



**International Ecosystem Management Partnership**  
**国际生态系统管理伙伴计划**



**Terms of Reference**

**International Dryland Adaptation Specialist**

Joint project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC), funded by GEF

*“Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries”*

**BACKGROUND**

The negative effects of climate change are being experienced by local communities within a wide range of economic sectors in developing countries across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Multiple factors make developing African and Asia-Pacific countries particularly vulnerable to observed and expected climate change impacts. These include: i) poverty; ii) dependence on rain-fed agriculture; iii) wide-spread ecosystem degradation; iv) limited technical capacity of regional and national institutions to plan and implement adaptation technologies; v) limited knowledge of cost-effective adaptation technology options; and vi) limited pre-investment by developing countries in adaptation technologies.

The project *“Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries”* aims to build resilience using an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation (EBA) in vulnerable developing countries by increasing institutional capacity, mobilizing knowledge and transferring appropriate adaptation technologies.

The project has three main components:

**1. Capacity Building**

Interregional coordination and capacity building for developing countries to plan and implement EBA.

**2. Knowledge sharing**

Increased availability of information and improved public awareness on EBA

**3. Technology transfer**

Transfer of EBA technologies to three pilot countries in Africa and Asia-Pacific. Concrete on-the-ground interventions to build the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Mauritania, Nepal and Seychelles.

The joint UNEP-NDRC global project funded from GEF-Special Climate Change Fund resources was endorsed by the GEF CEO on January 15, 2013. UNEP is the implementing agency (IA), while the China National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) through the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR, CAS) is the Executing Agency (EA) of this project. The four-year project, launched in April 2013 in Beijing, is considered a “first mover” in catalysing global and regional collaborations on EBA under the GEF guidelines, in particular within the framework of South-South Cooperation under the UNFCCC.

This project in Mauritania will implement concrete, on-the-ground EBA desertification control measures

including multi-use greenbelts (450 ha) within a long-term research framework, and undertake institutional capacity building to support EBA technology transfer to Mauritania.

A home-based, part-time consultant will be hired as International Dryland Adaptation Specialist (IDAS) for this project. The incumbent shall be a competent individual to assume the role IDAS to work with Mauritania counterparts in provide advice on best-practice approaches and methodologies to achieve project objectives.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The IDAS will be evaluated in accordance with the successful implementation of related project activities. Duties and responsibilities will include:

- Collate and synthesise existing information on dry-land ecosystems that can be useful to support the implementation of EBA activities in Mauritania.
- Identify, review and analyse (based on a pre-defined template) at least 3 EBA-related good practice case studies, preferably on dry-land, to be included in a good practice knowledgebase developed within the project. Good practices shall be transferable to Mauritania and other developing countries.
- Provide guidance and advice on the identification of sites and selection of on-the-ground activities for implementation of EBA interventions in Mauritania, in consultation with the project Technical Advisor (TA), National Dryland Adaptation Specialist (NDAS) and the country team.
- Develop a protocol for implementation of EBA to address site-specific climate change vulnerabilities at pilot intervention sites in Mauritania, with support from national team. The protocol mainly aims to provide technical guidance on concrete interventions in selected project sites. The protocol should also summarise project background, intervention details, implementation plan, the institutional arrangement, and a cost breakdown for the EBA interventions. Climate change vulnerabilities to be addressed by the EBA protocols may include inter alia desertification, sand-dune encroachment, inundation by wind-blown sand, and reduced availability of pasture and forage for livestock.
- Guide the implementation of this protocol in Mauritania.
- Participate in meetings, events and workshops organised by and/or in relation to the project, whenever necessary.
- Support EBA-related awareness raising and training activities (training of trainers, scientists, practitioners, local community and government staff) in Mauritania.
- Provide technical input and guidance to support the development of a long-term research programme to be implemented at the pilot project sites, in participation with TA, NDAS and other national technical staff, and local academics. Technical input and guidance should include the development of a monitoring plan to support ongoing collection of environmental and socio-economic data from pilot project sites.
- Provide technical input and support the development of policy revision proposals. Specifically, the project will propose revisions to existing national policies to support the integration of EBA into business-as-usual policies and activities. This activity will be led by a dedicated technical consultant, with input from IDAS as well as other technical consultants and project staff.
- Inform the collation, synthesis and packaging of information and planning tools to support the project's objectives of raising awareness and increasing the availability of knowledge products on EBA. This will include providing technical input and guidance to a national public awareness campaign. In addition, IDAS will provide technical input and guidance into the development of planning tools and decision making/management software for mainstreaming EBA that will be hosted on the project's interactive web-based platform. The planning tools will comprise a software interface that requires the input of case-

specific information to: i) determine the feasibility of potential climate change adaptation projects; and ii) monitor the performance of existing climate change adaptation interventions.

- Provide technical assistance and guidance to support the National Focal Point of Mauritania.

**Key deliverables:**

- A practical protocol to implement EBA in dry-land ecosystems in Mauritania, particularly to control desertification.
- Synthesis report on dryland Ecosystem-based Adaptation and at least 3 good practice case study analyses.
- Annual technical progress report on EBA implementation in Mauritania.
- Annual report on the information and data provided to support other project components.

**REPORTING**

The IDAS will report to the Project Manager (PM). The IDAS will cooperate with National Focal Point in Mauritania, Project Management Unit (PMU), Senior Advisor, Technical Advisor, National Dryland Adaptation Specialist, EBA specialist and other consultants to ensure timely completion of the project tasks.

**TIME-FRAME**

IDAS is a part time consultant position for the GEF project. The initial contract will be for a period of one year, renewable for another two years.

**REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

- Advanced degree (MSc. or higher) in climate change adaptation or a related discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in climate change adaptation and natural resources management in developing countries, with a focus on dry-land ecosystems.
- Strong research skills and project management experience.
- Demonstrated experience in providing technical support to complex projects.
- Experience in Africa, particularly in Mauritania, an advantage.
- Willingness and availability for international travel.
- Good communication and computer skills.
- Fluent in spoken and written English and French (both languages are essential).
- Based in West Africa as an advantage.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- Please send your CV, cover letter and the contact details of two referees to [info@unep-iemp.org](mailto:info@unep-iemp.org). Quote “GEF International Dryland Adaptation Specialist” as the email subject.
- Application deadline: **November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, or until suitable candidate identified..**
- The applicant will be contacted only if she or he is shortlisted.

**Disclaimer:**

1. The successful applicant shall not become a staff member of the United Nations or UNEP but shall sign a contract with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences.
2. The applicant shall abide by the rules and procedures of IGSNRR and must commit to abide by the law of the People’s Republic of China.
3. The United Nations or UNEP shall neither be responsible nor liable for any claims which may arise from this employment and IGSNRR shall take full responsibility in this regard.