transition to a low carbon society in South Africa*” of the Embassy of France, implemented in 2023-2024.

Cooperation to combat climate change, and thus promote a just transition to a low-carbon future, are priorities of the bilateral cooperation between South Africa and France.

France, alongside Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union, have pledged to support South Africa’s transition to a low-carbon energy system, through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P). Through this partnership, France has been engaging with the South African Government and civil society organisations on strengthening the ‘just’ dimension of its contribution, and supporting interventions that effectively contribute to a just transition on the ground, in line with the *Framework for a Just Transition in South Africa* developed by the Presidential Climate commission (October 2022) and the *Just Energy Transition Investment Plan* adopted by the South African Government (October 2022).

The ‘just’ dimension of the transition is paramount: as climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities and inequalities, South Africa recognises that its response to climate change must be firmly grounded in social justice. This ambition is justified by the deep socio-economic inequalities and challenges the country is facing, and the constitutional right to “an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being” (South African Constitution, Article 24). South Africa’s transition to a low-carbon development trajectory must therefore be handled in a way that delivers systemic socio-economic benefits for all, and contributes to redress inequalities and injustices.

As support to the transition build up, there are concerns that interventions and financial support could be misaligned with the needs and aspirations of those directly affected (communities, municipalities, and local stakeholders at large), and/or that they find themselves side-lined from decision-making processes. Thus, there is a need to encourage the co-design of interventions aimed at contributing to the just transition, in line with the principle of “procedural justice” advanced in the *Framework for a Just Transition in South Africa*. This approach to intervention development is intended to prioritise the end users’ perspective (community members) while fostering collective sense-making of what ‘just’ means through ongoing and constructive collaboration between a diversity of stakeholders directly concerned, i.e. local government

(municipalities, provincial governments), economic actors, civil society, etc. It is necessary to ensure the integration of contextual information into the intervention design, hence local relevance when translating policies and strategies on the ground.

2. Objective and priorities

The objectives of the French Embassy's programme are to:

- promote inclusive and participatory processes in the context of the just transition in South Africa;
- provide seed funding to interventions co-designed by a community affected by the shift away from coal.

This funding opportunity focuses on the first objective to facilitate inclusive and participatory processes to co-design just energy transition interventions.

The French Embassy then intends to avail seed funding to implement just energy transition interventions identified through this co-design process (from 2024). For this second phase, the Embassy will reserve the right to extend the partnership with the organisation(s) leading the co-design process in 2023, or partner with other stakeholders, as the need may be.

Through this Request for Proposals, the French Embassy seeks to support project(s) that:

- Focus on an area / community affected by the energy transition in the Mpumalanga province, where a participatory process to co-design just energy transition interventions can be facilitated with the stakeholders concerned.

Applicants shall motivate in their proposal the choice of area / community, taking into account other ongoing or planned interventions in Mpumalanga to avoid unnecessary duplication.

- Facilitate a participatory co-design process in the said area / community.

Applicants shall explain the proposed methodology and identify the stakeholders they will seek to engage and involve in the process.

- Produce an action and investment plan capturing the outcome of the co-design process, to inform further support (seed funding) by the French Embassy from 2024.

Further information as to the financial capacity of the French Embassy for seed funding will be communicated at the outset of the process.

- Foster buy-in from municipal and provincial levels to engage in co-design processes.

Activities funded under this programme shall include the following cross-cutting dimensions in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation:

- Gender equality: The design of the action should give particular attention to gender mainstreaming to ensure strengthened women agency. Project demonstrating a gender-transformative approach will be reviewed favourably.
- Meaningful participation: creative and participatory principles and tools to engage different kinds of people and knowledge in problem-solving.

3. Eligibility criteria

3.1 Applicants

Applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- A legal entity registered in South Africa.
- A non-profit organisation (e.g. non-governmental organisation, community-based organisation, citizens' movement, cooperative, agency, trade union, etc.).
- or
- A social enterprise.
- Proven experience and operational capacity to carry out the planned activities the Mpumalanga province.
- Be directly responsible for the planning and implementation of activities, and not acting solely as an intermediary.

Proposals by a consortium of two or more applicants are eligible.

3.2 Activities

- Duration: activities must be completed by 31st December 2023.
- Location: Mpumalanga province.
- Sector / theme: co-designing just energy transition interventions.
- Types of activities:

Eligible activities include (non-exhaustive): awareness-raising, meetings, workshops, seminars, research, study tours, report writing, development of educational or communication material.

The following types of projects are ineligible:

- Activities concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- Activities concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Activities concerned only or mainly with procurement of equipment;
- Activities concerned only with one-off conferences. Conferences can only be funded if they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented in the lifetime of the project (preparatory activities for a conference and the publication of the proceedings of the conference do not, in themselves, constitute such "wider activities");
- Activities which discriminate against individuals or groups of people on grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or lack of them, or their ethnic origin;
- Activities including proselytism;
- Activities supporting political or electoral parties;
- Activities inciting and/or resorting to violence.

3.3 Costs

Eligible costs:

- The percentage of the cost of staff assigned to the project, corresponding to actual gross salaries including social security charges and other remuneration-related costs;
- Travel and subsistence costs for staff and other persons taking part in the project;

- Any flat-rate reimbursement of the subsistence costs must be reasonable;
- Purchase or rental costs for equipment and supplies (new or used), specifically for the purposes of the project, and costs of services, provided they correspond to market rates;
- Cost of consumables necessary for the project;
- Sub-contracting expenditure;
- Costs deriving directly from the requirements of the project (dissemination of information, translation, reproduction, etc.);
- Financial services costs and as well as office running costs should be included under administration.

Ineligible costs:

- Debts and provision for losses from debts;
- Interest owed;
- Items already funded under another project (double-dipping);
- Purchases of land or buildings;
- Third party credits.

4. Size of funding

The total financial allocation for this request for proposals is EUR 95,000.

The French Embassy reserves the right not to award all available funds, and to enter into up to two (02) financing agreement within this allocation.

The maximum amount per contract is therefore EUR 95,000.

5. How to apply

Further information about the project may be obtained from the French Embassy. Requests should be addressed by email to noelle.garcin@diplomatie.gouv.fr by **21 April 2023**.

Applications shall include the following documents:

- Project proposal, using the template in Annexure 1.

In their technical proposal, applicant(s) are invited to highlight their experience and competence in the following areas:

- Experience in terms of community engagement / participatory approaches
- Experience / skills in terms of environmental and climate justice
- Experience / skills in terms of facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (community, local government, private sector, trade unions...)
- Capacity to operate in Mpumalanga

- Budget proposal, using the template in Annexure 2.

Applications shall be submitted by email to noelle.garcin@diplomatie.gouv.fr with the subject REF: "RfP Just Energy Transition Mpumalanga – *[name of Applicant]*"

Deadline for applications is **30 April 2023**.

T&C:

Based on the proposals received, the Embassy of France will engage short listed applicants to discuss their technical and financial proposals further. The Embassy reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to cancel the selection process and reject all proposals at any time, without incurring any liability to the applicants.

12. Funding award criteria

Description		Weight
a	Relevance of the proposed activities	10
b	Robustness of project design and proposed methodology	15
c	Experience of the applicant(s) in terms of community engagement / participatory approaches	10
d	Experience / competence of the applicant(s) in terms of environmental and climate justice	10
e	Experience of the applicant(s) in terms of facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (community, local government, private sector, trade unions...)	10
f	Adherence to timelines	5
Total		60

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1 – Project proposal template

Annexure 2 – Budget template