



Request for Proposal

GRI Sector Program / Research on impacts of the oil, gas, and coal sector on sustainable development

Deadline for submitting a proposal: 9 August 2019

Expected start and end dates: Week of 19 August 2019 -15 September 2019,

Deliverables: 10 impact descriptions | Baseline synthesized research

Location: Amsterdam, the Netherlands, or homebased elsewhere.

Contact/Apply: oil@globalreporting.org

Background Information

About GRI

GRI is an international independent organization that has pioneered corporate sustainability reporting since 1997. GRI helps businesses and governments worldwide understand and communicate their impact on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, governance and social well-being. This enables real action to create social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone. The GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards are developed with true multi-stakeholder contributions and rooted in the public interest.

Our Vision: A thriving global community that lifts humanity and enhances the resources on which all life depends.

Our Mission: To empower decisions that create social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone.

About the project

As part of GRI's work on fostering sustainable development, GRI's [Global Sustainability Standards Board](#) (GSSB) has initiated a project to develop a [GRI Sector Standard for the oil, gas, and coal sector](#). The aim of the Sector Standard is to identify and describe the sector's significant impacts and stakeholder concerns from a sustainable development perspective. As part of preliminary research, GRI has identified the most significant impacts of the oil, gas and coal sector from a sustainable development perspective.

Assignment

Deliverables

- [10 Impact descriptions](#)

GRI is now seeking for support to conduct additional research on individual impacts to **describe how these impacts occur in the context of the oil, gas and coal sector**. Impact descriptions will be based on evidence and authoritative references available in the public domain.

After initial orientation discussions with GRI, the impacts the researcher will be asked to document could include the following:

1. Community engagement
2. Forced labor
3. Employment practices (incl. worker talent, job security, workplace dialogue)
4. Wages, hours, and benefits
5. Transparency on financial payments
6. Anti-competitive behavior
7. Local procurement
8. Indirect economic impacts
9. Resilience and adaptation to climate change
10. Transition to low-carbon economy

Impact descriptions should be modeled on the structure of GRI Impact descriptions (see Annex I) which consist of the following elements:

- General definition of impact
- Description of sectoral impacts
- How the impact occurs in oil, gas, and coal
- Reference to international norms and other global efforts

- References to key authoritative intergovernmental publications

The impact descriptions submitted by the researcher will undergo a round of feedback from GRI before completion of the assignment.

- Synthesized baseline research

Final deliverables will also include a synthesized baseline research document containing analysis and easily traceable evidence of the impacts.

Elements of proposal

Please include the following considerations in your proposal:

- Description of experience and knowledge in sustainable development, research, specifically related to the oil, gas, and coal sector (provide links to published materials where possible)
- Timeline for production
- A brief introduction of each member of the research team, including applicable experience
- Cost/price proposal per impact description with separate mentioning of VAT when applicable

The applicant must submit the anticipated research outputs within the timeframe he/she indicated in their proposal. Consideration should be given to potential impediments so that adjustments are incorporated in the schedule to minimize the need for time extensions. Please include sufficient time for review and revision of impact descriptions. Interested applicants should include achievable targets and keep in mind that the **final impact descriptions are due to GRI no later than 15 September 2019**.

Assignment timeframe and budget

The expected start and end dates for this assignment are currently set for the week of 19 August 2019 to 15 September 2019.

Firm Fixed Price (FFP) will be offered on a firm, fixed price basis per impact. The applicant shall recommend the labor mix and hours to complete the project by the due date.

The selected applicant is required to provide her/his own offices to be used to provide the services described in this Request for Proposal.

The selected applicant will still have access to the GRI Standards Division staff and a project research library on Mendeley.

Express your interest

Applicant(s) profile

GRI is searching the following attributes and experience:

- Demonstrated experience and knowledge in the field of sustainable development/ESG and the oil, gas, and coal sector
- Accomplished researcher with proven track-record
- Excellent knowledge of the English language (written and spoken)
- This RfP is open to all type of applicant(s)
- Applicants can be based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, or homebased elsewhere

Timeline for submitting a proposal

Proposals via email are due to GRI no later than Friday, 9 August 2019 at noon (CEST). Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Screening and selection of candidates is scheduled for the week of 12 August 2019.

Expressions of interest and full proposals shall be submitted via email to:

oil@globalreporting.org

ANNEX I Example of impact description

Air pollution

Description

According to the OECD, air pollution is the presence of contaminant or pollutant substances in the air that do not disperse properly and that interfere with human health or welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects.¹

For the purposes of this Sector Standard, air pollution excludes carbon dioxide and methane, which are considered in OGC.xx GHG emissions.

