



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Individual International Consultant (4 positions)

Pre-Feasibility Study for the Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi Watercourse (PIDACC Zambezi)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/GM/57

Background

Desertification, along with climate change and variability, together with the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. 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. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. In the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework Parties to the Convention further specified their goals to reach “A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.” As main expected results it defines under target 15.3 to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030. Since then, and based on relevant decisions taken by country Parties at the 12th, 13th and 14th sessions of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD, the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept was endorsed as a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD.

The Global Mechanism is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries to translate the Convention into action and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality at the national level. The GM has supported more than 100 country Parties to formulate national voluntary targets to achieve LDN and is also scaling up support to Parties in their efforts to develop and implement Land Degradation Neutrality transformative projects and programmes in collaboration with international partners.



In the context, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) to support the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) to develop an integrated investment programme that aligns to country priorities and contributes to the rolling-out of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse, through enhancing resilience. The GM of the UNCCD and CRIDF will provide technical and financial support for the Pre-feasibility study while the AfDB will provide technical and financial support for the Feasibility study.

The main purpose of the Pre-feasibility study is to conduct an initial assessment leading to the identification and definition of priority development measures/actions responding to the challenges identified in the Zambezi Watercourse. The main outputs of the Pre-feasibility Study will be the pre-feasibility report and Concept Notes for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These outputs will feed into the Feasibility Study which will be led by the AfDB.

The Feasibility study has been approved for technical assistance through the African Climate Technology Finance Center and Network (ACTFCN) which is a project dedicated to Sub-Saharan African (SSA) member countries in scaling-up the deployment of low-carbon and climate resilient technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project is financed by the GEF Trust Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. The ACTFCN project is executed internally by the African Development Bank.

The overarching proposed objective of the Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi Watercourse (PIDACC Zambezi) Investment Programme is to “build strong communities that are resilient to climatic and economic shocks in the Zambezi Watercourse, through promoting inclusive transformative investments, job-creation and ecosystem-based solutions.” Through a transformative approach, which ensures gender equality and social inclusion, the PIDACC Zambezi’s proposed specific objectives are to:

- (i) increase feasible climate resilient infrastructure that would support livelihoods;
- (ii) strengthen and build capacity of the communities, with the view to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and effectively manage water resources, in a sustainable manner;
- (iii) develop and improve livelihoods by strengthening agribusiness through investments in water, energy and food security sectors; and,
- (iv) enhance institutional development and adaptive capacity, in order to reduce vulnerabilities.

These proposed objectives are aligned to the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse (ZSP) four Pillars in order to promote the realization of the desired social and economic benefits to Zambezi Watercourse communities. Programme activities and locations will be finalised during the Pre-feasibility Study, through consultation with key stakeholders in the Riparian States. Environmental and social safeguard requirements including gender issues are priority and will be integrated across all proposed components of the PIDACC Zambezi. The Pillars of the ZSP include: 1) Infrastructure Investment; 2) Livelihoods Support; 3) Environmental Resources Protection and Utilisation; and, 4) Water Resources Management.



The UNCCD is recruiting **four (4) Individual International Consultants** that will collaborate with the CRIDF recruited consultants to prepare the pre-feasibility report, GCF and GEF concept notes.

The expertise required is as follows:

- **Investment Programme Preparation Specialist** who will provide overall leadership and prepare the consolidated Pre-feasibility report, GEF PIF and GCF Concept Note;
- **Integrated Landscape Management Expert** who will mainly focus on the relevant objective and component;
- **Agro-Value Chains and Climate Smart Agriculture Expert** who will mainly focus on the relevant objective and component; and,
- **Socio-economic, Gender and Institutional Development Expert** who will mainly focus on the relevant component as relevant cross-cutting areas across all the objectives and components.

