**Location:** South Africa

**Application Deadline: 30 June 2020**

**Type of Contract:** Consultant, Individual Contract

**Languages Required:** English

**Starting Date: (date when the selected candidate/organisation is expected to start)**: Immediate

**Expected Duration of Assignment:** 17 Months (Completed by 30 November 2021)

**Title:** Sustainable Landscape Management Financing Strategy and Platform for South Africa

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The *“Securing multiple ecosystems benefit through SLM in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa (herein referred to as the GEF 5 SLM Project)”* is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and three Responsible Parties. The Responsible Parties are the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Rhodes University (RU) on behalf of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) as Implementing Partner to this GEF 5 SLM Project.

South Africa’s long-term vision is to establish a “green economy” underpinned by healthy and functioning ecosystems. The key rationale of the GEF 5 SLM Project is to support the national efforts to arresting land degradation and achieving sustainable land management (SLM), which are essential for achieving this vision.

The objective of the project is “to strengthen the enabling environment for the adoption of knowledge-based SLM models for land management and land/ecosystem rehabilitation in support of the green economy and resilient livelihoods through capacity building, improved governance and financial incentives demonstrated in the Karoo, Eastern Cape and Olifants landscapes.”

The design of the project includes four outcomes:

1. “Economically viable, climate-smart land/ecosystem rehabilitation and management practices operationalised across 67,300 hectares of the Karoo, Eastern Cape and Olifants landscapes (with potential for upscaling to cover 150,000 hectares)”;
2. “Increased knowledge and institutional capacity of DEFF, DAFF, DWA, relevant departments and local communities to reduce degradation from livestock and crop production and to restore currently degraded lands through the application of knowledge-based land management practices.”;
3. “Enabling environment for promoting rehabilitation of degraded land through carbon sequestration (including accessing and capitalising on carbon markets and the preparation of monitoring, reporting and verification documentation) in the Eastern Cape strengthened”; and
4. “Financing and governance frameworks strengthened to support the adoption of SLM approaches.”

These four outcomes are implemented through a range of project outcomes and activities.

**2. BACKGROUND**

This Terms of Reference (TOR) relates to the GEF 5 SLM Project Component 2: *Financial and policy mechanisms for the adoption of SLM devised and implemented and governance systems support SLM*, more specifically, Outcome 4: *Financing and governance frameworks strengthened to support the adoption of SLM approaches*.

South Africa’s landscapes underpin human health and well-being as well as a sustainable economy. The agricultural sector is the dominant land use in South Africa, occupying 80% of the land surface to produce food and fiber sources. Unsustainable agricultural and land management practices lead to the degradation of soil, water and vegetation resources with a negative impact on the provisioning and maintenance of ecosystem services. The breakdown in ecosystem services affects the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector, the economy reliant on the sector and the livelihoods reliant on agriculture.

Landscapes that are safeguarded and well-managed lead to food and water security, climate change resilience, job creation in new green sectors, and provide vital protection to biodiversity and ecological infrastructure. The United Nations defines sustainable land management (SLM) as “the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions”. TerrAfrica (2005) defines SLM as “the adoption of land-use systems that through appropriate management practices enable land users to maximize the economic and social benefits from the land while maintaining or enhancing the ecological support functions of the land resources”.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in general and the GEF5 SLM Project specifically seeks to address the key drivers and direct pressures of land degradation, to capacitate, encourage and equip land users to adopt and maintain SLM better practices and by doing that, build resilience towards the effects of land degradation processes, climate change and variability.

Importantly, there are synergies with other areas of landscape level conservation, such as protected and conserved area expansion, the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, Ecosystem-based Adaptation and initiatives like The Sustainable Initiative of South Africa (SIZA) and the Natural Resources Programmes of the DEFF and the Landcare Program of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, that if harnessed, will assist in delivering the objectives of sustainable landscapes. If SLM and other landscape interventions are to fully achieve their objectives, they require adequate financing and resourcing.

Currently, SLM, along with many other areas of landscape conservation, are heavily underfunded and have little or no financial sustainability that is independent of traditional grant or funding mechanisms. This lack of financial sustainability and innovation impacts the level of SLM conducted and the scale at which land degradation problems can be addressed. If sustainable landscapes are to be addressed and fully achieve their ultimate impact, the finance gap for landscapes needs to be systematically addressed.

