



TERMS OF REFERENCE: EGYPT BASELINE STUDY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environmental and development challenges. IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGO's, the UN and companies together to develop policy, law and best practices.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest environmental organization, with more than 1,000 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

This consultancy contributes to the Project Preparation Grant of the UNEP-GEF project **“Healthy Ecosystem for Rangeland Development (HERD): Sustainable rangeland management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation”**. The consultancy is commissioned by the IUCN West Asia and Global Dryland Initiative.

BACKGROUND

Rangelands cover between 25% and 50% of the world's surface and contribute up to a third of the world livestock product. However, they also provide many important ecosystem services, from regulating water flows to mitigating climate change, and they provide habitat for some of the world's most cherished biodiversity. It has been demonstrated that the most cost-effective and sustainable strategies for developing the rangelands is through a combined approach to livestock production and environmental stewardship (McGahey et al., 2014).

West Asia dry lands present unique challenges for sustainable management: challenges that are not generally well reflected in policy and development planning. A key challenge is the high unpredictability of precipitation, which varies greatly between seasons and years, and from a geographic location to another. This extreme variability has led in many places to unique adaptations, both in terms of drylands biodiversity and in drylands livelihoods. However, the adaptations of dryland livelihoods are often misconstrued as *“backward and in need of change”*. Efforts to *“modernise”* dryland livelihoods by eliminating some of the more challenging adaptive practices have led to increased poverty and environmental degradation.

Biodiversity provides the basic productive resources of pastoralism and pastoral resilience depends on protecting and sustainably using that biodiversity. The practice of mobile herding brings many environmental benefits by mimicking the natural wild herbivore movements on which rangelands depend for their existence. However, many changes have taken place in recent decade that have weakened the capacity of pastoralists to manage their land sustainably. As a result, many rangelands are degraded or are at risk of degradation, contributing to loss of ecosystem services which results in increased poverty and vulnerability, greater risk of drought and other crises (Davies et al., 2012).

The past decade has seen progress in understanding of pastoralism, and particularly its environmental merits. Work by the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism has demonstrated the growing number of success stories in sustainable pastoralist development and rangelands management. Some of the most exciting progress is being made where pastoral governance of the commons has been strengthened through improved institutions, and where value chains are strengthened for multiple ecosystem services (Herrera et al., 2014).

Pastoralists can find reward for the external environmental benefits of their system in many ways. They can derive income from biodiversity through direct marketing, for example for medicinal or cosmetic purposes, or through tourism and related business. In some cases pastoralists receive public payments for the environmental services they provide, or the ecosystem services that they protect. Rangeland livestock products are healthier than intensively produced equivalents and consumers are often willing to pay a premium for them and for the environmental co-benefits of their production (McGahey et al., 2014).

Rangelands in Jordan and Egypt are characterized by grazing mismanagement related to break down in local governance arrangements. Many experts focus on perceived limitations in water resources, instead of adapting to the given water availability and adapting range management strategies accordingly. Poorly planned water interventions and other rangeland interventions contribute to changes in herding patterns, loss of herd mobility and consequent over-grazing problems. This then exacerbates water scarcity and loss of other ecosystem services and biodiversity, affecting not only rangeland users but also irrigation agriculture and the extractive and mechanized industries.

In Egypt the North West Coast has been quit rich in natural habitats and biodiversity. Plant biodiversity includes a multitude of domesticated agriculture germ plasm, and wild plant species. The vegetation cover has been exposed to a sever degradation process as a result of erratic rainfall pattern and wind erosion, combined with demographic pressure and the settlements process. This process occurred without technical support to devise schemes to adopt the semi-nomadic traditional production systems to sedentary life-style. This led to unsustainable land-use practices in this fragile eco-system, expansion of barley cultivations in to marginal land, excessive fire wood gathering and over exploitation of the rangeland. Also, uncontrolled touristic development along the cost is taking its roll with arable land lost to tourist villages and quarrying, unregulated use of off-road vehicles which has disturbed top soil, and spoiled valuable scenic and pristine land scape.

Egypt's NAP aims for "integration of pastoral systems into the broad agricultural domain after long years of marginalization". They recognize the need for stronger human resources and increased public awareness and participation in addressing land degradation as well as mobilizing financial resources. Jordan's NAP was revised in 2014 to align it with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy as well as to align it with the revised NBSAP. It also underscores the importance of improving consistency between policy frameworks and harmonizing the NAP with other domestic policies. Egypt's NAP similarly recognizes the need for multidisciplinary policy and programs of intervention across sectors.

