



TERM OF REFERENCE

Consultancy on Effective and Transformative Engagement of Civil Society Organizations in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. IUCN provides a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples groups, faith-based organizations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges. By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals, including on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

This consultancy contributes to the implementation of the Project “Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking Sectors and Stakeholders for Increased Synergy and scaling-up” funded by UNEP-GEF. The consultancy is commissioned by the IUCN Global Drylands Initiative.

Background:

Desertification has been a major threat to development for countries in the Sahelian and Sahara regions of Africa. Countries in the region host vast area of drylands that are also experiencing impacts of climate change, which exacerbates the pressure on natural resources that already suffered heavy stress from a growing population and pervasive poverty.

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) is working to restore and sustainably manage land in the Sahel-Saharan region and to contribute to address socio-economics and environmental challenges.

However, barriers to on-ground stakeholder involvement in the GGW are manifold, due to the plethora of issues and interests to be integrated. This includes lack of a coherent approach by the partner countries and effective engagement of stakeholders to implement and upscale Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM), which is in turn hampering the envisioned transformation. A common vision can be reached by identifying and addressing these obstacles which include low knowledge on value of ecosystems, low stakeholder capacity, unclear land tenure rights, among others.

Despite the commitment of the regional projects for civil society involvement and the participation of various CSOs, still no coherent approach has been developed for systematic stakeholder integration. The lack of the systematic stakeholder involvement itself hinders also the envisaged landscape transformation within the GGWI, which can only be achieved through concerted actions of different stakeholders to implement or upscale SLWM practices. A lack of inter-sectoral collaboration in most GGW countries as well as unclear land tenure are other obstacles to GGW implementation. Another problem is the low integration of major land user groups such as women and pastoralists and particular minorities. Finally the low investments attracted for GGW implementation

are specific barriers due to low knowledge of the values of ecosystems within countries and low practical skills in attracting responsible and accountable investments and negotiating with respective investors.

The Civil Society Organizations Forum discussions in Ouagadougou

The CSOs networking forum was held between the 24th and 26th July, 2018 in Ouagadougou. A session was held to discuss the Specific constraints to the effective engagement of CSOs in the GGW vision and mission and possible solutions. The objective of this session was to evaluate local and international experiences that promote CSOs and how to scale up those experiences. Some constraints, but also solutions for greater engagement of CSOs in the GGW were discussed but need to be more synthesized.

The proposed report will present a synthesis of the major barriers that stakeholders face to engage in the Great Green Wall, and will provide recommendations for action to overcome those barriers. The report will be developed through semi-structured interviews and through review of literature, including documented testimonies and recommendations from past Civil Society consultations.

Purpose of study

The study is primarily designed to inform GGW stakeholders of the **barriers** to the effective engagement of civil society and **opportunities** for their stronger engagement in order to enhance progress towards achieving the Great Green Wall goals. It is particularly important to highlight existing opportunities and entry points through which CSOs can influence the ongoing GGW process.

The report audience

The report is expected to inform the GGW stakeholders including GGW agencies, civil society organizations as well as national governments of the barriers to achieving effective CSOs engagement and how these can be resolved.

The consultant task

The consultant will be expected to synthesize the contributions made through workshops and fora and elaborate on them further to develop a clear understanding of the barriers and then go ahead to ensure that the solutions sought are feasible and can be reached.

Objectives

1. Identify the barriers impeding the effective engagement of GGW stakeholders including civil society and marginalized groups.
2. Develop and prioritize the necessary measures required to remove these barriers.
3. Identify the actions that should be taken by stakeholders at each level and the required resources to remove these barriers.
4. Highlight major concerns and recommendations raised by Civil Society regarding the implementation of the GGW.

Draft outline of the report for further development by consultant

- Introduction
 - The overall context report in relation to GGW barriers
 - The GGW visions
 - What is the issues about barriers and why is it important in the context of the GGW now?
 - What is the underlying Theory of Change for the GGW and what is the role of Civil Society in influencing or delivering these changes?
 - What are the objectives of this report

- Analysis the issue of barriers
 - What is the overall context of engagement of stakeholders including civil society organizations, pastoralist and farmers in the GGW?
 - What are the factors, environmental, social, economic and political that are impeding the engagement of stakeholders?
 - What is at stake? What are we missing out on because of the lack of engagement of stakeholders?
 - What can be achieved if stakeholders are adequately engaged? (Local, national, regional and global context)
- Solutions to breaking down the barriers
 - What do the different level of stakeholders need to do in order to break down the barriers?
 - What resources and support is needed to realize a fully engaged group to address the issues causing barriers
- Conclusions and recommendations
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 - Recommendations from Civil Society to GGW actors: how to achieve the goals of sustainable development in the Sahel?
 - Recommendations to Civil Society and other actors for overcoming the barriers to engagement in the GGW

Outputs

1. A 4 page (maximum) inception report outlining the consultant's interpretation of the task and the methodology;
2. A report on effective and transformative engagement of stakeholders in the Great Green Wall especially the civil society organization and vulnerable groups including pastoralists, women, youth etc.
3. A final report with recommendations.

Methodology

- Literature review
- Key informant interviews
- Use of fora and workshops reports including: the 2012 workshop report on Civil Society and Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel: taking ownership of the initiative and mobilizing opinion to fight against hunger and poverty" – workshop lead by ReSaD; the report of the Great Green Wall Initiative and Civil Society Forum organized in Ouagadougou in 2018 under the theme: "Accelerating the implementation of Great Green Wall Initiative: what roles for Civil Society Organizations (CSO)?" ; the 2013 and 2015 e-forum reports lead by IUCN; the report of the pastoralism and rangelands restoration organised in Ouagadougou during ; reports of various side events undertaken during UNCCD events around CSOs engagement in the GGW
- Contributions of key stakeholders of the GGW, etc.

Time schedule

The Assignment shall be expected to be completed within a maximum of 20 work days with the following tentative schedule:

1. **By 15th November 2019:** the 4 pages (maximum) inception report outlining the consultant's interpretation of the task and the methodology is completed;

2. **By 15 December 2019:** The brief report on effective and transformative engagement of stakeholders in the Great Green Wall especially the civil society organizations and vulnerable groups is completed for review;
4. **By 15th January 2020:** the final report for publication is completed.

Consultant's qualifications and experiences

The ideal candidate will have the following qualification and experiences:

1. Postgraduate qualification in social science with strong understanding of civil society organizations;
2. Great understanding and knowledge of the Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel initiative and Sustainable Land Management (SLM),
3. Great understanding of how to strengthen civil society organization partnership with government for greater coordination of actions to up scaling SLM in the Sahel/GGW countries;
4. At least 5 years' experience in leading research studies (regional studies, multi-countries) in relation with civil society and their engagement in sustainable land management, restoration and conservation ;
5. Proven experience in analyzing and formulation of recommendations;
6. Proven writing skills and communications skills both English and French;
7. Fluency in both English and French.

APPLICATION

Applicants should submit the following by email to: paco@iucn.org by **6th November 2019 midnight** (UTC/GMT) the latest:

1. A technical offer providing initial observations on the ToRs and an outline of the methodology they would use.
2. A curriculum vitae including highlighted references to previous relevant work and publications in relation to the subject of this consultancy.
3. A financial offer in USD for completion of the required tasks, including the daily rate used for calculations.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: (i) profile and experience of the consultant in relation to subject of the study, (ii) the methodology proposed for the conduction of the mission, and (iii) the financial offer.