Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up

Terms of reference
For a Consultancy to document and analyse existing SLM indicators for monitoring the GGWI

Introduction
Land degradation and the effects of desertification have increased in the countries of the Sahara and the Sahel due to anthropogenic activities, such as overgrazing. Unsustainable land management practices have led to land degradation including the loss of important ecosystem services. Climate change and other indirect threats such as rapid population growth have exacerbated the situation. As a result, the economies of these countries are being more threatened, and the current situation has led to increased vulnerability of people and the environment to disaster risk including floods and droughts and increased poverty.

The idea of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) has thus emerged in order to reduce effects of climate change and desertification on natural resources. The GGWI was established to reverse land degradation and desertification by supporting local communities in the sustainable management and use of natural resources. The initiative contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, securing food security and providing sustainable livelihoods, hence to poverty reduction.

However, in order to be able to monitor the changes in the implementation of the GGW’s related land use activities, accurate data and information on land use systems and stakeholders is needed. Such data do not exist in most of the GGW countries. The baseline study established that common indicators are being promoted but there is no structured approach to reporting on the environmental, social and economic benefits generated by sustainable land management (SLM) and demonstrating the contribution of coordination across multiple sectors.

The Great Green Wall Initiative is now becoming a reality, and is already attracting investments across countries with a common vision of achieving a mosaic of sustainable land use, through an integrated landscape approach, across the Sahara and the Sahel Region. Countries have already commissioned several initiatives under the auspices of the Great Green Wall that includes farmers embracing sustainable land management good practices, improvement in food and fuel production, farmer managed natural regeneration, improved water harvesting techniques that have had impacts. Some programmes and projects have made significant investment in sustainable land and water management and improved land-use planning. For instance the World Bank/GEF SAWAP-Sahel and West Africa.
Programme was designed to support the GGWI in 12 sub-Saharan countries. It helped improve the resilience of landscapes and livelihoods of people. The Building Resilience through innovation, Communication and Knowledge services (BRICKS) project has been established to support the GGWI with the objective to improve accessibility of best practices and monitoring information within the SAWAP portfolio on sustainable land use and management. The project contributed to improve ecosystem and people’s resilience and the countries’ efforts towards poverty reduction, food security and sustainable natural resource management.

At the same time, a plethora of projects and investments, including autonomous investments by farmers and herders, go unreported and unrecognised.

The BRICKS has established a monitoring and evaluation system for the SAWAP programme, which include indicators such as change in vegetation cover, change in carbon accumulation rates in biomass and soils, additional land brought under SLM, institutions with increased adaptive capacities to reduce risks and address climate change.

However, there is no systematic way of tracking and reporting on the progress made towards achieving sustainable land management that addresses and meet the GGW goals. The African Union and the Panafriean Agency of the Great Green Wall developed a harmonised strategy and results framework which provided an entry point for improved, systematic and coordinated monitoring. The strategy is ambitious and the AU took a step further to develop a result framework document that was to enable implementing stakeholders to identify and focus on the key objectives and to strengthen complementarity through the clarification of the common vision. These result framework indicators are by themselves very ambitious and further effort needs to be made to come up with practical indicators that can be usefully applied at country level reporting on the progress of the GGW.

Based on the previous attempt to develop indicators to monitor SLM within the countries of the GGW, the present activity will discuss and prioritize the indicators for monitoring SLM at the national, and pilot testing in targeted countries.

These terms of reference seek to obtain the services of a consultant in order to document and analyse SLM indicators from diverse initiatives. This analysis will contribute to facilitate the selection and prioritization of indicators in the GGW countries and will help a more appropriate monitoring of SLM interventions, thus improving their implementation and integration in national and regional SLM policies.

This work is conducted as part of the project: Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up. The project aims to achieve greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (GGW countries) through enhanced investment, inter-sectoral coordination, and engagement of marginalised groups. Specifically the work will contribute to the following activity: Prioritization of indicators for monitoring SLM at the national level within the GGW.

**Objectives**

The global objective is to review and analyse existing set of SLM indicators in order to improve policies and practices of SLM.

Specific objectives are:
- Conduct an overview of initiatives and associated indicators sets that are relevant to the Great Green Wall, including global commitments (e.g. Land Degradation Neutrality), regional frameworks (e.g. Harmonised Strategy for the GGW), GGW projects and associated interventions in support of the GGW
- Identify, describe and analyze SLM indicators related to interventions that support the GGW initiative, including a description of each indicator, existence of established methodologies for data collection, availability of data, and relevance for monitoring progress on the GGW
- Where possible, provide the baseline for each indicator (at GGW level, or in sample countries) and any evidence of change (e.g. changes in vegetation cover, changes in carbon rates, etc.)
- Formulate recommendations for the most relevant indicators to improve SLM

Expected results
- The principal SLM indicators are identified and assessed
  - Identify all indicators and data sources
  - Analyse any monitoring and evaluation system that have been developed, if available
- Indicators for monitoring SLM based on SMART criteria and on existing indicators
  - Identify the most relevant indicators to monitor SLM

The consultant will propose a structure of the report for validation. The interim version of the report will be provided on the basis of a timetable to be defined in the terms of the contract. The final report will be provided after integration of all comments received.

Time schedule
The assignment is expected to be completed within a maximum of 30 workdays during January-February 2021 as follows:
- Inception report outlining the consultant’s interpretation of the task and the methodology: **1 day**
- Review of initiatives and associated indicators: **10 days**
- Identify the source and availability of secondary data for each indicator: **2 days**
- Data analysis and synthesis: **10 days**
- Draft a report based on the analysis: **5 days**
- Final report (after integration of comments received): **2 days**

The consultant will provide in his/her offer a detailed work plan in the inception report.

Consultant’s qualifications and experiences
The work will be conducted by an international consultant with the following qualification and experience:

1. Postgraduate qualification in Monitoring and Evaluation, Statistics, Natural resource management, Environmental Science, or related field;
2. At least 10 years’ experience in Monitoring and Evaluation;
3. Proven experience and understanding of the Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel initiative (GGWSSI)
4. Proven knowledge and understanding of sustainable land management
5. Proven understanding of methods and approaches to monitoring sustainable land management indicators, socio-economic indicators
6. Proven writing skills and communications skills in English, and in drafting high quality reports;

APPLICATION

This is an individual consultation. Interested candidates are invited to submit the following by email to the following two emails addresses: chris.magero@iucn.org and bora.masumbuko@iucn.org by 31st December 2020 23h59 (UTC/GMT) at the latest:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae highlighting specific experience in relation to the subject of this consultancy.
2. A technical offer 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.

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 in relation to subject of the consultancy, (ii) the methodology proposed for the conduction of the mission, and (iii) the financial offer.