



**NIRAS**



**Your Partner in the  
Management of Facility  
and Framework Contracts**





## NIRAS: A catalyst for building sustainable societies around the world

For almost half a century, NIRAS has stayed true to its core purpose of contributing to a better, more equal, and stable world. We do this by designing, implementing, and managing projects and investments that facilitate economic development, enhance livelihoods, reduce inequality, improve education and health, give people a voice, and build environmental resilience. NIRAS strives to be the partner of choice for clients seeking to build future sustainable societies across the globe and the employer of choice for professionals with the know-how and passion to help fulfil our mission.



### NIRAS International Development Consulting SERVICE SECTORS

Forests

Agriculture

Climate

Land

Fund Management

Education & Skills

Private Sector & Trade

Peace & Stability

Gender & Human Rights

Governance

Water

Sustainable Energy

Urban Development

ME & L

NIRAS will remain a company with strong thematic in-house competence that reflects the holistic nature of all human development efforts. Integrated natural resource management, rural development, water, agribusiness, income generation, and food security are always in our focus. Today our expertise covers climate change adaptation and mitigation and the green and circular economy. We promote renewable energy; land tenure security and administration; government reform; urban planning; private sector development; and engage in skills training, vocational education and employment generation. In all these areas, we provide broad thematic expertise as well as results-based project management of both short- and long-term investments.

### As recognised by the SDGs, building sustainable future societies requires integrated holistic solutions and cross-sector collaborative approaches.

NIRAS implements large Framework Contracts for the European Union and also for bilateral clients as well as international training programmes and help desks, and we have become a forerunner in terms of gender mainstreaming and human rights. As development aid disbursement modalities are changing, some time ago, we established a dedicated Fund Management Unit, working across our offices as a service function for all NIRAS-managed funds. We currently manage an array of matching grant and challenge funds. Together with our partner Adalia, we have developed an efficient and transparent online fund management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system: [SmartME](#).

## Added value: local presence, long-term partnerships

As part of the larger NIRAS Group - an international multidisciplinary consultancy firm - NIRAS Development Consulting is committed to building long-term partnerships. We establish permanent country offices and capabilities where we operate. And we stay put - in some countries for already more than 40 years.

Cooperating closely with our International Consulting country offices in Belgium, Cambodia, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, and Zambia provides our clients with best value for money. Even at short notice, we can leverage our local networks and currently ongoing projects and instantly offer competent technical and administrative backstopping.

Investing in country offices builds local capacity and knowledge, provides employment and contributes to sustainable development in the countries where we work. NIRAS is committed to creating and supporting long-lasting local capacity for more effective and efficient local development and we strive to include local expertise in all our projects. Being present in key development hubs and listening to our local clients' needs, helps us grow our own capacity. Bringing practitioners from our country offices together at regular intervals helps them learn from each other and share best practices across the organisation.

In 2018, NIRAS expanded its presence in Latin America and the Caribbean and opened an office in Bogota, that ensures a strong network of local consultants in the region. The team possesses different backgrounds, comprising expertise in several areas - both technical ones such as environmental management of natural resources, green energy, agriculture, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, as well as within marketing, logistics, project management, and communication. This variety in expertise, languages and cultures helps us understand and work better with our clients as well as to have a thorough knowledge of the life-cycle of projects. Due to its strategic geographical position in the region and because we have the opportunity to meet the needs of our clients and partners in this time zone, Bogota's office is part of the Facility and Framework Contracts Unit.

### The areas in which we work:



Agriculture



Environment



Governance



Private sector  
development  
& trade



Energy



Gender &  
human rights



Infrastructure



Water





# Contributing visibly to the Sustainable Development Goals

Through the approximately 380 projects that NIRAS experts implement in well over 100 countries on an annual basis, we contribute to the SDGs and support each partner countries' Agenda 2030. In every sector and assignment, we ask ourselves if we can introduce new services where we - together with our partners and clients - can contribute positively to this global development agenda. The public expects tangible results: We understand our client's communication needs and help make these results visible. All NIRAS project results reporting is linked to their contributions to one or several of the SDGs. With our support, clients can systematically monitor, assess and report the achievements of their investments. Through the implementation of Framework Contracts, NIRAS helps establish the necessary systems and their capable management.

