Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

About the Energy for Growth in Africa Initiative

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its Energy for Growth in Africa Initiative anchored at the UNDP Rome Centre, invites project developers, companies, and organisations working on clean and renewable energy infrastructure across participating African countries to express their interest in receiving support under this initiative.

The initiative aims to support projects that expand sustainable energy access across Africa while contributing to climate change mitigation, advancing SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and supporting SDG 13 (Climate Action). It supports efforts to strengthen the investment readiness of clean energy projects and to facilitate dialogue between project developers and potential financing partners, contributing to sustainable economic development across the continent.

Submission of an Expression of Interest does not constitute a commitment, endorsement, financing decision, or guarantee of support by UNDP.

What We Offer

UNDP will provide tailored support to selected clean energy projects that meet the programme's eligibility criteria. The objective is to strengthen project development, enhance investment readiness, and facilitate connections between project developers and potential financing partners. Support is provided at no cost to the applicant.

Selected projects may benefit from one or more of the following support pathways, determined on the basis of an initial project assessment:

Technical Assistance and Investment Readiness Support

UNDP will undertake an investment readiness assessment and help address outstanding gaps – either through the direct provision of in-house expertise or the facilitation of technical assistance through associated programmes and partners beyond the Energy for Growth in Africa initiative. This may include support in areas such as:

- Technical and financial feasibility assessments
- Business model development or refinement
- Financial modelling and structuring
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA)
- Market assessments and value chain analyses
- Climate rationale and impact measurement frameworks
- Legal and regulatory advisory
- Preparation of investor-ready project documentation

This support is designed to advance projects from their current stage of development towards full investment readiness, addressing technical, financial, environmental, and social dimensions as needed.

Facilitating Connections and Dialogue

For projects that demonstrate strong fundamentals and are approaching or have reached investment readiness, UNDP can support engagement with the broader financing ecosystem such as Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), impact investors and commercial banks. This support may include:

- Preparation of an Investment Readiness Assessment
- Facilitating introductions to potential financing partners, including development finance institutions, climate funds, and impact investors
- Supporting participation in investor roundtables, convenings, or dialogue platforms
- Providing guidance on aligning project documentation with the expectations and requirements of different financing partners

Note: UNDP does not act as a broker or intermediary in financial transactions. Its role is to support project development, create platforms for engagement, and facilitate dialogue between relevant actors.

Eligible Project Types

The initiative focuses on clean and renewable energy projects. Eligible technology areas include:

Technology Area	Examples
Independent Power Producers (IPP)	Utility-scale solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass
Commercial & Industrial (C&I)	Rooftop solar, on-site generation, energy efficiency for businesses
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	Grid-scale and behind-the-meter storage solutions
Mini-grids	Solar-hybrid mini-grids for rural and peri-urban electrification
Clean Cooking	Improved cookstove distribution, LPG, bioethanol, electric cooking
Solar Home Systems (SHS)	Stand-alone and pay-as-you-go solar solutions for households
Electric Vehicles (EV)	EV charging infrastructure, electric mobility solutions

Projects or companies within the renewable energy value chain, in adjacent or hybrid sectors—such as productive use equipment, manufacturing, digital integration, recycling, solar irrigation, or agricultural processing powered by renewable energy—*may be considered* *on a case-by-case basis* but fall outside the core programme scope and are not guaranteed eligibility.

*** Projects involving the exploration, extraction, processing, transportation, storage, or generation of energy from fossil fuels (including coal, oil, and natural gas) are not eligible for consideration under this Expression of Interest.**

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered, projects must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- The project must be a clean or renewable energy project within the technology areas listed above
- Minimum project size (total investment) of USD 2 million
- The project must primarily require debt financing or have the capacity to attract non-grant financing
- The project must align with the relevant country's national energy priorities, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), or national energy strategies
- The sponsoring company or organisation must be legally registered in a participating country
- The project must be beyond the concept stage — pre-feasibility studies, preliminary assessments, or early proof of concept should be completed or underway
- The project must be located in one of the participating countries (see below)
- No individual or entity listed in ownership or management appears on UN, EU, OFAC, or other applicable sanctions lists.
- No undisclosed conflict of interest with UNDP, E4G partners, or evaluators.

Participating Countries

This call is open to projects located in the following countries:

Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) · Côte d'Ivoire · Ethiopia · Kenya · Mauritania · Mozambique · Rwanda · Tanzania · Tunisia · Zambia

Application Process and Timeline

Energy for Growth in Africa operates a fixed call for Expressions of Interest. The application process runs in two phases.

Phase 1: Online Eligibility Assessment

All applicants begin by completing a structured online intake form by the above deadline. This form evaluates alignment with the initiative's objectives and confirms that minimum eligibility requirements are met, including country of operation, sector, technology type, and company registration status.

This phase is **pass/fail**. The form must be completed in full — partial submissions will not be reviewed. Applicants will receive an email notification within 2-3 weeks of submission confirming whether they have been selected to proceed to Phase 2.

Note: *Due to the volume of applications expected, individual feedback cannot be provided to unsuccessful applicants at this stage.*

Phase 2: Comprehensive Expression of Interest

Applicants who pass Phase 1 will be invited to submit a full Expression of Interest, which includes supporting documentation such as:

- Financial Models, Audited financials, and business plan
- Legal and regulatory documents (company registration, licences, permits)
- Technical designs and feasibility studies (where available)
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) / safeguards materials

A team of technical experts will evaluate submissions across five dimensions:

1. Financial Viability
2. Technical Feasibility & Readiness
3. Team, Governance and Track Record
4. Regulatory, Compliance, and ESG Alignment
5. Development Impact and Strategic Fit

Depending on the specific needs of the project, the availability of programme resources, and opportunities through UNDP's network of partners, selected projects may be considered for support such as technical assistance or facilitated introductions to potential financing and technical partners. Such support is not guaranteed and will be provided on a case-by-case basis, subject to resource availability and partner interest.

Timeline: 4–8 weeks from Phase 2 submission to notification, depending on the number and complexity of applications received.

How to Apply

Direct Application

Project developers and companies may apply directly by completing the online intake form (Phase 1). To begin your application, please visit the link below:

[Express your interest here — Coming Soon]

Important Information

- Submission of an Expression of Interest does not constitute a commitment, endorsement, financing decision, or guarantee of support by UNDP.
- The initiative provides project development support and facilitates connections. It does not act as a broker or intermediary in financial transactions.
- Selected projects receive support at no cost. The initiative does not charge fees for advisory, technical assistance, or facilitated introductions.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered in the current call. Future call windows may be announced separately.

Questions and Contact

For further enquiries, please email: **energyforgrowth@undp.org**

We also have in-country focal points in all participating countries. If you would like targeted support with your application, let us know and we will connect you to the relevant focal point in your country.