



Expression of Interest: Nature-Positive Framework for Biosphere Integrity Fund  
Company: Clarmondial AG  
Date issued: 20 September 2024  
Deadline for submission: 13 October 2024 @ 2300 Central European Time (CET)

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## **CONTEXT**

Clarmondial is developing the Biosphere Integrity Fund (hereafter referred to as Fund), a new impact investment fund with nature and social (gender) targets. The focus of the Fund will be to protect and restore the environmental (ecosystem / nature) health and resilience of agricultural sourcing landscapes in emerging and developing markets while contributing to improved local livelihoods, safeguarding biodiversity, and supporting business resilience and sustainability.

The focus of this Expression of Interest (EoI) is to work with Clarmondial to develop a framework that captures nature outcomes of the Fund's investments, i.e., the Nature-Positive Framework.

Clarmondial intends to develop a proposal and contract for this work, based on submissions to this EoI.

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## **OBJECTIVE**

Clarmondial is issuing this EoI to identify collaborator(s) to develop the the Fund's Nature-Positive Framework.

The objective of the Nature-Positive Framework is to enable consistency in nature-related data collection in order to track and report transaction and Fund level targets. This means identifying Fund- and transaction-level nature-related Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) linked to the Fund's objectives, and determining appropriate, cost-effective Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MMRV) approaches across a range of sourcing landscapes in which the Fund invests. The work will also inform the Fund's accompanying Technical Assistance Facility (TAF).

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## **INTENDED DELIVERABLES / OUTCOMES**

The Fund is being designed to have significant and measurable positive impacts on nature in the landscapes in which it invests. To ensure this, locally appropriate environmental KPIs must be defined, monitored and verified at the transaction level. Additionally, KPIs must be aggregated at the Fund level, and used to report annually on Fund progress towards impact targets.

- A granular, transaction-level impact framework including a decision tree / methodology to identify and shortlist potential nature targets and associated MMRV approaches.
- A 'catalogue' of transaction-level KPIs (including summary, means of verification, sources of information, providers, coarseness, timeliness, coverage, and costs).
- A fund level environmental MMRV framework that supports impact claims including on climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience, biodiversity conservation, and watershed health.

This should ideally be aligned with existing guidance including the SBTN, TNFD, CSRD, EUDR, GBF (Goal A, B, C, D, and the 23 Targets), UN SDGs, ABS of the UN-CBD, etc.

Clarmondial will provide the contributor with context on the Fund's investment strategy, its impact objectives, and the budget constraints on MMRV, so that the contributor understands what is relevant to Clarmondial and the Fund given the Fund's instruments, term, cost structure, investment analysis and MMRV process.

## **SCOPE**

The work should help to address questions, such as:

- Aligned with the objectives of the Fund, what are the key climate adaptation, ecosystem resilience, biodiversity and watershed health indicators that can be attributed to the investment that give a quality indication of how the investments improve the ecosystem integrity/functionality, key species protection and conservation over time? This does not mean providing an exhaustive list of KPIs, rather a decision-tree / methodology to determine the most appropriate KPIs.
- How can these KPIs be measured and monitored, in pragmatic and cost-effective manners, including:
  - What data sources should be used? (data providers, existing data sets, new data sets, combination)
  - What methods are to be used for data collection?
  - When is it useful to collect data, including primary data?
  - How often should information be collected and synthesized?
  - At what cost? (to collect & interpret, upfront vs. on-going)
  - How to integrate different data sets and share results, including ensuring data confidentiality and quality?
- How to ensure information quality (independent audit or external verification required)?
- How to use information:
  - Data interpretation (and potentially visualization).
  - Data integration (multiple data sets combined) including AI / machine learning.
  - Data integration with global datasets & indexes (see other lists & references).

Developing this framework will also include conducting research on the possible integration of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), such as within value chain emission reductions / removals (insets), Beyond Value Chain Mitigation (BVCM) / offsets, Article 6 units, and biodiversity / nature credits, as well as other adaptation and resilience benefits such as watershed health to inform the development of the Fund's Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy including fund level impact metrics / KPIs.

The final scope will be based on discussions with the selected partner.

## **INTENDED USES**

Clarmondial intends to use the Nature-Positive Framework to:

- Agree on and implement investment priorities, and inform the discussion of the use of funds by investees.
- Inform development and implementation of the TAF.
- Communicate progress on impact outcomes to the Fund's investors and other stakeholders.

It may also be used by other counterparties (e.g., investees) to engage with their customers and investors, or to support environmental claims.

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## PHASES OF WORK

Note that this will be discussed and agreed with the selected partner.

1. Kick-off and introduction into Fund strategy.
2. Draft initial overview of framework and sample of catalogue (data sets and service providers)
3. Draft Nature-Positive Framework on Fund- and transaction-level (MMRV providers).
4. Testing of the framework on initial pilot transactions (TBC with Clarmondial and potential investees, including confidentiality requirements).
5. Refinement and revision.
6. Final deliverable.

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## TIMELINE

The timeline will be discussed and agreed with the selected partner.

13 October 2024	Selection of partner based on EoI submissions
20 October 2024	Project kick-off
31 October 2024	Initial outline of the framework and initial sample of catalogue (data sets and service providers)
30 November 2024	Initial draft of Fund-level and transaction-level framework
31 December 2024	Delivery of Nature-Positive Framework

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## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- The EoI is open to a company or group of consultants with the following backgrounds:
  - Environmental sciences.
  - Data management and data sciences.
  - Remote Sensing, AI, and GIS specific experience.
  - Big data and cloud computing.
- Exposure to commodity supply chains preferred, including knowledge of EUDR and CSRD reporting requirements.
- Exposure to emerging and developing markets preferred.
- Demonstrated knowledge of carbon accounting frameworks and inventory approaches (e.g. national UNFCCC inventories, GHGP), nature disclosures (e.g., TNFD) and other Payments for Ecosystem (PES) protocols preferred.

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## RESPONSE TO EOI

The EoI should be sent to [info@clarmondial.com](mailto:info@clarmondial.com) with the following subject line: "EoI Nature Framework"

Please submit the following in PDF (font Arial, size 10):

- Company overview (if applying as a company) (max. 1 page)
- Team overview and respective biographies. If applying as a group, please indicate project lead (max. 2 pages).
- Relevant experience and project samples, including links to other work if public (max. 1 page)
- Draft proposal (max. 2 pages) including:
  - Draft proposal on initial approach / methodology for this work
  - Motivation for the work
  - Time availability.
  - Proposed budget range and parameters.