Mobilising More Finance for Climate Action

**Water hyacinth waste for a healthy blooming community**

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**What impact is intended?**
The water hyacinth is Africa’s most invasive water weed. More than half of the surface of Lake Victoria is covered by this plant. The lake’s ecosystem has been severely affected by the invasion, which in turn has had a negative effect on local livelihoods. The objective of this ‘Water Hyacinths for a healthy Blooming Community project’ is to provide Kenyan entrepreneurs, authorities and communities with alternative, sustainable and cost-effective techniques in order to enhance local production of green energy and nutritious food, based on the removal of pest weed water hyacinth. We will develop a sound business model for scaling up this intervention.

The project will start in Kisumu, a port city in Kisumu County, Kenya, with a population of approximately 420,000. Here, Deltares and KORCE Aquatic Weed Harvesting already proved to be able to set up a viable business model around the use of water hyacinth.

**What financial leverage can be realised?**
This consortium has built a strong business case rooted in the local context and based on technologically proven solutions.

The direct impacts on health, environmental, social and economic aspects will generate exposure of this project. The consortium of Dutch partners – including KORCE Aquatic Weed Harvesting and Greenergia on the ground– have the required expertise and contacts to roll out this project.

After these first costs are covered, the proposal could achieve considerable scale and economic, social and environmental impact. Because the lake’s surface area is about 68,800 km2 and because around 40 million people live around the lake there, there is considerable potential for scaling up. The same technology also has potential in other regions around the globe.
What are the strengths of this instrument?

- The proposal is simple, appealing and feasible.
- It addresses an issue that causes great environment and social problems in many places around the world and which are aggravated through climate change.
- The use of techniques of using the nutritional value of water hyacinth for improved food, feed, and energy - while cleaning the lake and improving its quality - is a visually strong concept that is now becoming economically viable.
- It provides a unique business model where the use the water hyacinth for multiple purposes is linked to cleaning up the lake.
- This consortium has built a strong business case rooted in local context and using technologically proven solutions.

What input is requested?

- Grant finance for initial investments in machinery and social development activities. The initial investment in the machinery is a vital first investment, and this investment is relatively high. It could be considered a bottleneck.
- Find ways to fund the social development activities - connecting with local communities.
- Support is needed to build the two business plans and know what they will exactly look like. It is important to know whether the Government of Tanzania will allow it because water Hyacinth is an un-wanted material.