

**Call for proposals**  
**Independent, mid-term review of the Transforming  
Energy Access (TEA) programme**

## PURPOSE

The Research Programme Delivery Consortium (RPDC, made up of the Carbon Trust, the University of Cape Town, Energy 4 Impact and TERI) manages the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) programme on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID). Both DFID and the RPDC would like to gain external, independent advice – including clear options and recommendations on the TEA programme covering the following areas:

- How well is TEA responding to the energy access challenge and the TEA theory of change?
- How well are the different TEA implementers working together to achieve impact?
- How well is TEA working with other DFID programmes in the energy access sector?
- How is TEA perceived by external stakeholders and operating successfully in the energy access ecosystem?
- How well is TEA communicating its activities externally both at the programme and individual implementer level?
- Are there gaps in the TEA programme that could be filled with future funding? Are there overlaps with other work or areas TEA should stop doing or place less emphasis on?
- What more should the RPDC be doing in order to deliver impact?
- What more or different should the RPDC and implementers do to improve value for money including to operate more efficiently and effectively?
- What should the RPDC do to maximise the chances of TEA delivering transformational change?

The review should focus on analysing the findings and make clear recommendations for the programme going forward. Submissions will be assessed on the basis of the experience demonstrated in the bid and the strength of the methodological approach put forward, as well as value for money. Bidders for this tender must declare any potential conflict of interest in their tender documents.

The TEA Programme started in March 2016 and will currently run until March 2024. However, TEA is also being considered as a possible delivery platform for the DFID share of the £1Bn Ayrton Fund for clean energy research, development and demonstration from April 2021. The findings of this review will also feed into thinking on TEA's role in the delivery of the Ayrton Fund.

