



**Terms of Reference & Scope of Work
EcoPeace's Good Water Neighbors Program
An Evaluative Study**

[Please submit your proposal no later than August 16th, 2021]

1. Introduction

EcoPeace Middle East is a unique Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli organization that seeks to advance cooperative efforts to protect our shared environment, promote sustainable regional development, and create the conditions for lasting peace in our region. For over two decades, EcoPeace Middle East has exemplified that cooperation over shared environmental issues, in particular water issues, can advance concrete solutions that change national policies and bring real benefits to people and communities on the ground. See also www.ecopeaceme.org.

2. The GWN project

EcoPeace's flagship Good Water Neighbors (GWN) program encourages Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli youth, young professionals, entrepreneurs and decision makers to become knowledgeable about the transboundary nature of environmental challenges in our region, and develop innovative ways to resolve shared environmental concerns. The GWN program, initiated in 2001, and supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) since 2009, has over the years continued to evolve and innovate with new program components.

The current phase of the program (Phase IV), started in September 2018 and will end in August 2022. During the previous phase of the program (Phase III, 2014-2018) activities moved from a partnering community based approach to a basin wide strategy which was implemented through community coordinators leading educational and community based activities in eight shared water basins across the region. Phase IV of the GWN project expanded to a nationwide strategy focused on addressing shared climate mitigation and adaptation needs and included a variety of new components, strategies and target groups.

3. How the Good Water Neighbors project aligns with EcoPeace's overall strategy?

The key objective of the Good Water Neighbors project, as described in EcoPeace's [current 5-year strategy](#) (2017-2021) is to build a cadre of young, regionally sensitive Israeli and Palestinian leaders to advance concrete environmental solutions who are educated about regional water realities and interdependencies and aware of the opportunities and self-interests of each. Cross-border collaboration

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org



around these issues builds the trust and political will necessary to advance critical water and sanitation projects, improving quality of life for all citizens and expanding the peace constituency in the region.

4. How the Good Water Neighbors project aligns with Sweden’s strategy?

The design of Good Water Neighbors Phase IV also aligns with [Sweden’s strategy objectives](#) at multiple levels, focusing on water cooperation as an instrument for deepening regional integration and promoting climate mitigation and adaptation policies that support water, energy and food security. Besides this nexus, which was identified by Sweden as a priority, gender mainstreaming has been a crosscutting objective of the project’s design and integrated on all levels of project activity.

5. Description of the Project

5.1. Evaluation object: Intervention to be evaluated

The Good Water Neighbors project combines a bottom up investment in education and capacity building, with a top down investment of financial and political resources to create the synergies for cooperation needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the water, energy and food security risks and opportunities that Palestinians, Jordanians and Israelis face together. The theme common to both the bottom-up and the top-down approach is that of investment: a bottom- up investment in youth, young professionals, and entrepreneurs, as a measure to build a cadre of knowledgeable, empowered and regionally sensitive leadership, and a top-down investment in engaging the private sector, governmental decision makers and donor agencies to support on-the-ground regional development and sustainability needs.

From the top-down perspective, targeted programming will bring together the current leadership in relevant government ministries, potential private sector investors and international stakeholders to discuss the Jordan Valley projects and a water-energy exchange that can advance regional water, energy and food security. The projects’ ability to then move forward and be sustainable over time will correlate strongly with the consecutive years of investment in education and empowerment of young professionals and the growing understanding of the importance of regional water, energy and food security among the younger generation. The bottom-up investment made in youth education will broaden the understanding that regional cooperation is essential to adapt to climate change and mitigate water, energy and food security risks, while the investment in a select group of young professionals and our work with investors, governments and the international community will create the regional networks that will support such cooperation, and sustain the implementation of out-of-the-box, game-changing regional climate mitigation and adaptation solutions.

