

Expert Support on Super Pollutants Science Request for Proposals May 2026

Overview

We are seeking an expert consultant with a strong background in atmospheric science, air pollution, air pollution-health-climate linkages, and stakeholder engagement to support the science component of Clean Air Fund's super pollutants portfolio. The successful candidate will have demonstrated experience working with INGOs, and preferably with philanthropic foundations. They will support the set-up and coordination of a new Science Advisory Committee, ensure clear communication and timely delivery, and provide effective support and guidance on other ongoing scientific initiatives. The consultant will report to the Science Manager – Super Pollutants.

About Clean Air Fund

Launched in 2019, the Clean Air Fund (CAF) is a philanthropic initiative with a mission to tackle air pollution around the world. Our aim is to help build and support a powerful global movement for clean air. We achieve this by bringing together funders, researchers, policy makers and campaigners working on a wide range of issues to find and scale solutions that will provide clean air for all. We work where the need and potential for impact are greatest: in the EU, Poland, Ghana, India, South Africa and the UK and global cities across Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. We also have global thematic programmes, raising air pollution up the international climate and health agendas. Our global themes span data, health, advocacy, super-pollutants and private sector engagement. More information about the Clean Air Fund can be found on our website: <https://www.cleanairfund.org/>

About super pollutants

Super pollutants, often referred to as short-lived climate pollutants, are powerful drivers of climate change. Their potential to warm the atmosphere can be many times greater than carbon dioxide (CO₂) per tonne and they remain in the atmosphere for much shorter periods of time. Reducing them is critical to realising fast climate mitigation. Black carbon, or soot, is one of these super pollutants. It is a powerful climate and air pollutant and comprises of visible, dark fumes emitted from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, solid waste and biomass burning.

Black carbon plays a unique role in the climate system, affecting snow and ice melt, shifting rainfall patterns and driving extreme heat. Black carbon, as a component of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), contributes to high levels of illness and mortality worldwide. Despite the damage black carbon causes to human and planetary health, it remains largely untracked and uncapped by most governments. Alongside deep decarbonisation, the global climate community is beginning to turn the spotlight onto super pollutants like black carbon.

In 2024, CAF launched a multi-million programme to address black carbon's detrimental impacts on climate, health and the environment, via scientific research, strategic communications, policy and advocacy, and implementation of solutions to cut black carbon emissions. More information on the work to date on black carbon can be seen on the [Black Carbon Hub](#). CAF has also been leading work to advance action on tropospheric ozone, including through the [Case for Action on Tropospheric Ozone](#) and [Accelerating Action on Tropospheric Ozone](#) reports.

Scope of Work

The selected consultant will support the science component of CAF's super pollutants portfolio and will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. *Support Science Advisory Committee (SAC) set-up and operation:*
 - The SAC will comprise of a number of recognised experts drawn from a broad range of climate and air pollution research disciplines. It will meet at least three times per year, advising on the scientific and policy direction, design and implementation of CAF's science strategy and grants.
 - Schedule and organise meetings, including preparing and circulating agendas, minutes, and relevant scientific materials.
 - Act as a liaison between SAC members and other stakeholders, ensuring clear and timely communication across channels.
 - Support the drafting of reports, presentations, and summaries that reflect SAC objectives and discussions.
2. *Provide ad-hoc technical support to the super pollutants team:*
 - Provide expert review of project concepts and proposals to provide guidance and support quality assurance of CAF-funded research work.
 - Support data collection and analysis and develop clear presentations of scientific information relevant to the programme's goals.
 - Conduct literature reviews and support drafting scientific documents and ensure outputs meet the required quality standards.
 - Help prepare and review scientific inputs for reports, proposals, and publications.

Qualifications & Experience

- PhD in a relevant scientific field (e.g., environmental science, climate change, atmospheric science, public health), with specialisation in black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and other super-pollutants
- Relevant experience coordinating a scientific advisory committee/panel (or similar entity) or working at the science-policy interface. Experience working with INGOs and developmental organizations on climate change and air pollution science are desirable.
- Strong understanding of scientific research methodologies and data analysis on black carbon, tropospheric ozone, monitoring, modelling and impact assessment.
- Experience in drafting scientific reports/articles and policy briefs.
- Prior experience in working with diverse stakeholders, including scientific institutions, government agencies, and NGOs.

Person Specification

The consultant must demonstrate:

- Experience in evaluating proposals or systems-level interventions
- Strong technical knowledge, international peer-reviewed publications relevant to super pollutants, black carbon, tropospheric ozone and their impacts.
- Demonstrated experience delivering high-quality briefs and concept notes for donors or foundations.
- Proven ability to manage complex, cross-team coordination under tight timelines, across consultants or country teams, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders across regions and cultures.
- Proven experience generating strategic insights
- Expertise in working with international philanthropic or development organisations
- Commitment to equity and ethical practices/processes
- Excellent communication skills and ability to produce clear, well-structured, action-orientated reports and concise briefs or presentations tailored to both technical and non-technical audiences.

Application process

Interested candidates may submit a CV (maximum 4 pages) and a cover letter (maximum 1 page) via email to **superpollutants@cleanairfund.org**.

In the cover note, please indicate your day rate (or equivalent budgetary information), your availability over the project period, and any other useful information regarding your working patterns and flexibility.

Following review of all applications and discussions with shortlisted candidates, we will engage with the preferred candidate to discuss on the project scope, activities, and budget before contracting.

Proposals will be scored against the elements within the RfP. We will also consider value for money. Submissions may be shared with partner stakeholders such as the CAF Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Advisory Group.

Budget

The maximum available budget for this assignment **USD 30,000** (inclusive of all applicable tax, and other expenses).

Timeline and Submission

We expect this work to be for about 6 months (with the possibility of extension) from June to December 2026.

The deadline for questions and applications is 17.00 GMT, 11th of May 2026. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online discussion before a final decision is made.

S/N	Activity	Date
1	Deadline for questions and applications	11 th of May 2026
2	Interview with shortlisted candidate	Week of 18 th of May 2026
3	Decision on preferred candidate	Week of 25 th of May 2026
4	Contracting and project start	1 st of June 2026
5	Project End date	December 2026