NIRAS has been managing **Facility and Framework Contracts** - particularly for the European Commission (EC) - in excess of 20 years, implementing more than **500 assignments worth over €75 million in over 110 countries**. In our work, we apply integrated and innovative approaches with the aim of achieving a higher level of stable human development, equitable economic and social empowerment, and inclusive, well-governed, and climate-smart societies of the future.



NIRAS manages Framework Contracts with a systematic and detailed but dynamic approach, where our well-established and tested bidding procedures guarantee that we can deliver the best quality available at the market, and mobilise expertise at very short notice. The NIRAS approach is based on transparency and fairness towards clients, experts, and partner companies. Together we take pride in the results we deliver.

## Facility Contracts

EU Facility contracts are set up to provide demand-driven support to EU Headquarters, EU Delegations and stakeholders in the EU's international partnership and development policy. Straight to Help Desks, they are characterised by a high degree of flexibility, responsiveness and adaptability to provide tailored solutions in the key areas of development cooperation. Their purpose is to contribute to the ultimate goal of reducing poverty, ensuring sustainable development, and promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world.

NIRAS has more than ten years of experience in implementing Facility contracts. This requires identification and mobilisation of a large number of technical experts within a period that can be as short as two weeks. We draw lessons and confidence from these experiences in demand-driven Facility and Framework Contract management for both the EU and other clients.

The strength of our general approach in managing EU Facility contracts lies in a very strong combination of experts, global partner networks, and a solid backstopping function to handle all contractual, administrative, and logistical elements, anchored in an agile and digital organisation, throughout the whole period of the contract execution. Taking into consideration the demand-driven nature of services required by Facility contracts, NIRAS offers the necessary technical backstopping and support *whenever* required by the contracting authority, the team and experts. A core element in our approach, the **digital 360-degree management** tool offered by NIRAS that allows the Core Team and PMT real-time access to planning, expert mobilisation, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), risk management and communication tools.



### The Team

NIRAS operates with a dedicated team of over 30 employees, based in Denmark, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Serbia, and Sweden, which enables us to have staff working on Facility and Framework Contracts 24 hours a day.



### What are the strengths of Framework Contracts?

Through the implementation of Framework Contracts, NIRAS can move into action on behalf of the client more swiftly and efficiently than if each contract needed to be built from the ground up.

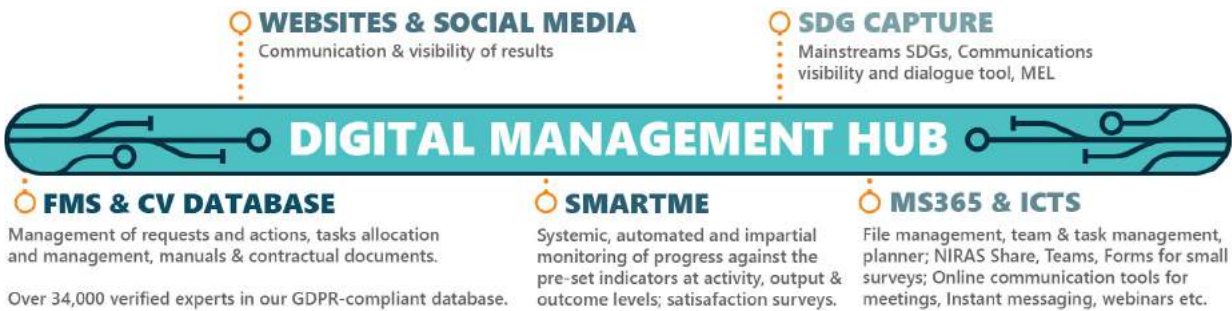
## Framework Contracts

Framework Contracts are a modality available to obtain high-quality technical expertise for projects on very short notice. Each contract is built upon a framework of pre-agreed terms that can be adopted and expanded for a variety of project types in many different contexts. Framework Contracts can be funded by different actors and currently we are managing two funded by the EU and one by the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Framework Contracts can be funded by different actors and currently we are managing Framework Contracts funded by the EU as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC). NIRAS also manages framework contracts funded by bilateral donors (Sida, Danida, NORAD, MFA Finland).

