

## **Request Form and Terms of Reference for Individual Contractor (IC)**

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**National or International consultants:** National Consultant

**Description of the assignment:** Land-Use Planning and Environmental Management Specialist

**Project Title:** GEF PPG for the Preparation of a Project on: Land degradation neutrality of mountain landscapes in Lebanon

**Period of assignment/services:** 25 working days between April 2017 – December 2017

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### **1. Background**

Current land management practices in Lebanon are not sustainable as they continue to erode the country's natural resource base (soil, water, green cover, and landscape). While traditional practices such as terracing, controlled grazing and forest management have helped protect the land, modern practices have significantly altered the natural and social make-up of the land including perceptions of natural resources. Population growth, the continued loss of arable land and biodiversity, concerns about food security and the expanding infrastructure due to population growth and urban sprawl are major factors impacting land resources and the natural environment. Land degradation has been flagged as a serious environmental problem in Lebanon, resulting in losses estimated at US\$132 million yearly. This is bound to be an underestimate due to the incomplete data, and damages and associated costs of environmental degradation are certainly higher. Unsustainable growth is having a heavy toll on Lebanon's natural resources with losses in forest cover, biodiversity and natural ecosystems, degradation of rangeland and desertification.

UNDP Lebanon in partnership with the Ministry of Environment is preparing a project proposal to be submitted to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which aims to work towards land degradation neutrality – restoring degraded land and preventing new degradation. The project plan is to survey and identify degraded land in mountain lands and high country environments of the North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon governorates and analyze the losses associated with this degradation in terms of lost agricultural productivity, deforestation and other loss of vegetation, loss of biodiversity habitats, reduction in environmental quality for ecotourism and outdoor recreation, reduced ecosystem services and ultimately unsustainable land use and impacts on society and communities. The project will assess why the baseline scenario is not working as it should and seek technical and institutional remedies which will be applied at a pilot scale to real-life impacts and problems.

### **2. Scope of work, responsibilities and description of the proposed analytical work**

### **Objective of the Consultancy**

This consultancy is one of a number being set up by UNDP to formulate the project document and related documentation leading to project implementation. The Objective of this consultancy is to carry out the necessary survey work, assessments, consultations and other data gathering, and contribute the Land Use Planning and general Environmental Management elements of the project document.

### **3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables**

The Land-Use Planning and Environmental Management Specialist will carry out the following tasks and related outputs:

1. Review available historical data from Lebanon to assess and predict likely trends in mountain areas land use, forest ecosystem health, protected areas and other biodiversity resources. This is to include information on the Lebanon Mountain Trail in specific and on the mountain ranges of the North and Mount Lebanon.
2. Review and analyse the SLM national and local level legal and regulatory framework in Lebanon assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the regulatory, planning and enforcement framework for forests, rangeland and water resources quality and quantity management programmes and plans. This will supplement the information and data in the PPG.
3. Starting from the information provided in the PIF, conduct an environmental threats analysis of land mismanagement, quarrying and other activities on biodiversity resources based on current and potential threats; identify critical threats, their root causes and any barriers that may restrict remedial action.
4. Develop a checklist of regulatory, planning and enforcement activities that need to be addressed by the project. This should include in particular – ILUMPs, SEA, digital decision-making system, critical habitats, ecosystem vulnerabilities, reduction in land management crimes, improved institutional capacity, stronger institutional coordination mechanisms.
5. For each of the pilot project areas that will be targeted by the project (to be determined later), develop an information paper comprising the following detail:
  - Size, population, social and economic characteristics
  - Current ecosystem map of the district. Past ecosystem maps, if available (to indicate shifts in rangeland and forest cover)
  - Current land use maps indicating main uses, tenure, etc
  - General description of key threats to ecosystems (assessed against LD indicators as in the PMAT)
  - Key measures that need to be planned under ILUMPs aimed at alleviating current threats, organizations involved, sequence of activities required.
6. Survey potential stakeholders and beneficiaries (especially community leaders) at the local level and assess their level of interest and willingness to engage with the project.
7. Identify land use and biodiversity impact indicators of status or pressure as part of the project's M&E, and provide specific baselines and targets for the identified indicators. The indicators and their targets must be linked to land use and/or protection.
8. Complete the Land Degradation Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment Tool (LD-PMAT).

