

“Urban Forests: More than just trees``

**Call for Project Proposals**

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**Issued:** Call for Proposals to select the implementing partner for an urban forestry project.

The selected applicant will be responsible for executing tree planting and related activities as outlined in the project proposal. Proposals must be submitted to [**si@socarmidstream.az**](mailto:si@socarmidstream.az) by **August 28, 2024, at 14:00** local time.

SOCAR and its partners at the South Caucasus Pipeline Company (SCPC) invite interested parties to submit project proposals for the implementation of urban forestry project. The project will operate under the framework of SOCAR's Social Investment initiatives, with the aim of enhancing urban forestry practices and contributing to environmental conservation and community well-being. By implementing the urban forestry project, we envision achieving objectives including, but not limited to:

**Environmental Protection:** mitigate urbanization's adverse effects, such as air and water pollution, through the expansion and preservation of green spaces.

**Afforestation:** increase urban green infrastructure through strategic tree planting to combat deforestation, enhance carbon sequestration, and promote biodiversity conservation.

**Urban Heat Island Mitigation:** alleviate the urban heat island effect by increasing tree canopy cover and green spaces to reduce ambient temperatures and enhance urban livability.

**Stormwater Management:** utilize trees and vegetation to manage stormwater runoff, prevent soil erosion, and improve water quality through natural filtration processes.

**Community Health and Well-being:** provide accessible green spaces for recreational activities, stress reduction, and social cohesion, thus promoting physical and mental well-being.

**Sustainable Urban Development:** integrate urban forestry into city planning and development strategies to create more sustainable, resilient, and livable urban environments for present and future generations.

**Public Health Enhancement:** foster cleaner air and visually appealing green spaces, which provide fresh air, reduce stress levels, promote physical activity, and strengthen community bonds within urban areas, contributing to overall public health improvement.

**Other Potential Benefits:** realize additional potential impacts such as promoting ecological awareness, fostering environmental stewardship, supporting interdisciplinary learning initiatives, creating job opportunities in green industries, supporting local businesses, and reducing public healthcare costs by promoting healthier lifestyles.

In pursuit of these objectives, the urban forestry project aims to contribute to broader environmental sustainability goals while simultaneously fostering community engagement and well-being.

The potential project(s) may involve land parcels ranging from several square metres to several square kilometres in Baku, Sumgayit, and adjacent areas.

# Target Audience

# The primary target demographic of the project encompasses residents and visitors of Baku and Sumgayit, as well as the surrounding adjacent territories.

# Activities

Applications are open to individuals and legal entities who have undergone state registration. The selected applicant will be expected to provide the following services:

* facilitate discussions and arrangements with relevant parties to obtain approvals and confirmations for tree planting on respective lands in public spaces within urban areas;
* undertake logistics for the delivery and planting of trees as per the approved plans;
* execute other related activities as outlined in their project proposals, depending on their approach, scope, and specific project features;
* provide comprehensive reporting, including both financial and narrative aspects (including photo and video footage), to SOCAR Midstream during and upon completion of the action.

**Instructions for Submitting Project Proposal Forms:**

Applicants submitting project proposals must include the following in the project proposal form:

* duration of the planned activities;
* summary of relevant projects previously implemented by the applicant, including details regarding the project team members and any experts involved, along with a brief overview or summary of their qualifications;
* approach to and justification for implementing and ensuring the sustainability of the planned activities within the project framework;
* references to scientific and professional local and international experience in formulating the proposed approaches, methods, and activities;
* itemized budget and justification of the specified expenditure;
* other anticipated expenses;
* Logical Framework Matrix (a structured planning tool that outlines project inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts), monitoring and evaluation plan; relevant indicators (both qualitative and quantitative); gender-sensitive implementation and evaluation plan; anticipated risks and risk mitigation strategies; analysis of stakeholders involved in the project; implementation plan (month-wise).

# Evaluation Criteria

# During the evaluation of project proposals, the following criteria will guide the assessment process:

* **Professional capacity:** The applicant, project team, and recruited experts should demonstrate appropriate professional knowledge, skills, and experience. Applicants should provide supporting documents, including a summary of relevant activities previously implemented and brief professional resumes of key personnel.
* **Methodological soundness:** The proposed methods, approaches, and activities should be substantiated to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.
* **Innovation:** Utilize innovative approaches that can provide long-term benefits to project beneficiaries, as well as to SOCAR and its partners, during the execution of all project activities within the project framework.

# Stakeholder engagement: Envision high-level participation of relevant stakeholders and domain experts is envisaged throughout the preparation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project proposal.

# Sustainability: Propose long-term, substantial, and practical solutions to ensure the sustainability and financial reliability of the project beyond SOCAR and its partners' finances.

# Cost-effectiveness: Propose reasonable and achievable costs to fulfill the intended activities within the project framework.

# Alignment with objectives: Ensure that the proposal aligns with the specified objectives and priorities, addressing identified issues holistically and directly responding to the needs of target groups.

# Work plan clarity: Feature a clear, coherent work plan and methodology, with easily measurable objectives and innovative solutions that ensure effectiveness and sustainability.

# Performance monitoring: A robust self-evaluation and performance monitoring system, with defined indicators, included to track progress and measure success.

# Itemized budget: Present a clear budget outlining all project costs, demonstrating value for money.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Objective indicators will be created based on the logical framework matrix (logframe) and reviewed monthly. Continuous monitoring and evaluation activities will ensure the project's implementation in accordance with the contract's terms and conditions.

**Payment Terms**

The budgeted amount will be paid in AZN. Upon presentation of original documents and invoices by SOCAR, payment will be made via bank transfer within 30 days after satisfactory inspection and receipt of the required products. Please note that all expenses incurred for the preparation of the project proposal form must be covered by the applicant submitting the proposal form. SOCAR bears no responsibility for any expenses incurred for the preparation of project proposals.

**Application Deadline: August 28, 2024, by 14:00**

Kindly note that only applications addressed to [**si@socarmidstream.az**](mailto:si@socarmidstream.az) and submitted by the specified deadline will be considered.

In case of any questions or inquiries, please email [**si@socarmidstream.az**](mailto:si@socarmidstream.az)

**Prior to submission, please ensure:**

* relevant stakeholders and domain experts have been involved in the design and preparation process of the project proposal.
* the submission includes the project proposal, budget, CVs of the project team, project work plan, monitoring and evaluation plan, LogFrame, risk mitigation plan, stakeholder analysis and engagement plan, and any other required documents in the appropriate format.
* the organization responsible for the land where tree planting is planned is informed and all verbal and/or written consent related to this matter has been obtained.
* all required documents have been dispatched to the designated email address.
* the provided documents are comprehensive and legible.
* the submitted documents adhere to all stipulated requirements.