Sustainable management of rangelands in Jordan and Egypt is constrained by many complex and inter-related factors, many of which are essentially governance failures. This includes weak local governance of rangeland resources, including a loss of the capacity of herders to coordinate their herd movements and grazing patterns and low capacity of local authorities to regulate the development of pastures and water resources. Governance weaknesses are also observed at the national level, where policies encourage inappropriate land use in the rangelands and also support fragmentation and privatization of resources that may be better managed on a large scale through communal herding practices.

Sustainable rangelands management is also constrained by weak scientific support for good practices, disagreement over rangeland ecology and its management, and weak evidence of rangeland health or degradation.

CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVE:

The Aim of this consultancy is to conduct the national baseline study as the first step of the Regional GEF initiative “HERD”.

This consultancy study will contribute to defining the project, and in particular Component 1 on “Adaptive management and learning”, Component 2 on “Stronger institution for rangeland governance”, and Component 3 on “Identifying and up-scaling good practices in Sustainable rangeland Management, based on PRMPs”, and in supporting the International Consultant in validating the final project document according to GEF specifications.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The consultant will work under guidance from the project’s team leader and be supported by the IUCN West Asia Dryland Program Manager

The consultant will play a key role in this PPG activity and is expected to provide information and data for the potential co- financing of the HERD implementation through letters of commitment which will be completed by IUCN ROWA.

The consultant should provide all data based on Gender disaggregated data and proposed gender sensitivity indicators.

THE KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

1. **Review the state of knowledge on monitoring and reporting on interventions, policy and investments in rangeland and its economic valuation (“adaptive management and learning”)**
 - ❖ Define and submit a detailed methodology and work plan in consultation with other team members with clear delegation of responsibilities of each team member.
 - ❖ Provide an overall orientation to the PPG team in relation to GEF requirements for project planning and monitoring with particular attention given to the description and quantification of the baseline information.
 - ❖ Provide a brief overview of different literature and related work on desertification, climate change and biodiversity conservation around the rangeland outlining key issues and current understanding;
 - ❖ Provide an overview of sustainable rangeland management “SRLM” in the country and their status (including national strategies and initiatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations);
 - ❖ Provide an overview of initiatives to strengthen rangeland ecosystem governance, communal resource rights, and herd mobility, their impact and the limitations they have faced;
 - ❖ Review rangeland strategies in the priority countries, how they align with UNCCD-NAP, UNFCCC-NAPA, CBD-NBSAPs, new SDGs and how they align with reporting against indicators in these action programs;

- ❖ Report on the extent and quality of current SRLM monitoring approaches and reports (including reports to the UNCCD), and the extent to which reports reflect actual actions and status on the ground;
- ❖ Report on the extent and status of cross-sectoral collaboration and efforts to harmonize activities across sectors;
- ❖ Report on customary initiative such as HIMA to build multi-stakeholder participation and monitoring, including initiatives between Civil Society Organizations and initiatives between government and Civil Society;
- ❖ Report on rangeland and SLM initiatives (current and recently completed) in the country including areas of overlap or convergence with this project, total levels of funding, key stakeholders, and potential for collaboration;

2. Review the institutional arrangement for rangeland governance:

- ❖ Provide an overview of possible policy barriers to SLM scale up;
- ❖ Propose methodologies for implementation in the full GEF project to assess national policy environments in more detail for their alignment with international agreements;
- ❖ Identify key sector policies that influence rangeland restoration (including communal land rights, devolution etc.) and review specific policies to identify the country strengths and weaknesses with regard to SRLM implementation;
- ❖ What are the legal options for strengthening land rights, including communal rights, in the drylands, and are there non-legal avenues that can also be explored (e.g. usufruct rights, seasonal grazing rights, access rights etc.)
- ❖ What are the examples of successfully securing natural resource rights in the drylands?
- ❖ How can policy or law support the application of customary rules and regulations over natural resources?
- ❖ Provide examples of proven investment have been shown to improve adoption and maintenance of SLM practices;
- ❖ Provide examples and guidance on how better to capitalize on the existing investments of local land users on different rangeland ecosystem services;
- ❖ Provide examples of effective private sector engagements and evidence of success;
- ❖ Provides examples of the risks of poor private sector engagements.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate will have the following qualification and experiences:

1. Postgraduate qualification in Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Science, or related Natural Resource field;
2. At least 15 years' experience in implementing sustainable development projects and consultancies in the Egypt;
4. Excellent writing and communications skills;
5. Fluency in both English and Arabic.

CONSULTANCY DETAILS

This consultancy will run from September 1st till December 1st, 2016. A timetable of deliverables will be agreed prior to issuing a contract. The consultancy is anticipated to require approximately 23 days, depending on the experience of the consultant and the daily rates.

APPLICATIONS

Application is by Expression of Interest and Resume to Fidaa F. Haddad: fida.haddad@iucn.org & Jocelyne.daoud@iucn.org with job title of the position in the subject line.

All applications should be received by August 20th, 2016.