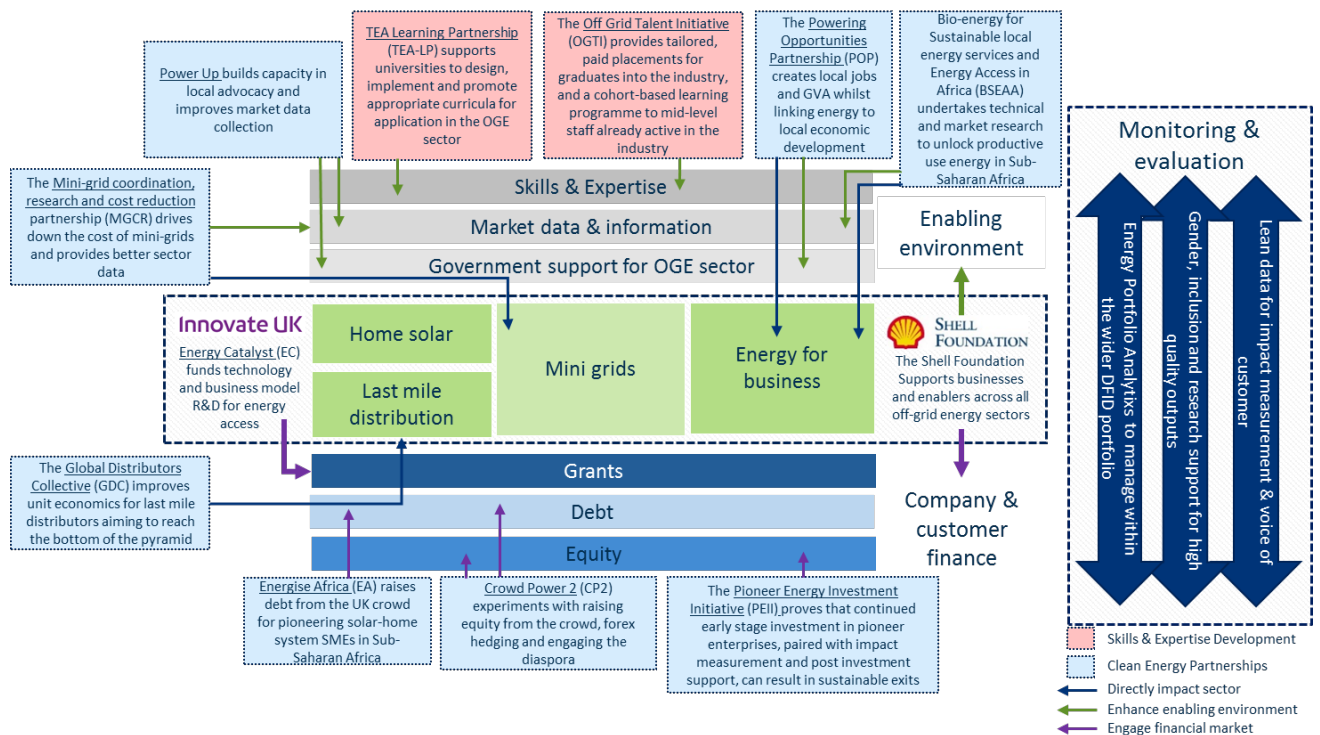
## THE TEA PROGRAMME

The Transforming Energy Access (TEA) programme is supporting the development of innovative technologies, business models, partnerships and skills that will accelerate access to affordable, clean energy services for households and enterprises in developing countries. UK aid is providing up to £100 million through the TEA programme until 2024. To date the programme has already helped people and businesses across Africa cut 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions and improve the lives of 3.2 million low-income people. It has also leveraged \$359 million worth of investment in clean energy from the public and private sectors.

DFID appointed a Research Programme Delivery Consortium (RPDC), led by the Carbon Trust, to oversee the programme of applied research and innovation.

The figure overleaf outlines the different work areas, and how they impact distinct parts of the clean energy access ecosystem.

**Figure 1: Overview of the TEA programme**



TEA has four major components that look accelerate access to clean energy in developing countries in different ways:

- **Technology development** via Innovate UK. Innovate UK has been running the Energy Catalyst – a technology development grant competition that focuses on the energy trilemma of lower emissions, affordable and secure energy – for five years and across six rounds. The TEA programme has been supporting technologies in the energy access sector since Round 3 and has committed £23m in funding up to and including Round 6.
- **Building successful enterprises** via the Shell Foundation TIME programme. The Shell Foundation and the TEA programme co-fund grants to help develop energy access enterprises with the Shell Foundation offering hands-on support. Both the Shell Foundation and the TEA programme have committed £30m to support this activity.
- Encouraging collaboration via eight **Clean Energy Partnerships**, including:
  - The Mini-Grid Innovation Lab, is Africa’s first R&D Fund exclusively focused on testing new technical business model innovations for clean energy based mini-grids. The Lab supports the development and in-field testing of new technologies and business models that have the potential to: Increase energy use per consumer, reduce capital and operational costs and increase the number of connections per grid. The Lab is co-funded via the DFID TEA programme and the Rockefeller Foundation and run by Cross Boundary. In addition the Innovation Lab, TEA is also supporting the Mini-Grids Partnership (MGP) and co-funding their Mini-Grid State of the Market Report. The MGP is implemented by SEForAll.
  - The Pioneer Energy Investment Initiative (PEII), which invests early stage equity into pioneering off-grid, clean energy companies within three years. The initiative aims to attract at least 5X the capital that PEII invests from other capital providers to help scale viable new models, measure impact directly via surveying customers, and demonstrate sustainable exits. The PEII is managed by Acumen.
  - Energise Africa is a dedicated platform that allows the UK crowd to invest in pioneering businesses that install life-changing solar systems in homes in Sub-Saharan Africa -

bringing clean energy and economic opportunities to families, whilst aiming to generate a 4 - 6% annual return for investors. Energise Africa has raised £10m+ from the UK crowd and is managed by Ethex and Lendahand.

- The Global Distributors Collective (GDC) is a collective of last mile distributors around the world. The GDC, managed by Practical Action, is dedicated to supporting and representing last mile distribution companies to help them reach unserved customers with life-changing products like solar lights, clean cookstoves, water filters and nutrition products. The GDC's purpose is to make last-mile distribution the first priority so that life-changing products can be made affordable and available to all. The GDC is implemented by Practical Action.
- Powering Opportunities Partnership (POP), which aims to demonstrate how the off-grid energy sector can stimulate local jobs and create local economic value in Sub-Saharan Africa via a £10m challenge fund. POP is implemented by the TEA RPDC.
- Crowd Power 2 is experimenting with innovations in crowd funding for energy access including crowd funding equity and quasi-equity, piloting foreign exchange rate hedging, developing load syndication templates and engaging the diaspora at potential crowd funders. Crowd Power 2 is managed by Energy 4 Impact.
- Bio-energy for Sustainable local energy services and Energy Access in Africa (BSEAA). BSEAA is conducting industry focussed research to support the successful commercialisation and scale up of productive use bioenergy technologies within Sub-Saharan Africa. BSEAA is managed by LTS International.
- Building capacity in Africa via three **skills initiatives**:
  - The Partnerships for Skills Development which supported the creation of capacity building alliances between Northern and Southern researchers and was implemented by the LCEDN and Loughborough University
  - The Off-Grid Talent Initiative (OGTI) funds yearlong placements for 300 African graduates into energy access companies whilst delivering management training to the cohort of graduates. OGTI is implemented by Shortlist and the African Management Institute.
  - The TEA Learning Partnership is a network of eight African Universities, led by the University of Cape Town, that is creating and teaching post-graduate courses in energy access to create a long-term pipeline of African talent into the sector

The TEA programme is also starting a new work stream on energy storage jointly with BEIS called the International Faraday Energy Storage Challenge with the Faraday Institution.