In the Framework Contracts SIEA 2018, the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) uses these Framework Contracts to support the implementation of EU external aid by facilitating the formulation and implementation of EU's international partnership and development policy, with the ultimate goal of reducing poverty, ensure sustainable development, promote democracy and human rights and the rule of law across the globe. Framework Contracts support the European Commission and decentralised authorities in their efforts to achieve the **17 SDGs**.

### NIRAS and the EU Framework Contract SIEA 2018

NIRAS is part of five of six awarded lots in the Framework Contract SIEA 2018, covering a broad range of technical areas. NIRAS leads Lot 1 (Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Resilience) and Lot 3 (Human Rights, Democracy and Peace). NIRAS is co-lead in Lot 2 (Infrastructure, Sustainable Growth and Jobs), and a partner in Lot 4: (Human Development and Safety Net) and Lot 6 (Innovative Financing for Development).





In line with our good practices and priorities, we undertake actions to ensure that an efficient backstopping function within the project organisation is in place, which is streamlined and coordinated from kick-off to closure.

In managing Facility Contracts, our experience includes Civil Society Roadmap Facility and the Civil Society Operational Facility (INTPA), The Botswana Policy Dialogue Facility, The Environmental Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Partnerships Facility (TAIEF), Support to Working Better Together for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (JP, DEVCO A2 - now INTPA D1), Advisory Services to the Education Sector (EAS), Support for the Implementation of a Rights-Based Approach to Development (RBA), with special focus on Gender Equality, Gender Advisory Service (INTPA G1).

### What is the SADC Framework Contract?

Since the beginning of 2021, NIRAS has also been managing the Framework Contract for the provision of services for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Committed to regional integration and poverty reduction, SADC encompasses 16 member states from Southern Africa with the common aim of improving people's living standards through collective self-reliance. The economic community achieves this by pooling of resources and ensuring a high degree of harmonisation and rationalisation across the region. Under a two-year framework contract, NIRAS is delivering bids with the aim to support the SADC Secretariat with individual consultancies for three priority areas for cooperation, namely peace, security & regional stability; regional economic integration; and regional natural resource management. We also deliver services in the cross-cutting area of institutional capacity building. NIRAS's engagement in the Framework Contract reflects our aspiration to empower local experts and staying committed in the long run.

The following examples illustrate the type of Framework assignments that our experts carry out diligently after the fastest possible mobilisation all over the globe for the EU.



#### Framework Contracts fast-track access to first-class expertise

NIRAS's in-house and external experts support the EU in designing and budgeting future interventions funded by the EU Budget. Assisting EU delegations and other decentralised authorities to formulate, assess and review projects helps shape the future of EU Development Cooperation and achieving its goals of reducing poverty, ensuring sustainable development, and promoting democracy, peace and security.

### Services for the Implementation of Storm Water Drainage Works and Treatment of Erosion Areas for the Towns of Nkayi and Owando

**Republic of Congo**  
(Nkayi and Owando)

**FUNDING**  
European Development Fund

**CLIENT**  
Delegation of the European Union to the republic of Congo

**CONTRACT VALUE:**  
460,733

**DURATION**  
May 2019-December 2020

The Congo is characterised by wide economic disparities across its territories. To address this, together with the EU, the Government of the Republic of Congo designated economic and commercial governance as well as local development as the two key focal points of its 2014-2020 National Indicative Programme (NIP). In this EU-funded project - which specifically targeted the secondary cities of Nkayi and Owando- sanitation and erosion control were selected as areas where more participatory governance could lead to improved living conditions for the local population. Five engineering studies were prepared laying the groundwork for the implementation of the EU's Resilient Cities programme in Nkayi and Owando. These deliverables contributed to the expected results by ensuring that: the urban planning capacity of local authorities was strengthened; access to basic services and infrastructure was improved through the establishment of sustainable systems for the management of wastewater, rainwater and solid waste; and local governance and community participation was enhanced.



