

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

from

Not-for-Profit Institutions

Ref: HAR.CFP.0004 Revolving Fund

(Please quote this UNESCO reference in all correspondence)

Date 19 December 2025

Closing date: 16/01/2026 (23:59 GMT+2)

Submission via email to: rosa.tender@unesco.org

Inquiries via email to: rosa.tender@unesco.org (technical aspects)

rosa.tender@unesco.org (administrative & financial aspects)

I. **BACKGROUND :**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030](#) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. This Call for Partnerships (CFP) for Implementation Partners relates to the UNESCO project:

Strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilization in Zimbabwe

UNESCO in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe is implementing a US\$5 million project with financial support from the Adaptation Fund (AF) project. The objective of the project is to increase local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilization for food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe (Binga and Buhera districts). To achieve this, the project will implement an array of actions starting at national to local levels. These include:

- (i) Strengthening technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local level;
- (ii) Conducting comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization;
- (iii) Strengthening the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments by developing integrated catchment management plans that promote groundwater use whilst protecting groundwater resources;
- (iv) Piloting and demonstrating concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilization by diversifying and strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments; and
- (v) Compiling and disseminating lessons learnt from the project to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management.

Due to limited adaptation options in Binga and Buhera districts, an increase in unsustainable activities along key value chains is observed, leading to land degradation and deterioration of key water sources. Poor land husbandry practices have degraded crucial water resources systems such as wetlands and natural sand dams, which are incrementally reducing their ability to provide ecosystem services. The other challenge is related to poor value chains. Some business ventures such as beekeeping and goat

rearing have not been successful because of the limited scale of the projects and disorganized markets. These challenges are happening in a space where there is a weak institutional framework for farmers to participate viably in priority value chains, with weak adaptive capacities among the smallholder communities and low application of climate smart technologies. These issues have led to reduced land productivity, diminished natural capital, and decreased resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. To increase the ability of households to positively respond to climate change impacts and enhance adaptive capacity, the project will establish a revolving fund to benefit approximately 2000 households in four Project wards (**Binga Wards 13 and 19; Buhera Wards 20 and 23**). The revolving fund will ensure sustainability of project actions beyond the Project lifetime. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development is the technical executing partner, and the project will be implemented for 4 years from January 2024 to January 2028.

II. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES:

The objective of this Call for Proposals is to engage in partnership with not-for-profit organizations operating in Zimbabwe to establish a revolving fund to benefit approximately 2000 households in four Project wards (**Binga Wards 13 and 19; Buhera Wards 20 and 23**), on behalf of UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa to complement the climate resilience interventions in the country. The revolving fund will ensure sustainability of project actions beyond the Project lifetime. This project aims to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable communities living in the target project districts: The outcome and output are provided below:

To pilot and demonstrate concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilization for diversifying and strengthening livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments

Output 4.5 About 2,000 households in the four Project wards apply and access funding from the food security and livelihood enhancement revolving fund: Under Output 4.5, 2000 households from **Binga District (Wards 13 and 19) and Buhera District (Wards 20 and 23)** will benefit from a revolving fund to undertake climate-smart livelihood enhancement interventions inline with proposals made by communities during participatory consultations. The interventions to be considered include household rainwater harvesting, bee keeping, piggery, pen fattening, orchard, horticulture, biogas production, solar energy and climate smart agriculture. These activities were found to have no or minimal negative impacts during the risk screening process. Thus, each application for sub-project submitted for funding through the revolving fund will be evaluated against these options.

Detailed objectives and related outputs and deliverables are provided in the Terms of Reference – **Annex 1**

Final Beneficiaries

Eligible proposals will be those focused on **Binga District (Wards 13 and 19) and Buhera District (Wards 20 and 23)** and targeting [2000 households as the direct and final beneficiaries].

II. ELIGIBILITY :

A UNESCO Implementation Partner is an entity with a not-for-profit status to which UNESCO has entrusted partially or fully the implementation of programmes or projects specified in a signed document, along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of resources and the delivery of outputs as set forth in such a document.

Main features of a UNESCO Implementation Partners' Agreement
The partner brings added value, including monetary or in-kind contribution, to the project/activity
The partner shares in the risks and rewards of the project/activity implementation and is responsible and accountable for delivering expected results
The partner is involved at each step of the process, from detailed work plan elaboration to project/activity evaluation.
The partnership will include aspects beyond the delivery of a service to include capacity-building elements with respect to the partner and/or beneficiary

The parameters that will determine whether an entity is eligible to be considered by UNESCO will be based on the UNESCO Partner Identification form – **Annex 2**

III. PROPOSAL:

Proposed Methodology, Approach, Quality Assurance Plan and Implementation Plan

This section should demonstrate the entity's response to the Terms of Reference by identifying the specific components proposed, how the outputs/ delivery shall be addressed, as specified; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed; identifying the works/portions of the work that will be subcontracted.

Moreover the proposal should demonstrate how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the TOR, while ensuring appropriateness of the approach to the local conditions and the rest of the project operating environment. This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable and a quality assurance.

Management Structure and Resource (Key Personnel)

This section should include the comprehensive description of the management structure and information regarding required resources including curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology, clearly defining the qualifications in areas relevant to the TOR.