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org

*NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

5.2. Evaluation rationale

This evaluation is requested as Phase IV of the Good Water Neighbors project is on the verge of completion and EcoPeace intends to submit a new application for SIDA funding in the near future. Additionally, as the organization is currently developing its new 5-year strategy, qualitative information from the evaluation will be used to inform the organization's approach and priorities. An independent evaluation will provide a critical objective impact assessment for both internal and external parties, including SIDA, EcoPeace's program teams and the 5-year strategy development team.

5.3. Evaluation scope

- 5.3.1.** Good Water Neighbors is guided by a log frame and proposals that outline the objectives and intended output of the programs, presenting an outside evaluator with clear criteria with which to compare the actual impact of the project. The independent evaluator would be tasked with reviewing and analyzing existing Good Water Neighbors reporting materials and data collected, as well as collecting additional information from staff and participants as needed. Existing data and data collection methods, donor reports, internal progress and project evaluation reports would be examined to evaluate the success of the project. The evaluator would also be tasked with recommending changes to assessment methods to strengthen the evaluation process for the remaining project and be available to provide guidance on improving current evaluation methods and forms.
- 5.3.2.** As Sweden recently released a new strategy, an analysis regarding the alignment of the Good Water Neighbors project with both SIDA's previous strategy and new strategy and priorities would provide important insights as EcoPeace prepares to request new funding. Additionally, an analysis of the project's alignment with EcoPeace's own 5-year strategy would be a crucial metric of the project's success and inform future Good Water Neighbors activities. The evaluator would be charged with determining the value of the project from these perspectives, as well as recommending improvements to increase the impact and effectiveness of the programs (see questions below). The evaluator would also potentially be involved in a follow up phase to advise the 5-year strategy team and develop a plan and methodology to evaluate the new strategy.
- 5.3.3.** Several changes were made to the Good Water Neighbors program strategy at the start of 2018, with the latest phase of SIDA funding. Firstly, the program shifted from a basin-wide strategy to a nationwide strategy and regional activities implemented a selection process to accept committed candidates that could be impact multipliers.

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org

Additionally, the national school programs developed curriculums for national schools to reach bigger numbers than before. All of the education programs started to integrate technology-based learning into the curriculums. The programs also shifted to target older age groups, providing participants with new kinds of skills, and continued contact and engagement with past participants became a priority. The girls' empowerment approach was replaced by a gender mainstreaming approach in project activities. Lastly, EcoPeace expanded its capacity to work with the private sector, creating an in-house investment team and new project activities. The evaluator would provide important feedback on the successes and challenges of these strategic changes and recommend areas of improvement for the next phase.

5.3.4. [Optional, to be priced separately] The evaluator would provide insights related to the obstacles and impediments faced in the implementation of the Good Water Neighbors project, including those related to COVID-19, as well as assess the success of EcoPeace's mitigation and adaptation strategies described in the project risk assessment. The evaluator would also recommend new mitigation strategies for future challenges that EcoPeace should anticipate facing during the project lifetime related to areas including finances, staffing, operations, politics, health, and security.

5.4. Evaluation objective: criteria and questions

5.4.1. Objective: Evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the Good Water Neighbors project and formulate recommendations to inform upcoming discussions concerning the preparation of the next phase of the project, EcoPeace's new 5-year strategy, and continued funding for the project.

5.4.2. Guiding evaluation questions (the final questions will be mutually determined and will appear in the inception report):

- **Effectiveness: Is the Good Water Neighbors project achieving its objectives?** To what extent has the Good Water Neighbors project achieved and is expected to achieve its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across target groups? What additional systematic internal benchmarks can be used – in advocacy, education and investments – to assess if the strategies and approach are effective?
- **Efficiency: How well are resources being used?** What is the comparative value of different project components (cost-benefit analysis)? Are the criteria for