### Support to the Concerted Management of Protected Areas and Fragile Ecosystems of Chad (APEF)

**Chad**

**FUNDING**  
European Development Fund

**CLIENT**  
Delegation of the European Union to Chad

**CONTRACT VALUE:**  
75,072

**DURATION**  
March 2020-July 2021

The EU-funded programme "Support to the concerted management of Protected Areas and Fragile Ecosystems of Chad (APEF)" aims to ensure a concerted approach to conservation, management and networking of several protected areas and fragile ecosystems with high ecological, cultural and tourism value in Chad. The Ennedi Nature and the Cultural Reserve and Zakouma National Park are two of the areas that fell under this programme. A NIRAS team of experts conducted a mid-term evaluation of the programme, including visits to both sites over a one-month period. Despite the involvement of multiple actors in different locations and limited time to evaluate this EU-funded programme, the NIRAS team managed to produce recommendations on how to improve and keep the programme going, helping promote sustainable and concerted conservation of Chad's wildlife, biodiversity and heritage.

### Civil Society Roadmap Facility

**Worldwide**

**FUNDING**  
European Union

**CLIENT**  
EC INTPA

**CONTRACT VALUE:**  
1,422,380 TA: 879,880

**DURATION**  
April 2021-April 2024

Roadmaps (RMs) are meant to improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions and to ensure consistency and synergy of support to Civil Society Organisations through the various sectors covered by EU external relations.

NIRAS's support will cover any of the countries eligible under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), depending on the request formulated by the delegations. The specific aim of this assignment is to provide strategic support and guidance to the EU (namely EUDs and DG INTPA) - and conceivably to other relevant stakeholders, including Members States, other international organisations at country level, and CSOs at global, regional and/or country level -in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring the RMs. This will be achieved through the establishment and running of a dedicated demand-driven support mechanism - the Roadmap Facility - acting both at global and country level, and allowing for the mobilisation of highly qualified technical assistance.







## Supporting Peru in Transitioning to a Circular Economy

**Perú** **FUNDING** **European Union** **CLIENT** **Delegation of the European Union to Perú** **CONTRACT VALUE: 426,000** **DURATION** **October 2020-September 2022**

The circular economy (CE) presents itself as an economic model inspired by the cyclical processes of nature, where no nutrient is wasted but instead remains in perpetual “healthy” (i.e. not contaminated) cycles for productive, restorative, or regenerative purposes. The EU has been supporting and accompanying Peru’s efforts for its transition to a circular economy through the exchange of experiences, cooperation, and by arranging high-level events. As part of this process, NIRAS was contracted to support on this transition endeavour. Building upon its extensive experience in supporting governments in the creation of policies and actions related to environmental issues, climate change, green economy, and CE issues; NIRAS assisted the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) in guiding and leading the CE transition, based on the Ministry’s workplan for 2020-2021. NIRAS helped in shifting from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption by generating technical, institutional, and regulatory conditions. NIRAS team worked, in order to ensure complementarity and coherence with policy as well as other cooperation programmes and EU efforts.



## Strengthening Monitoring and Annual Performance Reporting in Ghana’s Agriculture Sector

Launched in February 2020 in Wa, northwest Ghana, the EDF-funded assignment to improve the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system in Ghana’s agriculture sector quickly faced obstacles thrown down by the COVID-19 pandemic. With borders shut, the project office closed and international staff were sent home. But lockdowns and travel restrictions have been no match for the MEL experts selected to head up the project, which focused on strengthening data collection, analysis and reporting skills of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture regional and district officers of the Upper West Region.