**3. OBJECTIVE**

* In addressing the above challenge, and to achieve the project outcome of strengthening finance and governance frameworks to support the adoption of SLM approaches, the project seeks to achieve two main targets:
1. SLM practices are mainstreamed into national and subnational strategies for development and land-use planning and
2. SLM objectives are mainstreamed into public expenditure, agricultural subsidies and land reform incentives.
* Since project inception, the sustainable financing and governance support landscape has progressed, making it important to achieve project targets through building on existing structures for application into SLM. We hence suggest four main objectives to achieve the above targets:
1. Develop an SLM Finance Strategy within the agricultural sector for integrative mainstreaming into national and sub-national policies.
2. Identify through the strategy a set of key recommendations towards sustainably financing SLM in South Africa with the most viable solutions;
3. Create a roadmap through an enabling environment to implement these recommendations for addressing the finance gap by systematically detailing potential finance solutions that could be piloted;
4. Implement the SLM Finance Strategy, piloted in at least one of the three project landscapes (Eastern Cape, Karoo, Olifants) with the help and assistance of the Responsible Parties, responsible for that landscape.

**4. SCOPE OF WORK**

The selected consultant will work closely with the Project Manager of the GEF5 SLM Project and the respective Responsible Party project managers in the landscapes to achieve the objectives and targets. The efforts of the consultant will have the support of the project Implementing Partners, DEFF and DALRRD.

**4.1 Development of a Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Finance Strategy**

The SLM Finance Strategy should detail:

* the most viable possible finance solutions and their critical success factors, taking into account the strengthening of governance capacities required for the finance solutions to be successful;
* determine how finance solutions can be scoped, piloted, catalyzed and implemented.

Through prioritizing the most viable potential SLM finance solutions, a systematic approach to developing and implementing new and innovative finance mechanism/projects that will begin to address the finance gap for SLM within the agricultural sector should be created;

Ideally the SLM Finance Strategy should not be a research report on what the current finance context is for SLM. It should, however, leverage off existing efforts and partnerships and seek synergies where possible.

The development of the strategy will require engagement with key government and non-government actors to garner support, willingness and alignment.

**4.2 Key recommendations for the most viable finance mechanisms/projects to pilot**

The finance strategy should make recommendations towards supporting the process of mainstreaming SLM into national and sub-national levels, such as provincial development and municipal land-use planning policies. These set of recommendations guided by the strategy and aided by selected policy briefs; implemented in pilot projects, should be developed taking into consideration the unique SLM finance needs of the following broad farmer typologies:

* a) Commercial farmers
* b) Communal farmers
* c) Subsistence and small-scale farmers, including commonage farmers

**4.3 SLM Sustainable Finance Road Map: Enabling Environment (Platform)**

It is noted that the development, piloting and implementation of finance solutions requires an enabling environment involving the collaboration and strategic cohesion of decision and policy makers, investors and funders, specialists and experts, and stakeholders. Finance solutions do not evolve in isolation and thus a strategic and deliberate approach to garnering buy-in and facilitating a Community of Practice are key to effectively driving finance solutions.

It is critical for the agricultural sector to be involved within the landscape finance discussions, historically mostly inclusive of natural resource and biodiversity financing. Hence the following would be required:

1. Identify and leverage involvement in existing platforms to achieve the enabling environment for the above approach;
2. Ensure the active representation and key stakeholder engagement of the agricultural sector in an existing or developed SLM finance platform.
3. Facilitate the provision of a Community of Practice (CoP) as well as provide access to niche experts and partnerships to facilitate new finance solutions.
4. Engage with other GEF and UNDP or UNEP related projects with similar expected outcomes, such as BIOFIN and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to build on existing knowledge and lessons learned;
5. Ensure expert input and peer review of the SLM strategy and enabling environment platform.
6. The efficient and timely distribution and sharing of relevant SLM financing and partnership opportunities to the broader agricultural and natural resource management sector.

**4.4 Implement pilot project/s for Sustainable Landscape Financing of SLM and strengthening of governance**

Following the recommendations for most viable finance mechanisms, pilot projects developed under 4.2 should be implemented, where possible, within the GEF 5 SLM Project landscapes.

