



## Terms of Reference

GEF Project Implementation

### International Dryland Adaptation Specialist

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

*“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 management approach in vulnerable developing countries by increasing institutional capacity, mobilizing knowledge and transferring appropriate best-practice adaptation technologies. The project has three main components:

#### 1. Capacity Building

Strengthen capacity building at local, national and regional levels in the pilot countries to plan and implement climate change adaptation technologies

#### 2. Knowledge sharing

Increased availability of information and improved public awareness on best-practices for implementing and financing best-practice adaptation technologies and support inter-regional knowledge support.

#### 3. Technology transfer

Support technology transfer and know-how on best-practice adaptation measures through the integration and demonstration of concrete on-the-ground activities to build the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in the pilot countries.

The project will build on the significant steps that have been taken towards assisting African and Asia-Pacific countries to adapt to climate change impacts. These include projects and programs funded through multilateral and bilateral funds implemented so far by various institutions, entities and UN agencies including UNEP who is playing a leading role in promoting Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) through

its EBA flagship programme. The achievement of the SCCF project's main activities in African and Asia-Pacific countries will increase the climate resilience of ecosystem services and thus African and Asia-Pacific communities to climate change impacts.

The incumbent shall be a competent individual to assume the role of International Dryland Adaptation Specialist (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. Its responsibilities will include:

- Collating and synthesising existing dryland EBA information (lessons learnt from case studies, planning tools, finance resources, long term research, policy framework) to support the implementation of EBA activities in Mauritania. This information will also be used to update the project web platform;
- Develop, together with the national team and international consultant, a protocol for control of desertification using EBA in Mauritania; and guide the implementation of this protocol.
- Informing the identification of sites for implementation of EBA interventions in Mauritania;
- Provide guidance to data collection activities and development of a long-term research programme linked to EBA restoration sites;
- Informing the development of planning tools and decision making/management software for mainstreaming EBA.
- Participate and conducting an inter-regional and national workshops as necessary;
- Support the training trainers, scientists, practitioners, local community and government staff, from the SCCF project pilot countries;
- Informing the development of a long-term research programme and revisions of policies in Mauritania.
- Informing the collation, synthesis and packaging of information and planning tools for a public awareness campaign including production of national handbooks and planning tools;

Key deliverables:

- A practical protocol to implementation of EBA in dryland ecosystems in Mauritania, particularly to control desertification (June 2014).
- Annual technical progress report on implementation of dryland EBA activities.
- Synthesis report on dryland Ecosystem based Adaptation;
- Annual report on the information provided to support other 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 (SA), Technical Advisor, EBA specialist and other consultants to ensure the implementation of the project tasks.

#### **TIME-FRAME**

The IDAS is a part time consultant of the Project and the initial contract will be for a period of one year, and subject to a satisfactory performance appraisal, renewable to another 2 years.

## REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- At least an advanced post-graduate at or above M.Sc. level in climate change adaptation or a related discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a Dryland climate change adaptation and natural resource management issues in developing countries.
- Strong research and project management experiences.
- Previous similar experiences in provision of technical support to complex projects.
- Experience from Africa and Asia-Pacific, especially in Mauritania would be an advantage.
- Willingness and availability for travel.
- Good communication and computer skills.
- Fluent in spoken and written English and French.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Please send your CV, cover letter and two referees' contacts to [info@unep-iemp.org](mailto:info@unep-iemp.org). Quote "GEF International Dryland Adaptation Specialist position" as the email subject.
- Application deadline: **February 21, 2014**
- The applicants will be contacted only if she or he is shortlisted.

### **Disclaimer:**

1. The successful applicant shall not be 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 – the executing agency for this GEF Project
2. The applicant shall abide to the rules and procedures of IGSNRR and must commit to abide by the laws of the People's Republic of China.
3. 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.