Despite the best precautions three participants tested positive to COVID during the workshop. However, with improvisation, a little creativity and a whole lot of hard work, the team managed

to keep the EU project on track. The team wrapped up the project coaching on the Ministry’s 2020 Annual Report and training of trainers on MEL reporting topics. Activities were scaled down by focusing on eight key individuals who rolled their learnings out to colleagues following the conclusion of the project on July 2021.

**Ghana** **FUNDING** **European Union** **CLIENT** **Delegation of the European Union to Ghana** **CONTRACT VALUE: 408,090** **DURATION** **January 2020-February 2022**

## Feasibility Study for Sinoe Rapids Small Hydropower Plant

**Liberia (Greenville City)** **FUNDING** **European Development Fund** **CLIENT** **Delegation of the European Union to Liberia** **CONTRACT VALUE: 406,358** **DURATION** **October 2018-July 2019**

With support from the EU, the Government of Liberia aimed to boost the rural electrification supply to southeast Liberia. This included an electricity expansion to Grand Kru, Sinoe, Maryland and other counties. The overall goal was to stimulate economic development and reduce poverty.

One of several planned projects included the development of a small hydropower project (1 MW) in Sinoe County, one of 15 counties in Liberia, to provide captive supply of electricity to Greenville. The county capital, Greenville City, had many inhabitants that reside and trade along the road to the planned site of the Sinoe Rapids hydropower plant. Over the course of nine months, NIRAS conducted a feasibility study, including topographical studies and hydrological surveys, geological investigations, on the development of the plant, delivering a detailed design as well as tender documents such as to enable the EU to publish the tender.



## Improving the Quality of Data and Strengthening Policy-making

**North Macedonia** **FUNDING** **European Union** **CLIENT** **Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia.** **CONTRACT VALUE: 990,940** **DURATION** **January 2020-March 2022**



NIRAS concluded the EU project “Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making” in North Macedonia, where a long-term labour market forecasting model was among the successful results. This two-year EU funded initiative designed to provide assistance to the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the State Statistical Office and relevant agencies and institutions at national and local levels; strengthened sector policy making and contributed to the efforts

to reduce the high rate of unemployment and skills mismatch, increasing labour market participation – particularly among young people and women – and improving access to quality education and training, and establish a modern and flexible social protection system. The project worked on three areas:

- Creation of favorable, coherent legal, policy and procedural framework regulating processing of data in the fields of education, labour market and social policy
- Development/upgrade of information management systems that enable digital data collection, storage, processing and exchange of relevant data within the respective sector institutions
- Capacity building

**20** economic sectors were included in the new forecasting model  
**668** public and private primary and secondary schools and universities, accredited institutions offering adult education courses, Social Work Centers and Employment Service Agency were involved in training  
**More than 20** meetings of different working groups and a large number of individual consultations and meetings were organised within the project



# Support to Working Better Together for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

 **Worldwide**

 **FUNDING**  
**European Union**

 **CLIENT**  
**EC INTPA**

 **CONTRACT**  
**VALUE: 970,342**  
**TA: 770,790**

 **DURATION**  
**January 2019-**  
**October 2020**




and the coordination and engagement in development cooperation and external action. NIRAS experts worked on two levels. On the country level, the aim was to improve the capacity and operational knowledge of EUDs and Member States embassies on JP and the SDGs by taking a demand-driven approach. At the headquarter level, NIRAS strengthened capacities and documented knowledge on JP and the SDGs, and raised awareness of how JP contributes to the SDGs globally.