Consultant Tasks

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Coordinator of the LDN Programme, and the direct supervision of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), the international experts will lead the scoping, assessment and preparation of technical reports in accordance with the components agreed upon through the national and regional consultations. The consultants will be expected to liaise closely with the relevant sectoral National Focal Points that includes, the ZAMCOM Technical Committee (ZAMTEC) Zambezi Riparian States' representatives, UNCCD National Focal Points, Agriculture Focal Points, GCF NDA's, GEF Operational Focal Points, Finance and Planning Focal Points under the guidance of the ZAMCOM, to ensure that the investment programme components and activities align with the respective national development priorities.

Under the guidance and overall leadership of the Investment Programme Preparation Specialist, the main tasks of the international consultants will be as follows:

Programme Scope Confirmation

- Prepare an inception report, workplan and schedule of national and regional consultations
- Review the entire ZSP and supporting reports, ZAMCOM programme documents, relevant studies, data and information, country reports, national and regional policies related to resilience and investment plans related to gender, agriculture, water resources, sustainable land management, rural development, energy, environment, climate resilience sectors and country/regional strategies alignment to the proposed Investment Programme, so as to ascertain the appropriateness of the proposed project components and results;



- Assess¹ the macroeconomic and sectorial context of the programme selected area(s), with attention directed to regional constraints besides drawing on the economic and sector work experiences of AfDB and other agencies;
- Identify and confirm priority areas in the Zambezi Riparian States using a consultative process, based on national priorities including hotspot/brightspot assessment, with regard to the most vulnerable areas and greatest affected by natural resource degradation such as land degradation hotspots identified through the land degradation neutrality (LDN) target setting process, poverty and the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Develop a Theory of Change for the PIDACC Zambezi which is based on the barriers and issues identified in the ZSP and confirmed through the review of related documents;
- Document relevant past and current national projects/programmes and best practices focusing on building community resilience, building adaptive capacity, reducing vulnerabilities and climate risks, etc.;
- Identify² potential national projects/programmes focusing on building community resilience, building adaptive capacity, reducing vulnerabilities and climate risks, etc., taking into account the new challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Classify³ successful interventions in the area of climate resilient infrastructure, integration of climate information, application of climate smart agriculture technologies, etc.;
- Describe⁴ models/good practices for priority intervention actions including water resources development, restoration and sustainable land management, water-energy-food security investments, promotion of agricultural value chains and agri-business;
- Refine project components to ensure consistency with national priorities and the broader ZSP Pillars for Infrastructure Investment, Livelihoods Support, Environmental Protection / Utilisation, and Water Resources Management. Agree with National stakeholders and ZAMCOM on the Programme's focus and scope and develop potential linkages with the government, private sector institutions, and externally identified funded activities;
- Facilitate a consultation with ZAMCOM as well as key national focal points, specifically those for UNCCD, GEF Operational, National Designated Authorities (NDA's), AfDB Governors and/or Alternate Governors (Finance) to confirm Programme Scope; and,
- Analyse⁵ social inclusion approaches and draw a list of learnings from addressing gender equalities in projects related to the programme components.

Policy and Institutional Development Analysis in Support of the Programme Design

¹ At pre-feasibility stage only, an overview is required at macro level

² At pre-feasibility stage, only generic project / programme descriptions are needed with a few examples as illustrations

³ At pre-feasibility stage, only generic project / programme descriptions are needed with a few examples as illustrations

⁴ At pre-feasibility stage, only generic project / programme descriptions are needed with a few examples as illustrations

⁵ At pre-feasibility stage, only generic project / programme descriptions are needed with a few examples as illustrations



