

CALL for PROPOSAL

Section(s) authorship for the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Report 2023

About REN21

REN21 is the only global community of renewable energy actors from science, governments, NGOs and industry. We provide up-to-date and peer-reviewed facts, figures and analysis of global developments in technology, policies and markets to decision makers. Our goal: encourage and enable them to shift to renewable energy – now. For more information, visit www.ren21.net.

Scope and Background of the Assignment

The transition towards an efficient, renewables-based energy system is widely recognised as a main solution to tackle the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution). Still, the shift is not happening quick enough. The world is far from being on track to reach the 1.5°C targets or achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Reinforcing and ensuring continuous societal support for the deployment of renewable energy and the necessary infrastructure is therefore more urgent than ever.

While a massive uptake of renewables brings clear benefits, as any technology or infrastructure, it may trigger pressures on both the environment and human wellbeing. Addressing these pressures is crucial to ensure that the transition fulfils its objectives of a more inclusive, fair, and clean economy and society. It is even more crucial that the sustainability argument is increasingly being used to push back against renewable energy deployment, undermining the efforts to phase out fossil fuels and reach any climate target or Sustainable Development Goal.

The *Renewable Energy & Sustainability Report* aims at building a shared understanding, amongst a diversity of actors, of the existing analysis and thinking about the environmental and social sustainability of renewable energy. Building on REN21's approach, the project will bring together diverse voices that take part in the current debate, with the objective to find common grounds of understanding. It will identify challenges, debunk myths, investigate case studies, and shed light on workable solutions. Rather than creating new standards or assessment tools, the project will provide insights about good practices in policy, regulations, and responses from industry and civil society.

Such objectives call for a comprehensive approach. Based on a literature review of the current thinking on sustainability, the sections of the report will reflect the strand of policy studies arguing

for interlinked perspectives of resources management. The report will be therefore structured around the following approach:

Section 1 will address the **Water, Energy and Food** nexus, focusing on the links between water, energy, and food systems, which has increasingly gained scholarly and institutional attention in the recent years. The nexus can be approached from a technical perspective aiming to quantify and assess resources availability, but also from an institutional and practitioner perspective dealing with policies that shape the use of these resources. This section will observe the contribution of renewable energy technologies to address the water, energy, and food nexus.

Indicative length: 36 pages

Indicative sub-sections: Land use change • Water use and water access • Monoculture • Deforestation • Landscape • End uses

Section 2 will observe environmental consequences of the uptake of renewable energy systems from the perspective of “**One health**”, which links the health of the planet with that of humans. This perspective aims to break research and policy silos, addressing the determinants of health, be they environmental or socioeconomic, such as the impact of air pollution, temperatures increase, or the consequences of extreme weather events. The chapter will therefore observe the benefits and pressures that renewable energy technologies have on health determinants.

Indicative length: 36 pages

Indicative sub-sections: Biodiversity on land • Biodiversity in water • Pollution (air, soils, water, noise) • Health impacts • Climate change • Natural disasters

Section 3 will study **material** related issues, from the extraction of non-renewable materials such as metals and rare earths, all along their lifecycle towards their disposal. It will also address industrial ecology possibilities and circularity (refurbishing, recycling, technological alternatives). This section will also observe the economic system driving the end uses of the materials, and the possible changes of our current lifestyles that can alleviate pressures on resources.

Indicative length: 36 pages

Indicative sub-sections: Materials availability • Materials extraction (mining, deep sea mining) • Materials during devices lifecycle • Waste • End uses • Circularity

Section 4 will look at social and economic topics under the lens of **energy justice**. This framing is inspired by the line of research in social sciences looking at social aspects of sociotechnical

transitions, the distribution of costs and benefits of such transitions, the inclusiveness of the decision-making processes, the recognition of the needs, skills, and legitimacy of all actors.

Indicative length: 36 pages

Indicative sub-sections:

Distributional Justice (Distribution of costs & benefits): Business models • Access to finance / financial risk • Financial sustainability over time (e.g., subsidies) • Jobs / Working conditions • Affordability of RE / consumer's protection • Energy access / Energy poverty

Recognition justice (fair representation/full political rights): Gender equality • Indigenous people rights • Population displacement / resettlement / compensation

Procedural justice - Community engagement: Planning & approval process • Citizens' participation • Social support

Transparency (building trust): Supply chain transparency and traceability

Each section will propose a “**status**” subsection, where current pressures and benefits are identified and described, and a “**perspectives**” subsection, featuring case studies, best practices (technology, governance, policies) and collaboration examples. Data will be collected from a literature review, from crowd-sourced data collection through the REN21’s community, from expert interviews, as well as from four workshops that will be organised gathering industry, governments, finance, academic and NGO players.

Objective of the Assignment

REN21 is looking for consultants to act as chapter authors for the *Renewable Energy & Sustainability Report*, who will work in close consultation with the REN21 Knowledge and Data team.

Description of Required Tasks

The contractor will conduct research for the first edition of the *Renewable Energy & Sustainability Report* and author one (or several) section(s).

- Authorship of one (or several) section(s)
 - Undertake research and collect data
 - Draw relevant information from the contributions collected by the REN21 Secretariat from country/regional, technology, and topical contributors; follow up with contributors as necessary to close data gaps.
 - Contribute to the framing of the thematic workshops (1 per theme)
 - Draw relevant information from the workshop’s outcomes to be included in the report
 - Interview experts.

- Incorporate comments following peer reviews.
- Produce related figures and tables
 - The contractor may propose and develop figures and tables if relevant to the section that help illustrating the findings and drawing comparisons with fossil fuels or other industries.
- Review chapter in layout to check for errors, inconsistencies in data and messaging, etc.
- Ensure that references/citations are provided for all data and noted in full as endnotes. All references will be included in the final report. Referencing for all information will be done in accordance with REN21's authoring guidelines.

- Other Authorship tasks
 - Communication with the Knowledge and Data Team and Special Advisors
 - Review contributor database, data contributions, etc
 - Review of report back matter (glossary, methodological note, etc.)
 - Recognise in the Acknowledgement section all contributors who provided data for the chapter/section
 - Consult and collaborate closely with the Knowledge and Data Team on report preparation and incorporation of comments received during the peer review process.
 - Make available all relevant background information and data to REN21

Tentative Timeline

By When	What
September 2022 – January 2023	Data Collection & Authoring
February 2023	Peer Review
March – April 2023	Revise and finalize report
May 2023	Review chapters in layout
June 2023	Launch of Final Report

Proposal Requirements

The submission should include:

- A proposal indicating the contractor's specific interest in the project **and the chosen section(s) the author wishes to author**
- A detailed resume of prospective author(s), highlighting related work experience in the chosen one or several section(s)
- An overview of written reports covering similar scope and focus
- A writing sample that illustrates the contractor's knowledge of the renewable energy field and the specific chapter/section(s) in question
- Availability, and ability to meet the indicated deadlines
- Proposed daily rate and number of days for carrying out the work
- VAT rate, or note that explains why VAT is not applicable

Key Selection Criteria

- Cost of the offer – 30%
- Quality of the offer – 70%
 - Relevant experience and references (60%)
 - Writing sample (30%)
 - Flexibility and timeline (10%)

Proposals should be emailed to secretariat@ren21.net. Please mention “CFP – RESR – contractors name” in the subject line.

The **deadline date** for receipt of proposals is **15 of August 2022, 23:00 (CEST)**.

All received proposals will be acknowledged but only short-listed candidates will be contacted.