Request for Qualifications: Land Restitution Programme, South Africa

3ie Policy Window Two  RFQ PW2.22.SA.PG

Issue date: Thursday, 13 February 2014
Deadline: 23:59 GMT 17 March 2014

Introduction

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) seeks applications for a policy window preparation grant under Policy Window 2 to conduct an impact evaluation of the Land Restitution Programme in the Republic of South Africa implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), http://www.dla.gov.za/. This evaluation has been named by the South African Presidency’s Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation as part of the South African National Evaluation Plan for 2014-15.

Overview of Policy Window Two

3ie’s Policy Window Two (PW2) funds impact evaluations that are commissioned by the policymakers and programme managers who implement development interventions.

PW2 grants are awarded in two phases. In the first phase, 3ie issues this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from researchers interested in collaborating with DRDLR in the design and conduct of an evaluation of the restitution programme. The qualifications will be reviewed and scored by at least one external reviewer, one internal reviewer, and one representative of the implementing agency.

The selected research team receives a PW2 preparation grant (PWPG) up to a predetermined amount. Please see http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/ for the 3ie policy window preparation grant agreement and grant administration agreement templates.

The PW2PG covers costs associated with this level of engagement, including travel to meet with the implementing agency, preliminary checking of administrative data, piloting surveys, site visits and researcher time to develop one or more impact evaluation designs.
3ie funds preparation phases because it is important for researchers to work directly with the implementing agency during evaluation design. During the PW2PG, the research team will conduct one or more workshops for the relevant implementing agency officials and other stakeholders in order to identify evaluation questions, and contribute to impact evaluation design discussions.

The PW2PG grantee will submit the proposed design, including a proposed budget, in the 3ie PW2 application form. Please see http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/ for the PW2 application form and the review form, which fully defines the selection criteria. The proposed design is due within three months of the signing of the PWPG grant agreement.

The impact evaluation proposal will be reviewed and scored by at least one internal and at least three external reviewers, one of which is from the implementing agency. It is 3ie’s intent, although not guarantee, to fund the proposed evaluation, conditional on the proposal receiving adequate scores on all criteria. 3ie may provide comments and request a resubmission of proposals that do not receive adequate scores. 3ie reserves the right not to award any follow-on research grant.

If the proposal is accepted, 3ie will award the research team a grant to conduct the impact evaluation under 3ie’s standard terms and conditions. Please see http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/ for the 3ie grant agreement and grant administration agreement templates.

**Overview of the Land Restitution Programme**

The Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 provides for the return of land or financial compensation to persons or communities affected by the land disposition resulting from 1913 Native Land Act. A cut-off date for claims was set for 31 December 1998, by which time over 79,696 claims had been submitted.¹

The DRDLR is responsible for maintaining records of all claims, validating and processing them. Currently, over 4,000 claims are still outstanding.

Successful claimants either have the land returned to them or equivalent financial compensation. Financial compensation is given if it is not possible to give back the land to the original inhabitants. Some support is given to those acquiring land or a large cash sum to facilitate productive use of the assets.

An implementation evaluation of the programme is being conducted as part of South Africa’s National Evaluation Plan for 2013-14 and this impact evaluation will be conducted as part of the National Evaluation Plan for 2014-15.

Evaluation questions

The government has decided to undertake a second phase of restitution. However, a number of policy questions are outstanding:

- What is the impact of the restitution programme on the economic and social well-being of successful claimants?
- What is the impact on the economic and social well-being of those from whom land is claimed?
- What is the impact on agricultural productivity, and local and national food production and food security?

The proposed impact evaluation is expected to address intermediary variables on the causal chain, such as correct administration of restitution funds, and the use of assets by claimants.

The final set of questions to be addressed by the evaluation will be determined by discussions between the study team and DRDLR during the preparation stage.

Evaluation design

Settling the remaining 4,000 plus claims will take approximately five years. Of the unsettled claims, at least half will need special treatment because of their sensitive or special nature. The balance can be settled in any order. DRDLR has indicated that they are willing to randomise the order in which these claims are settled, opening the possibility of randomisation across the pipeline. DRDLR is fully aware that the expected outcomes will take some time to materialise, which would mean that the study may take five-seven years to complete. However, at least one mid-term report focused on process questions and possibly some preliminary impact estimates for indicators at the lower level of the causal chain would be expected.

A qualitative assessment of the restitution programme is currently underway, which will help inform the design of the restitution impact evaluation.
**Selection criteria**

The qualifications submitted in response to the RFQ will be reviewed and scored according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credentials of PIs</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credentials of other researchers</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional capabilities</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector experience and involvement</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate membership of 3ie</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposal submitted as the deliverable for Phase I will be reviewed and scored according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications of proposed staff</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement of developing country researchers</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of technical proposal, internal validity</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of technical proposal, external validity</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final selection will be made by the Steering Committee established for this evaluation, which comprises officials from government and 3ie and, an independent academic expert.

**Instructions for applicants**

**Eligibility**

Only institutions, not individuals, may apply. Private firms may apply, but should consult 3ie’s [direct cost](http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/) and [indirect cost](http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/) policies. The lead institution making the application must be located in the Republic of South Africa, with national researchers as the lead PI(s). The application may include other researchers, including from outside South Africa, who are not employees of that institution. (Applicants are advised that including a researcher with a good international reputation in an advisory capacity is encouraged).

**Application components**

Responses to this RFQ shall include five components:

1. Completed organization information form, which can be found on the 3ie website [here](http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/policy-window/how-to-apply/).
2. Curriculum vitae (not to exceed three pages each) of all proposed principal investigators (PIs), along with a signed letter from each indicating the share of working time during the three months of the preparation grant expected to be spent on the proposal preparation work and confirming availability for that expected share of working time. It is expected that these PIs will participate in the proposed impact evaluation.

3. If applicable, curriculum vitae (not to exceed three pages each) of additional researchers who will be involved in conducting the impact evaluation if approved.

4. Copies of up to three impact evaluation studies with proposed PIs as named authors.

5. Proposed budget, not to exceed ZAR200,000, for the proposal preparation costs. The proposed budget must follow 3ie’s direct cost and indirect cost policies.

Submission

The first three components should be submitted in a single Microsoft Word compatible file with all font sizes greater than or equal to 11 point. The signed letters from the PIs and sample impact evaluation studies may be submitted as separate .pdf files. The budget should be presented in 3ie budget format and follow 3ie budget guidelines. Any budget notes may be submitted as a separate Microsoft Word compatible file with all font sizes greater than or equal to 11 point.

Please submit all files in a single email message not to exceed 5MB to PW2@3ieimpact.org no later than 23:59 GMT 17 March 2014.

Incomplete submissions will be considered ineligible. This Request for Qualifications does not constitute a guarantee of award.

Questions

Please direct any questions related to this RFQ to PW2@3ieimpact.org by 23:59 GMT 22 February 2014. All questions and answers will be made publicly available on the Land Restitution South Africa web page of the 3ie website within three working days of that date.