Sectoral Impacts

Fossil fuel extraction, processing, and combustion are the most significant anthropogenic sources of air pollutants. Air emissions originate primarily from fossil fuel combustion, but extraction and processing activities can also cause significant air pollution.²

Air pollution is a global issue, causing severe negative health impacts. Millions of premature deaths have been linked to air pollution, which can contribute to heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, acute respiratory infections, and neurological damage. Children, the elderly, and the poor are disproportionately affected.³

In addition, air pollution causes negative impacts on ecosystems. For example, nitrogen entering the oceans from air pollution can alter ocean chemistry, with negative impacts on marine life. Air pollution can also cause damage, reduced growth, and/or impaired photosynthesis for plant life.⁴ Air pollutants from fossil fuels associated with significant impacts on health and/or ecosystems include: sulfur dioxides (SO_x); nitrogen oxides (NO_x); particulate matter (including black carbon); volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contribute to ground-level ozone; carbon monoxide (CO); and heavy metals such as lead, mercury, or cadmium.⁵

How air emissions occur - oil and gas

Air emissions from operations:

Air emissions from oil and gas operations include nitrogen oxides; sulfur oxides; volatile organic compounds (VOCs); and/or other hazardous air pollutants (hydrogen sulfide, benzene). These emissions can occur from:

- on-site equipment that runs on fossil fuels;
- flaring and venting;
- boilers, terminals, and storage tanks;
- refining and processing activities;
- fugitive emissions;
- transport.⁶

Air emissions from product use:

Oil combustion accounts for more than half of total nitrous oxide emissions globally.⁷ Additionally, the combustion of leaded gasoline (phased out in most countries) causes airborne lead emissions.⁸ Natural gas, while cleaner burning than other fossil fuels, emits during combustion: sulfur; mercury; particulate matter; and nitrogen oxides.¹⁰

Air emissions from oil and gas combustion occur in many sectors, including but not limited to:

- Utilities;
- Transportation (automotive, trucking, air travel and air freight, and rail);
- Industrial manufacturing.⁹

How air emissions occur - coal

Air emissions from operations:

Air emissions from coal operations include particulate matter; sulfur dioxide; nitrogen oxides; and carbon monoxide. These emissions can occur from:

- fugitive dust emissions from drilling, blasting; unloading and unloading;
- fuel combustion on-site from vehicles or equipment;
- evaporation from tailings ponds or waste areas.¹⁰

Air emissions from product use:

Coal combustion emits significantly more sulfur dioxide emissions than other fossil fuels. Burning coal also emits toxic heavy metals, such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic.¹¹

Air emissions from coal combustion occur in several sectors, including but not limited to:

- Utilities;
- Cement production;
- Pulp and paper production; and
- Steel and aluminum manufacturing.¹¹

Endnote References

1. OECD, Glossary of Statistical Terms.
2. IEA, Energy and Air Pollution - World Energy Outlook 2016 Special Report. 2016. The report states that 85% of particulate matter and almost all of the sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides derive from energy production and use (p.19).
3. WHO, Air pollution; WHO, Air pollution and child health: Prescribing clean air, 2018 (draft version). Landrigan, P., Fuller, R, Acosta, N, Adeyi, O, Arnold, R, Basu, N, et al., Lelieveld J, Klingmüller K, Pozzer A, et al. The Lancet Commission on pollution and health. *The Lancet* vol. 391, February 2018: 462-512.
4. UNECE website, "Air pollution, ecosystems and biodiversity."
5. IEA, Energy and Air Pollution - World Energy Outlook 2016 Special Report, 2016.
6. The International Finance Corporation discusses how operational air emissions occur in a number of its industry guidelines, such as: Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for liquefied natural gas facilities, p. 7; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for offshore oil and gas development, p. 2; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for onshore oil and gas development, p. 2; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for natural gas processing, p. 2; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for petroleum refining, p. 2; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for crude oil and petroleum product terminals, p. 2.; Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for gas distribution systems, p. 3; Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for retail petroleum networks, p. 6.
7. World Coal Association. Coal Mining and the Environment; UNEP, Analysis of new U.S. coal plant rules shows deadly dangers of air pollution. Union of Concerned Scientists. Coal and Air Pollution.

8. IEA, Energy and Air Pollution - World Energy Outlook 2016 Special Report, 2016. UNEP, Leaded Petrol Phase-out: Global Status as at July 2018; WHO, Lead poisoning and health.
9. OECD, The economic consequences of outdoor air pollution, 2016.
10. The International Finance Corporation discusses how operational air emissions occur in a number of its industry guidelines, such as: Environmental, health, and safety guidelines for coal processing, p. 2; and Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Mining, p. 11.
11. OECD, The economic consequences of outdoor air pollution, 2016.

Additional Resources

UNEP, Review of 20 years' air pollution control in Beijing, 2019.