See **Annex 3** for Proposal Template

IV. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY :

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Sound technical proposal that includes innovative and replicable inclusion mechanisms to maximize the value transfer to the beneficiaries.
- 2) High impact interventions directly targeting and responding to the needs established in the TOR.
- 3) Size of budget requested commensurate with the organization's proven administrative and financial management capacity.
- 4) Participatory monitoring and evaluation that will contribute to building a sense of ownership among the beneficiaries to promote the sustainability of the interventions.

Summary of Technical Proposal Form	Points Obtainable	Name of Firm/Institution		
		A	B	C
1 Eligibility and qualifications of an entity submitting proposal	100			
2 Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan	400			
3 Management Structure and Key Personnel	200			
Sub-Total for Evaluation Form	700			

Financial Proposal Evaluation Form

Sample: Summary of Financial Proposal	Points Obtainable	Name of Firm / Institution		
		A	B	C
Financial Proposal	300			
Sub-total for Financial Evaluation	300			

Evaluation of the price proposals (of all Entities who have attained minimum 70 % score in the technical evaluation) will be based on the weight scoring method:

Combined Technical and Financial Evaluation

Sample: Summary of Financial Proposal Evaluation Forms	Points Obtainable	Name of Firm / Institution			
		A	B	C	D
Sub-total Technical Proposal	700				
Sub-total Financial Proposal	300				

V. BUDGET SIZE AND DURATION :

The amount requested in the proposal should be commensurate with the organization's administrative and financial management capabilities. In principle, project duration will not exceed 24 months.

Regarding the budget of the technical proposal of the partner, UNESCO retains the right to elaborate the work plan and negotiate the budget with the partner, prior to signing agreement, to ensure value of money. Likewise, UNESCO will ensure that in accordance with its policies the selected Partner will be able to provide added value in terms of **financial or in-kind contribution**. The partner's financial or in-kind contribution will be indicated in the budget proposal. No overheads in terms of administrative or service fees are accepted (direct budgeting based on activities).

VI. SELECTION PROCESS :

UNESCO will review proposals through a five-step process: (i) determination of eligibility; (ii) technical review of eligible proposals; (iii) scoring and ranking of the eligible proposals based on the assessment criteria outlined in the previous section, to identify highest ranking proposal; (iv) round of clarification (if necessary) and work plan elaboration with the highest-scoring proposal; and, (v) Implementation Partners' Agreement (IPA) signature.

VII. SUBMISSION PROCESS :

Applicants shall bear all costs related to proposal preparation and submission.

Applicants must submit in two separate emails Technical and Financial proposals via email:

- rosa.tender@unesco.org

The following documents must be submitted in order for the submission to be considered:

- 1) Proposal documents (technical and financial, including project outline)
- 2) Budget on Budget Template
- 3) Partners' Identification Form (duly filled in, with supporting documents)
- 4) Audited financial statements for past two years
- 5) CVs with Terms of Reference
- 6) Official Certificate of Legal Status registration

Only one submission per organization is allowed. Once the application is complete and submitted, revised versions of proposal documents will not be accepted.

Submission Deadline

Proposals, with supporting documents, should be submitted by 23:59 GMT+2 on 16 January 2026.

For additional questions about the Call for Proposals Guidelines or application forms, please e-mail rosa.tender@unesco.org

Note: UNESCO reserves the right not to fund any proposals arising from this Call for Partnerships

Depending on the value and context of the implementation partners agreement, the final financial report must be audited by the External Auditor of the Partner. The audit requirement will be confirmed during work plan elaboration and contract finalization.

Below is an estimated timeline for this Call for Partnerships:

19 December 2025]: Call for Partnerships opens.

16 January 2026]: Deadline for organizations to submit proposals under this Call.

[18 January 2026 – 6 February 2026]: Assessment and selection processes will take place.

[20 February 2026]: Selected applicants will be notified.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UNESCO requires that partners, bidders and their subcontractors adhere to the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct during the implementation of the partnership agreement and do not engage in corrupt and fraudulent practices.

United Nations Agencies have adopted a zero-tolerance policy on gifts and, therefore, it is of overriding importance that UNESCO staff should not be placed in a position where their actions may constitute or could be reasonably perceived as reflecting favorable treatment of an individual or entity by accepting offers of gifts, hospitality or other similar favours. Partners are therefore requested not to send or offer gifts or hospitality to UNESCO personnel.

UNESCO will:

- (a) Reject a proposal to award an agreement if it determines that a partner recommended for award has engaged in fraud and/or corruption in competing for the agreement in question.
- (b) Cancel or terminate an agreement if it determines that a partner has engaged in fraud and/or corruption in competing for or in executing a UNESCO contract;
- (c) Declare a partner ineligible to become a “United Nations registered vendor”, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, if it determines at any time that the partner has engaged in fraud and/or corruption in competing for or in executing a UNESCO agreement.

This Call for Partnerships is not to be construed in any way as an offer to contract with your organization. Your proposal could, however, form the basis for a contract between your organization and UNESCO.

You are requested to acknowledge the receipt of this Call for Partnerships and to indicate whether or not you will be submitting a proposal. For this purpose, and for any requests for clarification and request for additional documents, please contact *[Procurement & Contracting Unit at rosa.tender@unesco.org]*.

For and on behalf of UNESCO

Regional Director and UNESCO Representative
UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa

VIII. ANNEXES:

Annex 1- Terms of Reference

Annex 2 - UNESCO Partner Identification form (to be completed and signed)

Annex 3 - Proposal Template

Annex 4 - Budget template

Annex 5 - Implementation Partners' Agreement (example)

Annex 6 - Vendor registration form