



Terms of Reference: Review of socio-economic and environmental impacts of the Great Green Wall

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. IUCN provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples groups, faith-based organisations 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 to the study

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) is a pan-African initiative to restore and sustainably manage land in the Sahel-Saharan region in order to address both poverty and land degradation. In more recent years the vision has evolved into an integrated ecosystem management approach for the achievement of AGENDA 2063 and SDGs. Within the framework of strengthening the GGW implementation, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in collaboration with some Partners and countries have invested important funds in the GGW participating countries to expand sustainable land, water management, climate change and adaptation.

The project “Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking Sectors and Stakeholders for Increased Synergy and scaling-up” is funded by GEF, implemented by UNEP and Executed by IUCN. The project aims to achieve greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (GGW countries) through enhanced investment, **intersectoral coordination, and improve engagement with NGOs, CSOs, and grass root groups.** Three components encompass the project among which the adaptive management and learning component.

The baseline under the adaptive management and learning component shows gaps in the understanding between conservation and livelihood needs which can lead to short-term exploitation of ecosystems and biodiversity and to destruction of valuable resources and ecosystems. **Inadequate attention to the synergies between environment and development can also lead to misallocation or misuse of resources.**

In order to address these issues the project planned to improve understanding and monitoring of landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and biodiversity conservation objectives. The current study consisting in reviewing socio-economic and environmental impacts of the GGW is nexus to that objective. **The study will address simultaneously socio-economic and environmental benefits of large-scale restoration in the Sahel.**

The study is designed to be endorsed by the Africa Union Commission and GGW countries and will involve key national stakeholders in formulating and reviewing/approving the study. The study will also contribute to strengthening IUCN's strategic engagement in the GGW, for example by demonstrating the links to different IUCN thematic programmes and global results.

The study objective

The study objective is to “improve understanding and monitoring of landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and conservation objectives”.

The study will contribute to developing the baseline for monitoring socio-economic and environmental impact of the GGW and influence on promotion of indigenous restoration and SLM practices.

Key questions to address

The Study will address the following over-arching questions:

1. What is the current balance between land uses in the GGW/Sahel?
2. What kind of practices and land management approaches are prevalent in the study area?
3. What is the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) status of the study area (extent of degradation hotspots, national priorities for achieving LDN)?
4. What aspects of the implementation of the GGWSSI can benefit from the recently launched LDN fund?
5. What are the options for integrated land use in the region?
6. What are the changes in environmental, economic and social benefits associated with different land management practices, within the framework of the GGWSSI e.g. comparing a BAU scenario with improved practices?
7. What can we learn from the GGW initiative regarding the potential to curb Internal Displaced Persons phenomenon, Migration, and conflicts over natural resource use and access?

Implementation of the study

The consultant will work closely with IUCN's Global Drylands Programme and the African Union GGWSSI coordination Hub and will closely consult the Pan African Agency and beneficiary countries to define an extended outline, based on the input from key project stakeholders. The consultant will deliver, according to an agreed timeline, the following outputs:

1. An extended study outline
2. A zero draft report for internal comment
3. A revised first draft report for peer review
4. A final report for publication

Time schedule

The Assignment shall be expected to be completed within a maximum of 30 work days with the following tentative schedule:

1. **By 10th November 2017:** the extended study outline is completed;
2. **By 12th January 2018:** The zero draft report for internal comment is completed;
3. **By 16th February 2018:** A revised first draft report for peer review;
4. **By 16th March 2018:** 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 Natural resource management, Economy, Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Science, or related Natural Resource field;
2. At least 10 years' experience in implementing sustainable development projects and consultancies in the Sahel and specifically in the GGW countries with proven experience in leading research studies;
3. Proven experience in analysing environmental and socio-economics impacts of mosaic of intervention in sustainable land management and conservation in the GGW area/Sahel
4. Great understanding and knowledge of the GGW initiative
5. Proven experience in regional (multi-country) studies;
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: Razingrim.OUEDRAOGO@iucn.org by **22nd October 2017 midnight** (UTC/GMT) the latest:

1. A curriculum vitae including highlighted references to previous relevant work and publications.
2. A covering letter outlining their suitability for the job, providing initial observations on the ToRs and an outline of the methodology they would use.
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 online interview.

Research institutes/centers with focus land management, conservation, socio-economics valuation of environmental intervention in the Sahel are encouraged to apply.

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.