

Call for Consultancy: Next Level Grant Facility - Learning Consultant

Position Title: VCA NLGF Learning - data collection and analysis consultancy

Duration: Initial contract - November 2024 – March 2025 (5 months), with the possibility to extend additional deliverables to October 2025

Location: remote

Applications: Applications should be submitted by 6 October 2024.

The [Voices for Just Climate Action](#) programme is seeking to contract a **Learning Consultant** to play a crucial role in gathering and interpreting data to inform the [Next Level Grants Facility](#). Responsibilities include designing and data collection methods and tools, analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data, and synthesizing findings to identify insights and actionable recommendations that can contribute to broader climate finance reform. Additionally, the consultant will support the VCA Global Program team in advocacy efforts by providing data-driven evidence. The consultant should have demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods and experience designing and implementing research or MEL methodologies for development or climate change programmes. The consultant should have excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, with a strong preference for consultants with additional language capabilities in French, Spanish, or Portuguese.

About SouthSouthNorth

SouthSouthNorth (SSN) supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships, and collaboration. We do this by connecting people and information, enhancing capability, and mobilising resources to respond innovatively to the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents. Being positioned in the Global South affords SSN a deeper understanding of, and connection to, the climate and development challenges facing the region. We enhance developing countries' access to climate information by brokering climate knowledge through formalised exchanges among various stakeholders. We assist decision-makers in delivering climate-compatible development by informing policy formulation and implementation. We bring good governance to managing donor funds, technical assistance, and project management. Full details of the projects that SSN currently implements are available at www.southsouthnorth.org.

Background on Programme

1. **About the VCA programme**

SSN TOWARDS
CLIMATE
RESILIENCE

VCA VOICES
FOR JUST
CLIMATE ACTION

The VCA programme is a Lobby and Advocacy programme being implemented by an alliance of the Worldwide Fund for Nature Netherlands (WWF-NI), Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Fundación Avina, SouthSouthNorth (SSN), and Hivos under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs five-year strategic partnership: "Power of Voices". The VCA program is active in Kenya, Zambia, Tunisia, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Indonesia as well as having a Global Program team.

The VCA programme aims to ensure that by 2025, local civil society and underrepresented groups will have taken on a central role as creators, facilitators, and advocates of innovative and inclusive climate solutions. The programme's overall approach is to work with civil society to build widespread societal support for locally shaped climate solutions through an inclusive and rights-based approach. This includes building a broad-based climate alliance at the country level, and bridging divides (urban-rural, gender, youth) that amplify voices in unusual ways. In addition, it aims to influence national and global policies and financial flows in support of these locally shaped solutions. Through a climate justice approach, the programme intends to see an expanded civic space where civil society voices, particularly indigenous and marginalised people, are heard on climate action.

The PMEL Taskforce within VCA comprises team members across each of the alliance members and its core role is to design PMEL processes and tools and support their implementation by the regional teams in each of the countries.

2. About the Next Level Grants Facility

The NLGF aims to make climate finance accessible to the most marginalized groups. These groups, often small, grass-roots organisations, communities, activists, or individuals do not have access to traditional funds due to their limited capacities and informal means of operations. The staggered start of the NLGF was done to leverage existing civil society networks, partnerships, and knowledge that have been fostered through implementing the VCA programme. With a total budget of 3.5 million euros, the NLGF aims to foster a bottom-up approach to decision-making, where communities and local allies play a key role in identifying priorities and defining solutions.

The NLGF sets out to prioritise and reach two specific groups: Small informal organizations that do not have the capacity to apply and report on more formal grants but that represent local rights-holders and work on local climate solutions; as well as groups/ Individuals, including hard-to-reach youths and informal youth groups, including young women and individual climate actors who by their informal nature of operations, are not able to access the programmes resources and environmental defenders, climate activists, journalists, local climate champions who may not be acting on behalf of a (formal) organization.

The facility is implemented by contracted local 'Fund Managers' in the seven implementing countries of the VCA, including Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Tunisia, Zambia, Kenya, and Indonesia. In each of the 7 regions where it is implemented, the NLGF has two funding cycles; one for climate emergencies as a rapid response mechanism for disasters in the region and

one for climate opportunities. The latter are slightly larger amounts that can be granted to local initiatives that increase resilience in a community or region. For this facility to be most responsive to the local context, Regional Teams localized the funding framework, adapting it to suit the target groups and needs in their regions.

The NLGF is an innovative funding mechanism that is breaking ground and creating new funding pathways for communities most impacted by climate change. We envision that lessons will be drawn from the experience of setting up and implementing the NLGF that can contribute to the widespread application of these mechanisms in future programming and funding arrangements.