**5. DELIVERABLES**

Summary of activities:

1. Development of an SLM Finance Strategy;
2. Recommendations for implementation of the most viable finance mechanisms identified to pilot projects;
3. Note key synergies with other organisations, programmes or projects;
4. Establish or utilize an existing platform to achieve the enabling environment for the above approach;
5. Facilitate key stakeholder engagement;
6. Facilitate expert input and peer review.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DELIVERABLE DESCRIPTION** | **CONTENT** | **TIME FRAME** | **%\*** |
| 1. **Inception report**
 | **20%** |
| 1. Inception Workshop/Briefing | Attend and host with the guidance of the project manager an inception briefing meeting or workshop. |  | 5 |
| 2. Inception report | Produce an Inception Report detailing the agreed methodology, work plan and timeline of activities and related specific details. | Within 10 working days after inception briefing | 15 |
| 1. **Quarterly Progress reports on the following**
 | **20%** |
| 2.1 Draft SLM Finance Strategy |  | 15 November 2020 | 5 |
| 2.2 Recommendations for most viable finance mechanisms/ projects to pilot |  | 30 November 2020 | 5 |
| 2.3 The involvement of the agricultural sector in the Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition. |  | 31 October 2020 & 30 April 2021 | 5 |
| 2.4 Progress with implementation of pilot projects for SLM finance. |  | Quarterly after pilot implementation has started | 5 |
| 1. **Draft SLM Finance Strategy Report**
 | **30%** |
| 3.1 Consultation with key stakeholders to develop the strategy |  |  | 15 |
| 3.2 Draft SLM Finance Strategy Report submitted put out for comment |  |  | 15 |
| 1. **Demonstration of SLM Finance solutions in pilot areas**
 | **20%** |
| 4.1 Identify suitable pilot area |  |  | 5 |
| 4.2 Implement pilot solutions |  |  | 8 |
| 4.3 Develop communication/infographic/factsheet on viable SLM Finance and governance solutions |  |  | 7 |
| 1. **Final SLM Finance Strategy**
 | **10%** |
| Final SLM Finance Strategy submitted | Incorporating revisions and confirming approval |  | 10 |

*\*Indicative figure to be confirmed at contract signature of funding and time required.*

**6. CONTRACT PERIOD AND EFFORT REQUIRED**

It is estimated that the project will require between 17 calendar months and needs to be completed at the latest by 30 November 2021.

**7. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

* A post Graduate Degree in Finance, Law, Commerce, Environmental or Resource Economics, Environmental Science or another related field;
* Professional hands-on experience and proven track record in Biodiversity Financing Expertise, Protected and Conserved Area Policy, Environmental and Conservation of Natural Agricultural Resources Law and policymaking on financial incentives;
* Professional hands-on experience on report writing of projects of a similar nature and size;
* Experience in professional communication and reporting at all levels.

**8. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

Whilst the contract is held with UNDP, the work will be overseen by the Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising of the SLM Project Manager (UNDP) and DEFF Chief Director: Biodiversity Management & Planning as Project Implementing Partner to the GEF 5 SLM Project.

**9. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The evaluation of proposals will be conducted according to UNDP procurement rules. A two-stage procedure is utilized in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being opened and compared.

The price proposal of the proposals will be opened only for submissions that passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals. The technical proposal is evaluated based on its responsiveness to the Term of Reference (TOR) and candidates may be requested to make a presentation to the Technical Evaluation committee.

In the Second Stage, the price proposal of all contractors, who have attained a minimum of 70% score in the technical evaluation will be compared. Selection will be based on a technically qualified proposal with lowest quoted financial proposal, where the approach to the work, qualifications and experience (Technical proposal) will be weighted to a maximum of 70%, and the price offer (Financial proposal) which will be weighted at a maximum of 30%.

**10. RESPONSE FORMAT**

To facilitate the analysis of responses, all interested parties are required to prepare their response in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. All proposals should be electronically generated. The vendor will be hired on a UNDP contract.

Applicants are required to submit the following:

• A Technical Proposal: Letter of Interest, stating why you consider your service suitable for the assignment and a brief methodology on the approach and implementation of the assignment;

• Evidence and examples of similar projects that have been successfully completed;

• Personal CVs highlighting qualifications and experience in similar projects;

• Work references – minimum of 3 references - contact details (e-mail addresses) of referees (organisation for whom you’ve produced similar assignments);

• All-inclusive financial proposal indicating consultancy fee (South African Rand) and a breakdown of expenses (unit price together with any other expenses) related to the assignment. The proposal must incorporate all the costs including travel etc. for the service provider to achieve the required deliverables.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to procurement.za@undp.org / lerato.maimela@undp.org on or before the 30 June 2020 with the subject line: SLM Sustainable Finance and Reference Number.

**11. CONTACT PERSON**

For any enquiries regarding this call for proposal, contact the UNDP on procurement.za@undp.org / lerato.maimela@undp.org