- Assess⁶ the institutional development framework, evaluate each of them against the proposed components of the Investment Programme and analyse the possibilities for involving other agencies, and propose an institutional development framework for the most suitable approach to the planned project for both regional and respect national levels of the Zambezi Watercourse with the view of effectively operationalizing ZAMCOM;
- Categorize⁷ main stakeholders of institutions supporting that includes sectors such as agriculture, forestry, gender, climate, energy, environment and water, etc, with specific attention drawn towards core functions, tools, systems, constraints and of agencies responsible for delivering support services, strengths, weaknesses by documenting gaps, capacity requirements needs, and opportunities for strengthening;
- Review⁸ capacities of regional and national agencies, rapidly;
- Evaluate high-level capacity of the potential executing and implementing agencies and describe their organizational arrangements for project implementation, including coordination. This includes number, strength, and effectiveness of organizations relevant to the proposed components, and arrangements for supporting their development;
- Identify high-ranking private sector and non-governmental organisation's involvement including screening for their potential investment in the proposed components, particularly in infrastructure development, climate risk management, agriculture systems, value-chains and agro-processing, technology transfer and marketing;
- Explore, at top-level, mechanisms for coordination with other agencies e.g. EU, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, AUDA-NEPAD, IWMI, IUCN, GWP, SIWI, WaterNet, SADC GMI, CCARDESA, SARDC, CIAT, ILRI⁹ that are relevant for project implementation; and mechanisms for partnership; and,
- Outline potential national/regional beneficiaries and groups for the proposed program interventions.

Programme Design

- Review¹⁰ and assess existing project identification guidelines and criteria, including those already established in various planning frameworks and recommend appropriate improvements;

⁶ At a generic level only

⁷ At a generic level only

⁸ At a generic level only

⁹ European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Global Water Partnership (GWP), Stockholm International Water Management Institute (SIWI), WaterNet, Southern African Development Community Ground Water Management Institute (SADC GMI), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

¹⁰ At a generic level only



- Prepare the criteria, in consultation with national and regional stakeholders, to assist identify activities / projects / interventions that contribute to achieving the set objectives of the programme. In addition, the criteria should guide the selection of interventions / projects that may be undertaken by other implementing agencies;
- Identify activities and interventions to be considered for the feasibility, working closely with national focal points;
- Define the portfolio of potential investment activities / projects / interventions, that are ongoing and planned, and aligned to the four components of the Investment Programme;
- Create a project log-frame that meets AfDB requirements, incorporating appropriate indicators and baseline data for monitoring and evaluation, including among others the 3 biophysical LDN indicators (land cover; land productivity (net primary productivity) and carbon stocks (soil organic carbon));
- Generate¹¹ a compilation of the prioritized national and regional activities / projects / interventions in response to the Theory of Change and the project log-frame and prepare project list per component;
- Compose a description of the type of projects proposed for inclusion in the Investment Programme under each component, including development objectives, approach, outcomes, activities, key stakeholders, location, potential risks, as well as possible environmental and social impacts;
- Describe¹² the generic institutional development and capacity building needs at both national and regional levels;
- Provide clear recommendations on the basket of investments, interventions and activities that merit further assessment through the subsequent Feasibility Study and for inclusion in project proposals to funders, such as the AfDB, GCF and GEF;
- Plan a high-level evaluation of the overall cost envelope and timetable for programme implementation;
- Conduct a preliminary assessment of the aspects related to programme implementation, management, and monitoring considerations;
- Produce a detailed description of how the programme, as a whole, and the proposed components and interventions aligned with the priorities and funding criteria of the strategic funding institutions that includes the AfDB, GCF, GEF and other identified funding mechanisms, such as bilateral funds (e.g. European Union, Germany, France, and Netherlands) and private sector funds; and,
- Support¹³ ZAMCOM in engaging the Zambezi Riparian States, regarding PIDACC Zambezi related matters.

Preparation of Concept Notes

Based on the Pre-feasibility Study findings and recommendations, prepare a set of Concept Notes primarily for the benefit of the potential programme implementation funders and also assist ZAMCOM in its efforts of securing the required letters of support and endorsement from

¹¹ At an indicative level

¹² At an indicative level

¹³ Limited at the pre-feasibility stage



relevant national focal points, e.g. those of Ministry of Finance, GEF Operational Focal Points, and GCF National Designated Authority. Categories of the agreed concept notes are further described below¹⁴.