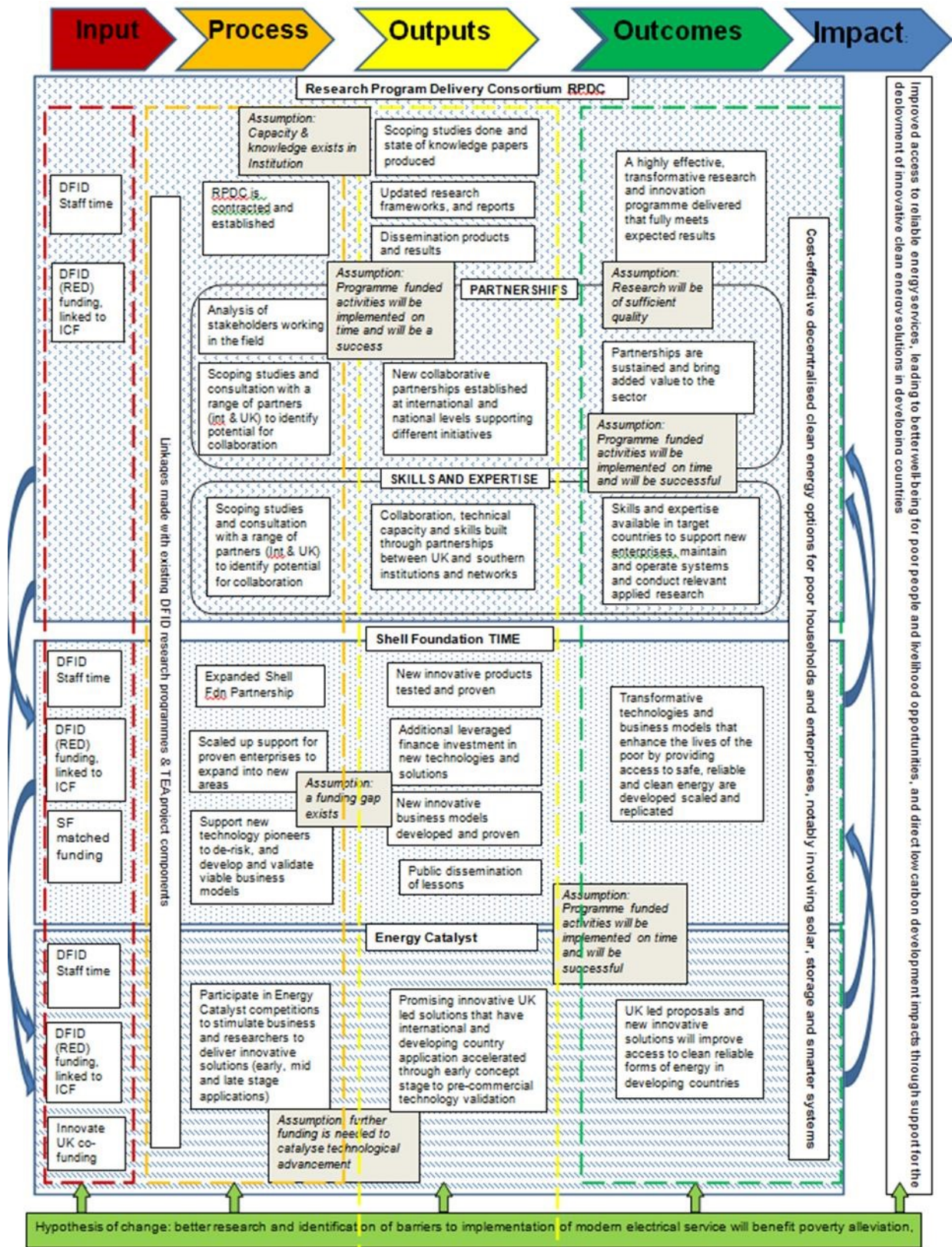
The latest TEA annual reports to date, logframe, and business case can be found at the link below:

<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204867>

The TEA theory of change, from the original business case, is presented overleaf.