## Business Development Support to Productivity and Growth for the Forest Sector of Jamaica

 **Jamaica**

 **FUNDING**  
**European Development Fund**

 **CLIENT**  
**Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands**

 **CONTRACT**  
**VALUE: 84,040**

 **DURATION**  
**December 2019-January 2023**

The Forestry Department of Jamaica is a key player in the protection and conservation of the Jamaican forests, managing around 25% of the forested areas in Jamaica. NIRAS is providing Technical Assistance to the Forestry Department under the EU budget support programme “Improved Forest Management for Jamaica” which aims to assist the Government of Jamaica to sustainably manage and use Jamaica’s forest resources to enhance social and economic development, and contribute to building the country’s climate resilience. Through this project, NIRAS is supporting the Forestry Department to meet their goal of growing their annual revenue to \$400 million JMD by developing a business model that balances the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainability. The business model includes analysis and recommendations across all their potential revenue streams and emphasises opportunities for increasing community engagement, reversing forest degradation, and catalysing private sector interest in forestry as a business.

- Some project achievements to date**
- Successful trial on using locally sourced growing media (pine bark, coco peat and coffee husks)
  - Conducted market studies and analysis of the Forestry Departments nursery operation to inform the business model
  - Submitted draft interim National Standard for Jamaica to FSC for approval in March 2022
  - Business model developed and ready to be implemented from April 2022

# NIRAS’s role in Managing Facility and Framework Contracts

NIRAS’s role as contractor comprises the overall contractual management of the Facility Contract to the highest possible standard in the interest of the Contracting Authority. For each specific demand, we deliver expertise, management, backstopping and quality control services, creating value for money to reach the expected results (impact, outcome and outputs) as efficiently as possible.

## Other recent Facilities and Framework Contract projects

Project Title	Scope	Donor	Years
Facility on Conflict Analysis, Risk Assessments and Monitoring Frameworks	Global	EU	2020-2023
Final evaluation of Young Mediterranean Voices	NEAR Countries	EU	2021-2022
Regular Technical Audit of the PASTOR Programme’s Pastoral Infrastructure	Chad	EU	2020-2022
A Green Recovery Pathway in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	EU	2020-2022
Strategic Evaluation of EU support to Community Stabilisation, Local Governance and Local Development in Libya	Libya	EU	2020-2021
Strengthen Urban Perspective in ACP Development Cooperation	Global	EU	2019-2022
Mid Term Evaluation of the Institutional Capacity Building project for the Transport Sector	Uganda	EU	2019 - 2020
Technical Audit of the Rehabilitation/Renovation and Upgrading of Targeted Junior Secondary Schools in Rural Areas	Sierra Leone	EU	2021
Support to the Seychelles Department of Legal Affairs	Seychelles	EU	2019-2021
Support to Reform in the Waste Management Sector	Georgia	EU	2019-2021
Strengthening EU Support for the Reform and Organisational Development of Central American Integration System (SICA) - (El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize and Dominican Republic)	El Salvador with missions and events within SICA member countries	EC	2019-2021
Improving the Competitiveness of Creative Enterprises in Zambia	Zambia	EU	2019-2020
Verification of indicators for support to PAFEC – Family Farming Programme for Strengthening of the Peasant Economy	Guatemala	EC	2018-2020
Support for the Formulation of the EU Criminal Justice Reform Programme in Ethiopia	Ethiopia	EC	2019-2020
Creating a Baseline Study for a Food and Nutrition Security programme	Chad	EC	2019
Strengthen Existing Sea and River Defence Legislation	Guyana	EC	2018-2019



# NIRAS Global Presence



NIRAS' decentralised structure ensures that we are always close to our projects. With 51 offices in 31 countries worldwide, we maintain strong local ties to clients, experts and organisations in all of our key markets. Building on our motto "We listen, we learn, we deliver", NIRAS is proud to be a long-term partner in the pursuit of growth and prosperity for the countries in which we work.

We operate a specific Facilities and FWC Unit with a dedicated team of over 30 employees, based in Denmark, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Scotland and Serbia, which enables us to have staff working on FWCs 24 hours a day.

## Realising your sustainable potential



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