- I. **Concept Note for a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Multi-Country Investment Programme** as guided by the GCF Programming Manual¹⁵ and covering the following issues:
 - a. Theory of Change, climate rationale, and baseline narrative;
 - b. Project description, including project components, vis-à-vis, project size, suggested financial instruments and other financial information; results of environmental and social risk screening;
 - c. Brief information on how the concept note meets the GCF investment criteria; and,
 - d. Details on engagement with the NDA(s) and relevant stakeholders.

II. Project Identification Form for GEF7 for International Waters

Based on the outcomes of the Pre-Feasibility Report, a fund application to the GEF7¹⁶ International Waters Focal Area, using the Project Identification Form will be developed. This, among others, will entail:

- a. Project description summary and proposed budget (indicative GEF Trust Fund Resources and sources of co-financing);
- b. Project's target contributions to GEF7 core indicators and project taxonomy; and,
- c. Project justification including project location (map and coordinates), stakeholders consulted, gender dimensions relevant to the project, and plans to address gender in project design, private sector engagement and consistency with national priorities among others.

Expected outputs

The final workplan and expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Project Management Team consisting of ZAMCOM, GM of the UNCCD, CRIDF and AfDB and will include:

¹⁴ The investment programme pre-feasibility and both GCF PCN and GEF PIF should demonstrate how they contribute to achieve relevant SDG's such as SDG 15.3 and fully integrates the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework <https://www.unccd.int/publications/scientific-conceptual-framework-land-degradation-neutrality-report-science-policy>; LDN features checklist: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/access-capacity-policy-support-technology-tools/checklist-land> which is also available on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft> among others

¹⁵ https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-programming-manual_0.pdf

¹⁶ The GEF7 Program holds the potential to produce greater value for money and large-scale, long-lasting impacts by (1) producing multiple benefits across focal areas, and (2) addressing drivers of degradation and seeking systems change (3) mobilizing new partners (e.g. private foundations, private sector, research institutions) and resources to enhance GEF impact and reach. GEF7 will strengthen its results architecture and capture multiple benefits while focusing on a smaller set of core indicators.



1. Inception Report, Workplan and National and Regional Consultation Schedule;
2. National Consultation Reports including list of stakeholders consulted;
3. Regional Consultation Report including list of regional stakeholders consulted;
4. Component Assessment Reports (to be delivered by each specialist);
5. Draft Investment Programme Pre-feasibility Study;
6. Final Investment Programme Pre-feasibility Study;
7. Draft GEF Project Identification Form (PIF);
8. Final GEF Project Identification Form (PIF);
9. Draft GCF Project Concept Note (PCN); and,
10. Final GCF Project Concept Note (PCN).

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in sustainable land and water management, environmental engineering, natural resource management, environmental finance, environmental economics, business development and management, agriculture, forestry, climate change and variability, soil sciences, public policy, institutional development, gender or related fields;
- A minimum of ten years of experience in project development, development finance, climate finance, blended-finance;
- Proven work experience as a technical specialist on project development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
- Extensive knowledge on natural resource management monitoring, including methodologies on monitoring and assessing land use change, land productivity and soil organic carbon;
- Demonstrated technical knowledge of GIS and remote sensing applied to natural resources monitoring and assessment at (sub)national level;
- Experience in drafting and preparing project concepts and full project documents, meeting criteria and requirements targeted funding sources including GEF and GCF;
- Demonstrated knowledge in the effective facilitation of complex multi stakeholder processes;
- Knowledge of the SADC as a region and the Zambezi Watercourse, in particular;
- Knowledge of English and Portuguese or both languages is required
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time.

Contractual Terms

This consultancy will include missions to the Zambezi Riparian States, as required guided by national COVID 19 restrictions. Consultancy fees will be based on qualifications and the level of experience, payment will be on a lump sum basis against the delivery of outputs.

Submission of applications



Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int with a cover letter, CV and/or UNCCD Personal History Form (P11)¹⁷, specifying the position: **CCD/20/GM/57**

The **deadline for applications is 4 December 2020**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat or Global Mechanism. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 18 November 2020

¹⁷ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>