The VCA PMEL Task Force has developed a Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan to establish a framework for assessing the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the NLGF. The plan outlines the results framework, indicators, roles and responsibilities, data flow, and data collection, analysis, and reporting processes. It aims to ensure that the NLGF achieves its strategic objectives and provides valuable insights for continuous improvement. The learning approach recognises that valuable knowledge comes not only from successes but also from challenges and unexpected outcomes. By fostering a culture of reflection and adaptation, NLGF aims to enhance its ability to respond effectively to the evolving needs of climate activists and community-based organisations.

Role Summary:

As a **VCA NLGF Learning Consultant**, you will play a crucial role in gathering and interpreting data to inform the NLGF and VCA program. Your responsibilities will include designing and conducting interviews with Fund Managers and possibly small grant recipients, analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data, and synthesizing findings to identify key trends and insights. You will then translate these insights into actionable recommendations that can contribute to broader climate finance reform. Additionally, you will support the VCA Global Program team in advocacy efforts by providing data-driven evidence. By effectively fulfilling this role, you will contribute significantly to the program's success and its impact on climate justice.

Roles and responsibilities

- Lead qualitative data collection efforts, including conducting interviews with Fund Managers, Alliance members, and recipients, to gather qualitative information on NLGF implementation and impact. Additional quantitative data will be collected by the PMEL Taskforce from Fund Managers in accordance with a logframe.
- Review and refine data collection tools to ensure they effectively capture relevant qualitative learning questions.
- Support the development of case studies, where needed, on NLGF fund recipients
- Analyze both qualitative data from interviews and quantitative data from the logframe survey and reports developed by Fund Managers thus far, employing appropriate methodologies to extract meaningful insights.
- Synthesize findings to identify key themes and learnings from the NLGF program both at the country level and the collective program level.

- Develop comprehensive reports and engaging presentations that effectively communicate analysis results and insights.
- Translate program learnings into actionable recommendations to inform the broader climate finance architecture.
- Create outputs tailored for use in Global Program (Glopro) advocacy efforts, highlighting lessons learned from the NLGF experience, such as learning papers, infographics, policy briefs, etc.
- Ensure adherence to ethical data collection and analysis practices throughout the project.
- Collaborate with the VCA team by participating in relevant program meetings and consultations, contributing expertise to discussions on NLGF and climate finance.

Key deliverables:

- Detailed data collection plan and interview/survey guides
- Raw data and interview transcripts
- Comprehensive analysis report of qualitative and quantitative data
- Executive summary of key findings and recommendations
- Presentation materials for internal and external stakeholders
- Contribution to advocacy briefs on NLGF lessons learned.

Skill and Experience Requirements

- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods.
- Experience designing and implementing research or MEL methodologies for development or climate change programs.
- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, with a strong preference for additional language of French, Spanish, or Portuguese
- Experience working in a remote setting.
- Proficiency with data analysis software (e.g., SPSS, NVivo).
- Experience and understanding of climate change, climate justice, and climate finance issues.
- Experience working on advocacy projects is a plus.
- Ability to work independently and remotely while meeting deadlines.
- Cultural sensitivity and experience working with local community groups
- Preference for consultants from the Global South

Qualifications:

- Relevant Degree and preferably 5 or more years of relevant work experience.
- 5+ years of work experience, demonstrating a track record of developing or implementing similar learning methodologies, preferably related to climate change programs

- A research or tertiary study background in any of the following areas: Climate change and climate justice; Food or Water justice; Just transitions; Climate finance; Nature-based solutions; locally-led adaptation; M&E for advocacy projects

Scope:

Duration: 1 November 2024 – 31 March 2025 (5 months)

Number of days: 50-65 days in total over the duration of the contract. Number of days and level of effort may differ from month to month within the contract.

Budget maximum: 15,000 EURO. This budget is for staff costs and tax inclusions, and should not include any expenses. Therefore, daily rates should fit within this budget and scope.

Proposed timeline:

	Due
Inception and scoping, including reading programme documents and fund manager reports, log frame data and learning materials from the NLGF thus far	November 2024
First data analysis report due, based on existing data. Reviewing what data is already available and any analysis possible from this	November 2024
Detailed data collection plan and interview/survey guides developed for next data collection period	December 2024
Interviews with Fund Managers, Alliance and possible recipients, collecting and consolidating raw data and interview transcripts	December 2024/ January 2025
Comprehensive analysis report of qualitative and quantitative data	February 2025
Final report Presentation materials for internal and external stakeholders Contribution to advocacy briefs on NLGF lessons learned.	March 2025

Application process

To apply, please send your CV, including a detailed overview of 3 examples of your relevant experience on similar projects with references and a cover letter, including your day rate to the following email: infovca@southsouthnorth.org. 1-3 consultants can apply to take this work on collectively.

Applications will close at midnight CET on **6 October 2024**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within three weeks of the closing date. If you are not contacted within this period, please consider your application unsuccessful. Unfortunately, we cannot offer feedback on any application made for this posting.

SSN reserves the right not to make an appointment.

For any questions you may have, please contact infovca@southsouthnorth.org.