

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ESG RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPLY CHAINS

IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF ESG RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPLY CHAINS OF PRIVATE COMPANIES AND ASSETS FOR PRIVATE MARKET INVESTORS

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

The PRI is the world's leading proponent of responsible investment. It works:

- to understand the investment implications of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors;
- to support its international network of investor signatories in incorporating these factors into their investment and ownership decisions.

More details about the PRI are available [here](#). We currently have over 5,000 signatories globally – including investment managers, asset owners and service providers.

The PRI undertook some initial work on assessing risks in supply chains with PRI signatories and published an [initial guidance in 2017](#). We recognize that the regulatory and the geopolitical landscape has changed significantly since then. There are increasing regulations across jurisdictions focused on managing risks in supply chains (EU CSDDD, German Supply Chain Act and others) while new risks and opportunities have emerged across geographies and sectors. The market has evolved and hence the need to take stock of current practices and requirements.

PROJECT AIMS

The aim of this work is to identify the practices and understand the journey (since 2017) of private market investors with respect to the management of ESG risks and opportunities in supply chains. The intention is to build capacity, raise awareness, and provide tools that investors can use to progress and advance their practices.

OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

A key output of this work is intended to be a guidance and tools developed through the interaction and dialogue with investors using surveys, interviews, workshops, webinars and case studies.

This would include providing tools to progress practice (e.g. with model investor clauses) and raising awareness of existing resources by signposting guidance and tools, products, tools as well as relevant regulations for both investors and investees.

The consultant will review the current PRI position and thinking on signatory progression (through [progression pathways](#)) and consider how it might influence the final outputs and guidance and tools

The PRI intends to appoint a consultancy to support the development of this piece of guidance and tools

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The PRI might collaborate with other parties on this project (for e.g. on the regulatory landscape mapping or model investor clauses).

The PRI will manage all relationships and lead this collaboration.

The consultancy will be expected to support the PRI deliver the final draft of the guidance and tools and conduct the necessary investor surveys, interviews, and workshops to inform this.

CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The key activities under this engagement will be:

Investor Insights:

- The consultancy will agree with the PRI as to the most efficient and effective mechanism to provide an overview of high-level insights of the current practices, key challenges, and opportunities relating to ESG in private market supply chains. This may involve a survey, review of the PRI R&A data, collection of data during PRI in Person (via Sli.do questions or feedback from workshops) or other mechanisms

Investor interviews:

- The consultancy will conduct upto 20 interviews with investors (identified jointly by the PRI and the consultancy, across a range of private market asset classes) to gather insights into current practices, key challenges and opportunities in relation to ESG risk and opportunities assessment in supply chains. The interviews would be based on templates agreed upon with the PRI; however, the consultancy would be expected, based on their expertise in this area, to shape the conversations with each investor to gather the most meaningful insights.

- The consultancy will write up notes from each interview so that key findings are easily understood and can be integrated into the guidance and tools being developed.

Developing Draft case studies

- The consultancy will be expected to compile relevant practical examples from interviews into examples (minimum 4 in total covering various aspects of supply chain ESG risk assessment that would be useful for private market investors) to be integrated into the introductory guidance and tools. These examples could also then be used to produce case studies.

Investor workshops:

- The consultancy will conduct up to 5 workshops with investors (identified jointly by the PRI and the consultancy, across a range of private market asset classes) to gather insights into current practices, key challenges and opportunities in relation to assessing ESG risks and opportunities in supply chains. The workshops would be based on templates agreed upon with the PRI and will be designed to increase awareness and peer learning. The consultancy would be expected, based on their expertise in this area, to lead the conversations.
- These workshops would have between 10 – 15 investors, preferably those who have not participated in the 1<>1 interviews
- The consultancy will write up notes from each workshop so that workshop summaries are easily understood and can be integrated into the guidance and tools being developed.

Content production:

- The consultancy will draft the guidance document and share for review with the PRI. The consultancy will be expected to include knowledge of existing investor practices on the topic based on their experience of working in this area with private market investors and to complement the findings from surveys, interviews and workshops
- The final editing and design of the guidance, tools and outputs will be managed and owned the PRI. These will be PRI guidance and tools that acknowledge the involvement of the consultant
- The consultancy will also draft any other educational or marketing materials as jointly agreed with the PRI (for example for investor conferences)

Fees: The consultancy fees associated with the delivery of these activities is expected to be up to GBP 30,000 (exclusive of VAT).

REQUIREMENTS

The consultancy will be expected to support the PRI deliver the final draft of the guidance and conduct the necessary investor surveys, interviews, and workshops to inform this.

As such, the key skills and experience required of the consultancy include:

- In-depth technical knowledge of assessing and managing ESG risks and opportunities in supply chains across sectors and geographies
- A thorough understanding of how and why investors across all private market asset classes may take action with regards to ESG (for managing risks and identifying opportunities)
- A background in engaging directly with global investors, including at senior levels, across geographies and sectors, on sustainability issues
- The ability to gather, analyse and synthesise raw information to deliver meaningful insights

DELIVERABLES AND TIMINGS

We expect the engagement to run **over a period of seven months** with key dates/timelines to be agreed with the consultant. The payment schedule will be agreed with the successful consultant at the start of the contract / agreement.

Below are key deliverables and proposed timings for the project (with some dates still tbc), to be agreed with the selected consultancy:

Activity	Timing (<i>potential, exact dates TBC, calendar year</i>)
Developing survey	Q3 2024
Investor interviews	Q3'24 – Q1'25
Investor workshops	Q3'24 – Q1'25
Investor interviews and workshop write-ups	After each event
Support for Investor Conferences	As needed for agreed list of conferences
Guidance production	Q1-Q2'25

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Please send your proposal via email to aditya.vikram@unpri.org and daram.pandian@unpri.org by **close of business on Friday 18th October 2024**. Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the project or the requests outlined in this document.

Proposals must include:

- Evidence demonstrating that the consultancy possesses the key skills and experience outlined in this RFP;
- A brief biography of up to 3 key individuals who would be involved
- A proposed budget for the engagement
- Proposals should not extend over **2 pages**. Please also include any standard (or draft) terms of references as an appendix to your proposal

All proposals will be treated as confidential.