

Local consultancies to support the evaluation of the project “Integrating climate change finance into sustainable land management strategies”: Niger

Consultancy reference: CCD/16/EDM/34 – extension for Niger

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD - is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. Its 10-year Strategy states as the vision "to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability". The Convention's 195 Parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in areas affected by land degradation, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought. The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation. The Convention is supported by two entities: the UNCCD secretariat that organizes the intergovernmental process and facilitates cooperation and information exchange among countries, development partners, the scientific community, the civil society and other key stakeholders; and the Global Mechanism (GM) that promotes the mobilization of resources for sustainable land management.

Land degradation, deforestation, climate variability and poverty are interlinked with complex cause-and-effect relations. Agricultural, rural and land use sectors are critical for climate change (CC) mitigation, as these sectors represent major sources of CO₂ emissions. They are crucial also for adaptation efforts, as they are main livelihood providers for the world's poorest people, 75% of which lives in the rural areas and are dependent on agriculture and forestry. However, sustainable land management is not significantly reflected in the targeting and use of CC financing. An important reason behind this is the lack of capacity and resources of SLM practitioners to produce SLM projects that qualify for CC financing.

In this context, the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD, in cooperation with nine partner countries and a regional organisation, implemented the project “Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies” in 2010-2014. The final evaluation of the project will take place in May-August 2016. The evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency and, as feasible, impact and sustainability of the project, which will involve the identification and documenting of lessons learned and recommendations to improve the design and implementation of future projects and programs.

The evaluation recognizes that the project is largely about capacity development, and the evaluation methodology and approach will be oriented accordingly. In four out of the nine participating

countries (Senegal, Niger, Lao PDR and Palestine), this will be conducted as an in-depth review by using the Rapid Assessment of Capacity Development (RAC) methodology involving interviews and consultative workshops.

The UNCCD Evaluation Office is recruiting a local consultant in each of the four countries to assist the evaluator in the RAC, namely to carry out the interviews and organise the workshops. The substantive work in preparing for and analysing the findings of the interviews will be conducted by the evaluator.

About the project

The objective of the project “Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies” was to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in sustainable land management (SLM) for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from climate change financing mechanisms. The specific outcomes and expected results were as follows:

Specific outcomes

1. To efficiently include climate change finance into national processes leading to investment frameworks that support SLM.
2. To build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM and UNCCD implementation, and,
3. To make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue.

Expected results (five at country-level, three are at global or regional levels)

Country level

Result 1.1: The linkages between land degradation and climate change are adequately reflected in national level strategies related to rural development

Result 1.2: Climate change financial mechanisms fully integrated into participating countries’ UNCCD/SLM integrated financing strategy (IFS), or other similar approaches

Result 1.3: International, local and private sector stakeholders recognise the need and benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the agricultural and land use sector

Result 2.2: National initiatives launched for the strengthening of national level capacities to access existing and/or emerging climate change financing mechanisms to support projects in the agricultural and land use sectors

Result 2.3: Improved framework conditions in place for the development of an appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change projects in the agricultural and land use sectors

Regional or global levels

Result 2.1: A Climate and Land Investment Facilitation Mechanism (CLIF) established to promote national level mitigation and adaptation activities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors

Result 3.1: The Climate and Land Investment Information Platform (CLIP) is established with up-to-date information on investment options for the agriculture, rural and land use sector in view of the post 2012 climate regime

Result 3.2: South to south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access climate change financing under the framework of IFS.

The project targeted a broad selection of stakeholders: government officials, national focal points, representatives of local communities, civil society and private sector as well as scientific communities. It was implemented through process-oriented interventions geared toward the integration of climate change financing into the integrated financing strategies (IFSs) that are prepared for SLM and the UNCCD implementation. It was to use the IFS as the context for addressing national level strategies on climatic variability, particularly in the agricultural sector, to strategically align them with SLM issues.

About the local consultancies

The evaluation of the project will take place in May-August 2016, with the aim to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency and, as feasible, impact and sustainability of the project. It will involve the identification and documenting of lessons learned and recommendations to improve the design and implementation of future projects and programs.

The evaluation will recognize that the project is largely about capacity development, and the evaluation methodology and approach will be oriented accordingly. In four out of the nine participating countries (Senegal, Niger, Lao PDR and Palestine), this will be conducted as an in-depth review by using the Rapid Assessment of Capacity Development (RAC) methodology. RAC is about collection of data that is designed to meet the challenges usually faced in assessing capacity development. The evaluator will conduct evaluation missions to the four countries, and a local consultant will be recruited in each country to assist him. These local consultants will be tasked with the following:

- Support to the identification of key local stakeholders, building on the preliminary information provided by the evaluator.
- Support to contacting the key project stakeholders and scheduling the meetings and interviews.
- Participation in the meetings between the evaluator, the UNCCD focal point and other key national stakeholders.
- Organisation of the capacity assessment interviews. The interviews will target max 15 persons, involving both project participants and external stakeholders.
- Reporting back to the evaluator immediately after the interviews on the results of the questionnaires in Microsoft Word format. The local consultants will also fill in a dedicated excel file that the evaluator will provide.
- Organisation of the RAC workshop (for max 12 participants), which will take place in two phases: co-coaching session on capacity development outputs and correlation between capacity development outputs and outcomes. The evaluator will be present in the workshops, and before traveling to the countries he will advise the local consultant on what will be needed for the workshops and how they will be conducted. At the end of the workshop, the local consultant will support the consolidation of the results of the workshop.
- Continuous contacts with the evaluator, preferably by skype or other online modality.

Prior to the country missions and the interviews, the evaluator will brief each local consultant on the content and the approach, and discuss with him/her on the questionnaire and other material to be used in the interviews.

Qualifications of the local consultant

In order to be able to execute the interviews and workshops successfully, the local consultant has to have experience in the following fields:

1. Workshop organization, management and facilitation
2. Project evaluation
3. Conducting interviews
4. Capacity development projects

As project reports are in English it is essential that the local consultant is fluent in English. As the assignment entails continuous exchanges with the evaluator, the consultant needs to be well reachable by skype or similar online approach.

Schedule and contract conditions

The country missions of the evaluator are planned as follows:

Lao PDR:	10-16 July
Palestine:	16-23 July
Senegal:	1-6 August
Niger:	7-12 August

The local consultants will be under the direct supervision of the evaluator. Their contracts will be made between each consultant and the UNCCD secretariat / Evaluation Office. The assignments will start as soon as possible, with the aim to have the preparations for each mission completed as per the above schedule. A fee of Eur 2,200 will be paid to each local consultant. Possible travel and other costs that may be required to carry out the work will be covered separately.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to **staffing@unccd.int** together with a UN Personal History Form or CV, specifying the position (IMPORTANT: please specify also the region of interest): **CCD/16/ERPA/34 – Local consultancy – to support the evaluation of the project “Integrating climate change finance into sustainable land management strategies - Niger**

The deadline for applications is **07 July 2016**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat.

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