

BDO

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Elevating business
Elevating society



BDO South Africa

WITS AIS PROJECT

Make a positive contribution

1. SCOPE OVERVIEW

Our clients are committed to making a meaningful contribution to society and the environment. Given the unique challenges present in South Africa, specifically around the lackluster economic growth and high levels of unemployment our clients are open to investing in new initiatives for the advancement of disadvantaged mining communities in the process of a Just Transition in South Africa.

Required

BDO South Africa requires you and your project team to assist its clients in meeting its Sustainability Goals (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG). Create a sustainable development business plan for a mining community (at the Somkhele mine in KwaZulu-Natal) in the early stages of a 'Just Transition' to facilitate economic diversification, job creation, and environmental protection. Provide a vision on how to implement this plan considering both financial and non-financial issues. Your business plan must be presented with the use of financial information from excel. Your solution should incorporate the use of technology to help achieve the desired sustainability goal(s). Your solution must also be capable of implementation in the current environment- taking into consideration the South African power crisis.

Potential sustainability goals:

1. Renewable Energy Solutions (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy);
2. Energy Efficiency Consulting and Services (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure);
3. Green Building and Construction (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities);
4. Environmental Remediation and Land Reclamation (SDG 15: Life on Land);
5. Community-Based Agriculture and Agroforestry (SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 13: Climate Action);

6. Skills Training and Capacity Building (SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth);
7. Eco-Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Initiatives (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 15: Life on Land).

The investors are able to commit to a 5-year investment term, after which the project should be self-funded. This will enable the investors to identify and invest in another new project, so as to empower and uplift more communities in the longer term.

Refer to the following article for information and context on the Somkhele mining community in KwaZulu-Natal:

Can There Be a Just Transition?

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/fm/features/cover-story/2023-07-13-can-there-be-a-just-transition>

2. ENQUIRIES

All communication and attempts to solicit information of any kind relative to this funding request must be channeled through a Q&A session on the 2 May 2024 .

3. CLOSING DATE

Funding applications, inclusive of the business plan, must be received by 17h00 on 10 May 2024 by submitting the required deliverables in PDF format.

YOUR BUSINESS PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

1. Applicable to the South African Landscape;
2. Profitability and sustainability of the proposed solution, specifically embracing Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG);
3. Incorporation of digital technologies;
4. Scalability of the solution

4. INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Any funding application submitted by the prospective investee, must contain the following documents, which have each been fully completed in all respects:

- Response document in PDF with a cover letter and business plan;
- List of team members participating in compiling the proposal.

5. BUSINESS PLAN

The business plan for the solution, in support of the funding request, is to include the following :

- Vision and mission of the proposed solution, i.e. how will the solution benefit the **local Somkhele mining community in KwaZulu-Natal** and possibly add value to the investor's B-BBEE scorecard;
- Reasons for selecting the specific solution;
- How technology will be used to optimize the solution;
- Risk analysis;
- The go-to market strategy to launch and grow the solution over the next 5 years to become self-sufficient;
- An analysis of how the funding will be applied to ensure the success of the solution;
- In addition to your **Primary UN Sustainable Development Goal** please reference **at least two additional UN Sustainable Development Goals** and how the business plan is addressing these goals.
- 5-year budget (approximately R10 million)

6. LAYOUT, LENGTH AND FORMATTING

- You are required to compile a written response to be submitted via Ulwazi portal
- As a guide: Your final submitted document should not be less than 7 written pages and not exceed 10 written pages including cover pages, table of contents and appendices.
- Please ensure to use **Arial** type font size **12 with 1.15 spacing**.
- **NB: Please remember quality counts for more than quantity.**

7. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following assessment criteria will be applied to identify the top 5 prospective solutions:

- Extent to which the business plan addresses the minimum listed requirements;
- Explanation of how emerging technology will be used to improve the likelihood of success;
- Presentation of the business plan document (layout and design);
- Practicality of the solution;
- Plan to go to market (approach and methodology);
- Budget (income, expenses, funding, investments, etc.)(See Budget Appendix)
- Team composition and skills;
- Collaborations with other specialists.

If you are selected as one of the top 5 prospective solutions, you will proceed to a panel presentation. The panel will consist of senior members from BDO and WITS lecturers. In making our final selection in awarding the funding, we will apply the following additional assessment criteria:

- Level of professionalism in how the presentation is delivered;
- Team involvement in the presentation;
- The team's own understanding of the business opportunity (dealing with questions); and
- Level of professionalism of the presentation document.

The panel will select the best solution and this team will receive a prize and will present their solution to their class and other invited guests.

8. REFERENCE MATERIAL

Please refer to the following websites as examples for guidance on possible solutions:

- <https://www.bdo.co.za/en-za/insights/2020/natural-resources/bdo-tools-up-for-the-future-realising-the-value-of-sustainability>
- <https://www.bdo.co.za/en-za/insights/2019/advisory/housing-the-nation-the-need-for-improved-levels-of-subsidised-housing-in-south-africa>
- www.bdo.global/en-gb/insights/global-industries/natural-resources/the-need-to-have-a-clear-narrative-on-esg
- <https://www.bdo.co.za/en-za/insights/2022/advisory/just-energy-transition>
- <https://www.bdo.co.za/en-za/insights/2021/advisory/esg,-and-the-business-case-for-dealing-with-climate-change>
- <https://www.bdo.co.za/en-za/insights/2023/advisory/shining-a-light-on-the-value-of-solar-installations-in-the-residential-property-sector>
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/>).

*Please note the reference material included is not an exhaustive list and alternative sources can be used if required

9. PROJECT TIMELINES

Milestone	Date	Notes
Project launch	17 April 2024	Project handout to students
BDO project presentation	Tuesday, 23 April 2024 8:00-9:45am, Live at Wits	LIVE session with BDO
Enquiries session	Thursday, 2 May 2024 12:30 – 13:15, MS Teams session	To be attended by all students on Microsoft Teams
Project submission date	10 May 2024, 17:00	Project deliverables (To be submitted on Ulwazi): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDF business plan detailing proposed solution with a cover letter introducing the solution. • List of team members participating in the proposal.
Panel presentations (NOT FOR MARKS)	To be confirmed	TOP 5 TEAMS will present their solution to a panel consisting of BDO and Wits staff.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT US:

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