Figure 2: TEA Theory of Change



## METHODOLOGY

This review is required to provide robust advice on the TEA programme taken as a whole. Tenderers are not required to provide detailed evaluations of individual components, but to provide practical recommendations on how the programme can maximise its chances of delivering transformational change.

Tenderers are expected to provide a methodology for the review as part of their submissions, which should include:

- Tenderers should take into account the International Climate Fund's (ICF) definition of transformational change (see link below) in delivering their recommendations but a formal review of TEA against the ICF KPI is not required this stage.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/714109/KPI-15-Transformational-impact.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714109/KPI-15-Transformational-impact.pdf)

- Tenders should review existing documents, especially its annual reviews, the original business case and the ToR for procuring the RPDC, which can be found at the link below. The RPDC will also provide the six monthly TEA review completed in October 2019.

<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204867>

- Tenders should also review other TEA outputs developed by individual implementers and the TEA microsite which is found at: <https://www.carbontrust.com/tea/>
- Tenderers should conduct interviews with:
  - The Senior Responsible Officer at DFID for TEA
  - Other DFID staff working on energy access programmes
  - The TEA RPDC
  - All TEA implementers
  - A selection of external stakeholders to be agreed at inception

The TEA RPDC will provide introductions to all DFID staff and the TEA implementers, but will expect the tenderer to deliver a list of external stakeholders for interview. A key added value of this review will be to gain external views from key external stakeholder groups about what TEA can and should be doing better, more, less or differently. Selection of external stakeholders should link back to the theory of change, and the respective elements of the programme and their target groups.

Tenderers should focus their resources according to the relative DFID to-date commitment to the four TEA components: Shell Foundation (£30m), Energy Catalyst (£23m), Partnerships (£15m) and Skills (£5m).

## REVIEW CRITERIA AND QUESTIONS

Draft questions for the review are listed below. Tenderers should suggest amendments and/or additions in their proposal.

During a short inception phase, the review supplier may refine review questions in consultation with DFID and the TEA RPDC.

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Identifying linkages, causalities and opportunities at the outcomes and impacts level of the overall and respective project sub-theories of change should be the focus, with relatively less focus on inputs and outputs, which are tracked, reviewed and reported on by the RPDC to DFID.

## OUTPUTS AND TIMINGS

The TEA RPDC reports to DFID an annual cycle ending with an annual review document and an all implementer workshop in March each year. Therefore, we would expect a draft report to be ready in February 2020 and a final report in March 2020. The supplier should attend the TEA delivery review workshop (DRW) in March 2020 as a final input into their report, and able to present preliminary findings and recommendations at the event.

**Table 1: Schedule of deliverables**

Deliverable	Due Date	Deliverable details
Inception report	Two weeks after project commencement	Draft and final inception reports describing review plans
Interim report	Six weeks after commencement	Review of the theory of change, programme activities and outputs, interviews completed
Draft report	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	Largely complete report with draft recommendations.
TEA DRW	TBC March 2020	Presentation of draft findings and recommendations
Final report	End March 2020	The final report should include (though not necessarily in precisely this structure): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cover page.</li> <li>2. Table of Contents.</li> <li>3. Executive Summary: four to six pages.</li> <li>4. Purpose, approach and methodology, with limitations</li> <li>5. Findings</li> <li>6. Recommendations</li> <li>7. Annexes – additional supporting evidence and detailed methodology</li> </ol>

The tenderer should recommend a schedule of project review calls as part of its proposal.



## PROPOSALS

Proposals are due by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 5pm. They should be emailed to: [TEA@carbontrust.com](mailto:TEA@carbontrust.com), with TEA review tender in the subject box Proposals should be no longer than 15 pages in length (excluding CVs and project references, which should appear in an Appendix). The proposal should contain the sections outlined in Table 2, which also contains the maximum number of points available for each section that we will use to select the winning proposal.

**Table 2: Proposal structure and assessment criteria**

Section	Max score
The tenderers understanding of the terms of reference	10
The tenderers experience of completing similar assignments	20
The tenderers proposed methodology, including refined review questions	25
Team composition, including skills, experience, roles & inputs	15
A work plan including milestones and timescales	10
A commercial proposal	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The commercial proposal should be no more than £80,000 excluding VAT but including expenses. Value for money is very important for the TEA programme so tenders should set out the number of days and day rate for each member of staff working on the assignment. The TEA RPDC will take both the total price and the average day rate into account in awarding the commercial proposal score.

Tenderers should expect to travel within the UK to meet DFID, the TEA RPDC and implementers. Overseas implementers should be interviewed by telephone or Skype.