TERMS OF REFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT FOR PREPARATION OF FULL SIZED PROJECT OF GEF

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.

Jordan's rangelands were historically governed by Bedouin tribal institutions most of which were communal, but approximately 80 years ago the government declared all lands 'Public' which undermined long established sustainable management systems, leading to ecosystem degradation. Compounding the degradation problem were policies of subsidizing livestock feed for excessively high numbers of animals and subsequent abandonment of traditional rangeland management practices. In Jordan, the Agriculture Law (20) for the year 1973 defined the rangelands as "all lands registered as such and any other state-owned lands where annual rainfall is below 200mm and that do not have sustainable irrigation, or the lands confined for public use". Thus, this law took only the average annual rainfall into consideration, and disregarded other factors which play important roles in defining the rangelands, such as the land topography, fertility, physical and morphological characteristics which have a close relationship with rangelands' utilisation and sound management (MoA, 2001).

For a long period, Jordan's grazing lands, were characterized by effective traditional land tenure systems and grazing rights associated with Bedouin tribal institutions expressed by the term "*dirah*", the area throughout which a group migrated that included pasture and some cultivated zones. They used a grazing system known as "*Hima*[1]," in which valued forage within a tribe's territories was sought out while heavily grazed land was allowed to lie fallow to recover. Within the dirah, certain good grazing

[1] Hima - Arabic for "conserved area"; an ancient land use zoning concept. Its practice dates back to the pre-Islamic era (over 1447 years ago) in the Arabian Peninsula, and was further shaped by Islamic principles for social development. (WANA Forum 2012).

areas, such as wadis and marabs (wadi fluvial outwash zones that are typically well vegetated), are traditionally considered to "belong to" individual families and clans whose property rights are recognized and respected by others. This practice protected the resources in these lands and organized their use in a way that supported their conservation and sustained productivity under the prevailing harsh environmental and social conditions.

With the elimination of these systems and rights and the declaration of grazing lands as state-owned lands, open for everybody, new land uses encroached on the rangelands. Many of these areas have become overused without consideration to their resource requirements or productivity. This change in land tenure also led to a lack of incentives that would encourage Bedouin pastoralists to maintain and conserve their resources and lands and control their grazing.

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:

IUCN would like to engage an experienced consultant, who has a strong background in GEF requirements for project planning, implementation and monitoring. The objective of the assignment is to develop a Full Sized Project (FSP) and corresponding supporting documents for Healthy Ecosystem for Rangeland Development (HERD): Sustainable rangeland management for biodiversity conservation and

climate change mitigation. This document will be submitted to the GEF following further baseline assessment and stakeholder consultation conducted by national experts and will be accompanied by co-financing letters in line with the PIF.

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", Component 4 on Knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable rangeland management, and in cooperation with the project management team 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 the needed information and data for the GEF project format along with the potential co- financing of the HERD implementation through letters of commitment which will be completed by IUCN ROWA.

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

THE KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

- Provide technical inputs to the PPG outputs as appropriate;
- Provide an overall orientation to the PPG team in relation to GEF requirements for project planning and monitoring;
- Provide methodological guidance for data collection related to project planning and monitoring with particular attention given to the description and quantification of the baseline results;
- Based on the inputs from Egypt and Jordan national experts and in close cooperation with the key national stakeholders, compile final baseline/situational analysis for the full size project (FSP). This will include a precise definition of baseline studies, activities, budgets, goals and co-financial links to GEF outcomes; define GEF incremental value per outcome and output; present results of the incremental cost-analysis in matrices;
- Based on the inputs from national experts and the best international practice, prepare a quantified assessment of global environmental benefits for biodiversity conservation;
- Analyze the socio-economic benefits of the proposed interventions at national and local levels;
- Based on the international experience, assist in reconfirming/specifying the project strategy, and finalizing project sections.
- Based on national experts' inputs, establish baseline and targets for indicators reporting on the Results and Resources Framework;
- Based on national experts' inputs, elaborate a Logical Framework of the project;
- Prepare M&E plan and budget;
- Prepare an indicative Procurement Plan for the project;
- Based on national experts' inputs, draft ToRs for the key consultants/contracts to be employed by the project;

- Based on national experts' input, elaborate Stakeholder Involvement and Public Participation plans;
- Develop action plan for incorporation of gender aspects in the project, with quantifiable baseline and target indicators, as per GEF and IUCN guidance;
- Define recommended project monitoring and evaluation indicators;
- Perform final reviews of the required project documentation;
- Support conducting the environmental and social Management system following the IUCN procedure, producing the checklist and summary report.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate will have the following qualification and experiences:

- Advanced degree in relevant natural sciences, social sciences or political sciences.
- Minimum 10 years of demonstrable experience in preparing high quality project documents, in particular for GEF projects;
- Specialist knowledge of and experience in biodiversity conservation and biodiversity mainstreaming, rangeland management in development planning, sector and landscape;
- Knowledge on and work experience in Arabic Countries.
- Written and oral proficiency in English is required.

CONSULTANCY DETAILS

This consultancy will run from September 20th, 2016 till March 30th, 2017. A timetable of deliverables will be agreed prior to issuing a contract. The consultancy is anticipated to require approximately 40 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

All applications should be received by August 30th, 2016.