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org

- choosing participants effective and how can they be improved? Are resources used on candidates with the most potential to serve as impact multipliers?
- **Efficiency: How well are resources being used?** What is the comparative value of different project components (cost-benefit analysis)? Are the criteria for choosing participants effective and how can they be improved? Are resources used on candidates with the most potential to serve as impact multipliers?
 - **Impact: What difference does the Good Water Neighbors project make?** To what extent has the project generated, and is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, high-level effects? What is the impact of the education programs on youth perspectives and how should long-term effects on their attitudes, personality and development be assessed? To what extent are advocacy efforts that are currently being implemented sustainable in the long term given changing decision makers and how could this be assessed?
 - **Gender Equality: Has the project had any positive or negative effects on gender equality?** How could gender mainstreaming be improved in planning, implementation or follow up?
 - **Environmental Considerations: Has the project had any positive or negative effects on the environment?** Could environmental considerations have been improved in planning, implementation or follow up? How can environmental targets and impact be further included in future programming?

5.5. Evaluation approach and methods

The evaluator shall propose a detailed evaluation approach and strategy. At the minimum it should include an initial review and inception report with benchmarks; a literature and desk review; interviews with program teams, participants, and selected stakeholders; and a preliminary results and feedback session to receive input and refine conclusions before drafting of the final report.

5.6. Organization of evaluation management

EcoPeace will establish a steering committee to review the evaluation process and reports. The members of the committee will consist of EcoPeace's regional development, finance and program directors and the consultant to be retained for the 5-year strategy planning process.

5.7. Evaluation quality

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org



The evaluators shall use the OECD/DA Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and the evaluators shall specify how quality assurance, in accordance with DAC's quality standards, shall be handled by them during the evaluation process.

6. Selection Criteria and Required Qualifications

EcoPeace would like to work with an evaluation team of people with complementary backgrounds and qualifications in the key three project areas of education, investments, and advocacy. A core team member should serve as the primary contact. Ideally this would be a senior consultant with high level of evaluation competence, a minimum of 8 years of experience, excellent English language skills, and an academic background in social sciences (Master's Degree in Economics, Sociology, Statistic, Public/Non-Profit/Business Administration or other relevant fields of study would be desirable). Competence in local languages would be a plus and knowledge of the geopolitical and environmental context in the region is imperative. Candidates with experience evaluating peacebuilding organizations or knowledge of international donors, particularly SIDA, would be preferred.

7. Time schedule and deliverables

- A. Tendering process till July 30, 2021.
- B. Negotiation and contract by August 15th, 2021.
- C. By August 31 – Inception report and proposed table of contents.
- D. Between September 1 and October 31 –series of feedback workshops with staff to further develop the report.
- E. By October 15 - submit draft report based on existing materials. By November 15, 2021 - Submit updated final report.

Payments will be made in accordance with these deliverables.

8. Cost and payment

Please submit a price quote including a breakdown of the work plan that shows each of the stages from July to October 2021. Please specify the number of hours each stage requires and the cost per consultation hours. Final cost and payment procedures will be negotiated with the selected vendor before signing the contract.

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org

*NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations



9. Tender procedure

Applicants who wish to submit an offer are invited to submit a short proposal letter, including a proposal for the work process of meeting the above criteria; samples of previous work of similar nature and contact details of 3 references to carmi@ecopeaceme.org no later than **August 16th, 2021**.

An information session will be offered to those interested in receiving more information before submitting an offer. Please send an email to indicate your intention to join the session carmi@ecopeaceme.org

EcoPeace Middle East

P.O.B. 840252
Amman 11181 Jordan

-
Tel: +962-6-5866603
Fax: +962-6-5866604

90 Menachem Begin Road
Tel Aviv 6713837 Israel

-
Tel: +972-3-5605383
Fax: +972-3-5604693

Ras Al Tahouneh St. Louise Building
Al Bireh-Ramallah, Palestine

-
Tel: +972-2-2400832/5
Fax: +972-2-2400836

Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

Website: www.ecopeaceme.org

*NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations