



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## FOR COUNTRIES AND TECHNICAL INTERMEDIARIES SELECTION

### **Project Title: Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in the Textile Value Chain (InTex)**

#### Background

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is implementing a three-year project funded by the European Commission (EC) to promote innovative business practices and economic models in the textile value chain. The project has five components. Two components have global reach and three components will focus on national implementation in three countries in Africa where textiles is a key economic sector and where companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are part of multinational value chains (for example exporting towards the European market). The three countries are to be selected through this call for proposals, and with it also the three technical intermediaries UNEP will partner with to implement the three components that have national focus.

Summary table:

Who can apply:	Registered non-profit national organizations, providing services to industry and functioning as business intermediary in one or more of the following areas: resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP), circularity, life cycle approaches, eco-innovation <sup>1</sup> , including in the textile sector. Such organization could for example be Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Not-for-profit Organisations (NPOs), National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), members of the RECPnet <sup>2</sup> , <i>research and innovation centres</i> . Applicant organizations must be located in the country where the project will be executed. Applications from the private sector or from consortia <sup>3</sup> will not be considered.
Focus sector:	Textiles
Implementation period of the project:	29 months (Feb 2021 –Jul 2023)

<sup>1</sup> Eco-innovation aims at the development and application of a business model, shaped by a new business strategy, which incorporates sustainability throughout all business operations based on life cycle thinking and in cooperation with partners across the value chain.

<sup>2</sup> A list of RECPnet members is available here: [www.recpnet.org](http://www.recpnet.org)

<sup>3</sup> According to UN rules and regulations on incidental procurement, the selected technical intermediaries will not be able to transfer more than USD 20,000 of the total contract amount to other partners. Hiring external experts to work on the project is not considered incidental procurement, and there is not a limit on it.

The UNEP eco-innovation project is implemented with the financial support of the European Commission



Available resources per project:	Depending on project proposal and identified needs, a funding envelope of a maximum of USD 230,000 will be made available to each of the three selected organization to implement the project activities in the respective one African country they are based in.  Co-funding and/or in-kind contribution to the project are expected from the applicant.
How to apply:	National non-profit organizations should submit their proposal including completed application template and all annexes (see check list in ‘application template’).  The proposal, including the required attachments, is to be submitted via email to Bettina Heller ( <a href="mailto:bettina.heller@un.org">bettina.heller@un.org</a> ) and Claudia Giacobelli ( <a href="mailto:claudia.giacovelli@un.org">claudia.giacovelli@un.org</a> ) Cc to Robert Reinhardt ( <a href="mailto:robert.reinhardt@un.org">robert.reinhardt@un.org</a> )
Selection process and timeline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for submission of proposals: <b>25 January 2021</b></li> <li>• Evaluation of written application followed by online interviews with shortlisted entities: <b>Early February 2021</b></li> <li>• Notification of selection: <b>February 2021</b></li> <li>• Start of activities: <b>March 2021</b></li> </ul>

### Who is this call for?

This call for proposals is for registered non-profit organizations based in Africa, with experience in engaging with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in their respective country and well documented track record in advancing sustainable business approaches and life cycle approaches in their respective countries. The organization must be based in an African country where the textile sector is a prominent economic sector and Resource Efficiency and Life Cycle Thinking are part of the political agenda and of the government vision. The applicant organization which aims to be selected as technical intermediary for the InTex project shall possess a good understanding of sustainable consumption and production topics, circular economy, sustainable business approaches and life cycle thinking, as well as (sustainable) textiles. The organization must have proven experience in implementing projects of similar scale and nature.

### What is needed to apply?

In addition to the other requirements detailed in the ‘application template’, the applicant should provide a clear explanation of the textile sector in the country, with indication of the textile product categories the project would likely focus on (and rationale for the choice), including relevance / share of exports to Europe, their potential interest in the PEF (Product Environmental Footprint), as well as the value chain stages that SMEs in the country are involved in (e.g. brand owners, design, fibre production, yarn & fabric production, textile production (including bleaching, dyeing finishing and assembly), retail). Finally, the applicant should provide proof of partnerships it will be able to mobilize for the project – for instance support from relevant Government agencies/ ministries, academia, business associations and others in the country.

