

NIGERIA TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND

Objective

- On 5 April 2004, the Government of Nigeria and the African Development Bank signed the Agreement Establishing the Nigeria Technical Cooperation Fund under which Nigeria provided the Bank Group USD 25 million grant resources to assist in the preparation and implementation of development projects and programs for the benefit of the Regional Members.
- The grant amount of US\$ 25,000,000 allocated from the resources of NTF is the largest single bilateral co-operation fund. The other grant resources come mainly from the Bank's 24 non-regional member countries.
- The NCTF is established at the end of the first 30-year period of the Nigeria Trust Fund as another symbol of African solidarity in general and Nigeria's commitment to the development of Africa in a spirit of south-south partnership.

Scope of the Fund

- Key areas of focus: science & technology, health, business & finance, agriculture, education, public administration and regional integration, gender issues.

Management of the Fund

It is jointly managed by the Bank's Partnerships and Cooperation Unit (ORRU) and the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Operations of the Fund

Since 2005, 35 activities are financed with NTCF grants of which 9 activities ranging from USD 50,000 to USD 309,303 have been completed for a total amount of USD 0.9 million while 26 other activities are ongoing and at different levels of completion. The ongoing activities, ranging from USD 25000 for science and technology training material, to USD 1.411 million for NEPAD medium to long-term strategic framework study, amount to a total of about USD 4.5 million.

Key Pan-African Initiatives being funded by NTCF, include the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA for USD 975,699), and the Capacity Building in Science and Technology in Africa Programme (USD 1 million).

- By and large, the activities covered by the Fund include:
 - a) Institutional/technical support & capacity-building;
 - b) Engagement of consultants/consulting firms for the preparation of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies;
 - c) Acquisition of consulting services for the identification, preparation, appraisal, implementation, supervision and post-evaluation of development projects and programmes, as well as to carry out mid-term reviews and audits;
 - d) Provision of technical assistance related to projects experiencing difficulties;
 - e) Provision of training and capacity-building;
 - f) Provision of TA in the preparation of policy studies; and
 - g) Other TA activities as may be mutually agreed upon between the parties from time to time.

Amount available under the Fund

- As of end of October 2010, resources available for allocation amounted to USD 19.6 million

Ceiling amounts of commitment

- Without requiring the approval of the Government of Nigeria: an amount not exceeding US\$ 50,000 out of the resources of the grant. The amount committed without the approval of the Government under a free-limit facility shall not exceed US\$ 250,000.
- Commitments from the resources of the Grant shall not exceed US\$ 2,500,000 each year.

Flexibility

- On an exceptional basis, and with prior written approval of the Government, the ceiling may be exceeded to fund an activity which is considered essential for achieving the purposes of the Grant.

Processing of Requests

Eligibility & Limitations

- Consultants must be nationals, permanent residents, or entities established under the laws of Member Countries of the Bank
- Activities to be financed out of the NTCF must be eligible for funding
- Goods and services to be financed out of the Fund shall be from the territories of Regional Member Countries
- Consultants from Nigeria, Nigerian diaspora and women are given preference within the Rules and Procedures of the Bank

Procedure

1. Applicants submit a NTCF Request Form. The proposal may be submitted either directly to the Bank by potential beneficiaries or through Directorate of the Technical cooperation in Africa (DTCA). Requests received by DTCA are initially processed in consultation with the Bank's Country Office in Abuja prior to its official submission to the Partnership and Cooperation Department of the Bank. All proposals are acknowledged in writing.
2. The Bank and DTCA will carry out an assessment of the proposals for eligibility and viability.
3. The Bank may approve proposals not exceeding fifty thousand United States Dollars (USD 50,000) subject to a total commitment in a given year of an amount not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand United States Dollars (USD 250,000).
4. Proposals with total costs above USD50, 000 shall be submitted¹ to the Government of Nigeria, through the Honourable Minister of Cooperation & Integration in Africa, for approval. If, within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the said proposal, the Government of the FRN shall not have communicated to the Bank its concurrence or objection to the proposed activity, the relevant activity shall then be deemed to have been approved by the Government.
5. Approval by the Nigerian Government and feedback to the beneficiary and User Department of the Bank.
6. Once a funding proposal has been approved, the shortlist of potential consultants is drawn up by the Bank Group from DACON and DTCA database and forwarded to DTCA for endorsement.
7. Selected consultants will be informed of the decision in a written form by the Bank. The Bank will engage in the negotiation with the consultant and organize the signing of contracts.

Payment for Funded Activities

Payment for approved and/or executed activities shall be upon review, verification and approval in accordance with the signed contracts and the Rules and Procedures of the Bank.

<p>Portfolio Manager:</p> <p>Ms. DIABI E. Khadidia (Name, Telephone No., Office) Principal Cooperation Officer, ORRU Telephone: 216 71 10 30 02 Fax: 216 71 830 172 Email: k.diabi@afdb.org Office: 5C1 Building: EPIA</p>	<p>Donor Agency Contact:</p> <p>Engr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi Director General Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa Ministry of Foreign Affairs Plot 894, N°. 11 Onitsha Crescent (Facing Gimbiya Street) Area 11 P.M.B. 557 Garki, Abuja FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA Fax: (234-9) 523-5372</p>
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¹ Submission by the Bank shall be accompanied by a letter from the Beneficiary Government co- authoring the request.