9. Participate fully in the formulation of the project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities as well as Baselines, Targets and Indicators; contribute to sustainability and replication plans, stakeholder participation plans, and budgets.
10. Provide support and backstopping in the field for the International Consultant (Team Leader) who may not be able to conduct a country visit. This may include various data gathering and analyses according to templates and guidance to be provided by the International Consultant as well as carrying out consultations with prospective partners and stakeholders and providing full and detailed reports.

The key deliverables of the Land-Use Planning and Environmental Management Specialist will be:

First Deliverable – A Report on the findings and results from Tasks 1-4.

Second Deliverable – A Report on the findings and results from Tasks 5-10.

<b>Deliverables/ Outputs</b>	<b>Estimated Duration to Complete</b>	<b>Target Due Dates</b>	<b>Review and Approvals Required</b>
Deliverable 1: Report on tasks 1 - 4	10 working days	1.5 months from contract signature	Jihan Seoud, Programme Analyst
Deliverable 2: Report on tasks 5 - 10	15 working days	3 months from contract signature	Jihan Seoud, Programme Analyst

#### **4. Institutional arrangements**

- The Consultant will be working under the overall guidance of the International Team Leader that is heading the preparation of the project proposal and will report to the UNDP Lebanon Energy and Environment Programme Analyst/Manager. The Consultant will also coordinate closely with the other national consultant(s) working on the preparation of the project and the UNDP team members that are supporting in this assignment.
- The approach will be participatory, involving stakeholders to the extent possible. Information and data will be gathered through three main activities, namely:
  - Review (desk study) of all relevant documents and websites identified by the Specialist and recommended by the Team Leader and UNDP.
  - Field visits to project localities (North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon) as directed by the Team Leader) for the collection of baseline data as needed.
  - Consultations with relevant organizations and individuals as identified by the Specialist and as recommended by the Team Leader and UNDP. In particular, this will include national and local decision-makers and other personnel, local government, relevant NGOs, community

groups especially those affected by the project, potential beneficiaries and potential partners.

- The Consultant will also participate in and contribute to all meetings, discussions, focus groups, and public workshops that may, from time to time, be organized by the Team Leader.
- UNDP will ensure transport to and from meetings and logistical support during the visit of the Team Leader (expected at the end of April 2017). All other transportation and logistics need to be arranged and covered by the Consultant. Facilities will not be provided except for meeting to be held within UNDP premises.

## **5. Duration of work**

The assignment will be **25 working days** spread out over the period from April 2017 – December 2017. Estimated time for receipt of feedback on reports (review time) is 5 working days.

## **6. Duty station**

**Duty station is in Beirut with field visits** field visits to project sites in the North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon mountain range, with timing to be agreed with the Energy and Environment Programme Analyst, UNDP-Lebanon, and with the concurrence of the Team Leader.

## **7. Requirements for experience and qualifications**

### I. Academic Qualifications:

- Graduate degree in land use planning, natural science, environment management, environmental law, environmental science or related field.

### II. Years of experience:

- At least 7 years of relevant work experience in land use planning and management including the regulatory, institutional and enforcement aspects.

### III. Technical experience:

- Demonstrated adequate technical experience and know-how to undertake the necessary baseline surveys and assessment work.
- Adequate knowledge and/or experience of Lebanese ecosystems and the protected areas system, and their legal and institutional foundations.
- Experience in operating equally well at the political and senior decision-making levels, academic and technical circles, the private sector and grassroots community levels in Lebanon.
- Familiarity with UNDP, its rules and regulations and its operational procedures.

- Experience with GEF project design, implementation or evaluation is an asset.

#### IIV. Competencies:

- Ability to function successfully as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, contributing from area of expertise and cooperating on common activities.
- Ability to accept responsibility for area of specialization and take initiatives without supervision, but with the judgment of knowing when to ask for advice.
- Excellent English and Arabic language writing and speaking skills.
- Access to efficient electronic communication

### **8. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments**

The contract will cover the amount payable for fees and foreseeable expenses, including all approved travel to the site.

Contract payments will be based on agreed deliverables and made subject to the deliverables being acceptable to the Team Leader and UNDP. Payment will be made in the following manner:

- A First payment (40% of the total) on delivery and acceptance of the first deliverable as above.
- A Second payment (60%) on delivery and acceptance of the second deliverable as above.