### What will happen if you are selected (responsibilities and benefits)?

The selected organizations will act as the project’s technical intermediaries for UNEP and will be responsible for the national execution of three of the five components of the InTex project<sup>4</sup>. UNEP will enter into partnership agreements with the selected technical intermediaries. As part of these agreements, the selected organizations

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<sup>4</sup> For a detailed description of the three components and the technical intermediaries’ responsibilities in them please refer to the file Annex A ‘distilled project document’

will provide technical and advisory support to selected SMEs<sup>5</sup> in the textile sector in the respective country, in line with the project workplan, timeline, deliverables and overall objectives of the project.

Technical intermediaries in the three African countries will receive training on how to apply the UNEP eco-innovation approach and the EC Product Environmental Footprint at SME level, and how to undertake an eco-innovation policy assessment. Throughout the project, selected technical intermediaries will be accompanied by an international expert, to expand their skills and service offering. As per the project plan (see Annex A), selected technical intermediaries will carry out awareness-raising on eco-innovation and PEF in a minimum of twenty companies nation-wide, with the full implementation of technical projects in a minimum of ten SMEs and tracking of impacts after implementation in at least four of the SMEs. A minimum of four complete case studies will need to be prepared by each intermediary, using a template that will be provided by UNEP. The objective of the exercise is to demonstrate the benefits that companies can achieve by implementing Eco-Innovative solutions and the EC Product Environmental Footprint<sup>6</sup>, based on the information provided in the tools.

Technical intermediaries are expected to provide co-funding or in-kind contributions to the project, and indicate those in the application.

### How will proposals be evaluated (maximum score for each indicated in brackets)

#### Extent to which the proposed intervention responds to national needs, priorities and circumstances

- Existence of policies/ action plans/ instruments in the areas of SCP, circularity, eco-innovation, life-cycle approaches and/or textiles in the country, and status of implementation of those (maximum score: 3 points)
- Level of political willingness to introduce and shift towards circular practices in the textile sector, using life cycle approaches, evidenced through government letter(s) of support (maximum score: 2 points)
- Linkage of the proposed intervention with the country's sustainable development priorities and the UNDAF/ UN Common Country Assessment (maximum score: 1 point)
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#### Relevance of the textile sector in the country

- Level of relevance of the textile sector (apparel, industrial textiles and household textiles) for the country's economy, expressed through employment level or GDP contribution, and which markets the sector targets (e.g. local vs export) (maximum score: 4 points)
- Profile of countries' textile SMEs, including their involvement in multi-national value chains, and potential export to Europe (maximum score: 2 points)

#### Quality of the proposal and applicant institution

- Quality of the application (fully completed template) and detailed project plan (including specifics on the project activities and target beneficiaries in line with the project scope and impact) and associated budget for the intervention (maximum score: 2 points)
- Technical capacity of applicant and other partners referenced in the proposal, including experience of the proposed project team and past performance in implementing similar projects working with SMEs and replicating similar projects / capacity development over the years (maximum score: 2 points)
- Proof of the SME network of the applicant and partners, and the sectors this covers (maximum score: 2 points)

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<sup>5</sup> For details on the criteria for SME selection please refer to Annex A 'distilled project document'

<sup>6</sup> Documentation on the EC Product Environment Footprint is available at the following links:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/ef\\_transition.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/ef_transition.htm) and more precisely:

[https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/permalink/PEF\\_method.pdf](https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/permalink/PEF_method.pdf)

- Quality of proposed governance structure for the national implementation (i.e. project steering committee), including stakeholders' roles and responsibilities (maximum score: 1 point)
- The amount and/or quality of co-funding or in-kind contribution that the applicant can provide to the project (maximum score: 1 point)

**Sustainability and replication potential in the country**

- Existence of synergies with ongoing, related initiatives, especially those linked to an enabling policy framework, and other EU initiatives and projects (maximum score: 2 points)
- The potential for replication of the approach (i.e. existing conditions in the country that ensure that the approach can be replicated beyond the project) (maximum score: 2 points)

**For any further information, please contact:**

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