



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TERMS OF REFERENCE/ INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

I. Job Information

Job title:	International Consultant for conducting a feasibility study on designing a Master Plan on Afforestation in Uzbekistan
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract
Project Title/Department:	Environment and Climate Action Cluster, UNDP Uzbekistan
Duration of the service:	60 w/d during May – September 2022
Work Status:	Part time
Duty station:	Home based <i>with possible 5-day Mission to Tashkent (TBD)</i>
Reports to:	Programme Manager, Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader

II. Background Information

Uzbekistan faces major challenges caused by climate change including desertification, water scarcity, more frequent draughts, and depletion of the Aral Sea. Climate risks are exacerbated in the country by both the average temperatures rising and mountain glaciers, a vital source of drinking water, melting at a faster pace than the global averages. While forests account for only 7.7 percent of the country's territory according to the UN FAO, they play a major role in reversing desertification, protecting biodiversity and landscapes and are a vital storehouse of carbon.

To combat the negative impact posed by climate change, the Government of Uzbekistan has put forward an afforestation initiative, called Yashil Makon/Green Nation in November 2021. This nation-wide afforestation program was added to the Strategy for Developing the New Uzbekistan during 2022-2026 and envisages expansion of forest cover area in the country by planting 200 million trees annually. The Green Nation Programme foresees a comprehensive scheme of greening efforts with engagement of various public agencies and research community. In order to realize this ambition, the Government anticipates establishment of the Green Nation Fund that is set in the newly drafted National Development Strategy (2022-2026).

At the same time, it is essential to conduct a **thorough feasibility study and subsequently prepare a comprehensive Greening Master Plan** prior to any massive afforestation/revegetation. This is particularly necessary to identify important ecological zones, types of ecosystems, expected roles and services of the restored ecosystems to define planting targets, deciding which locations are suitable for planting trees, shrubs, or grass, setting up the monitoring system, determining the land ownership issues, planning the watering infrastructure, identify future-proof tree species etc. In addition, such a masterplan would feed into a forest and even urban management plan with clear targets. Ideally, it should also give an indication/estimate of required resources required for its implementation - financial and human resources investment and logistics.

Moreover, an **efficient coordination system** is needed to align the efforts of various stakeholders. With different institutions involved in different phases of the program implementation, such as planting, infrastructure development, maintenance and management, financing, monitoring, there is a critical need to ensure that all actions are well synchronized and coordinated. A strong leadership and coordination system needs to be in place to achieve the goals of the program.

Finally, a well **established financing model** needs to be in place for this program, its management to be funded in the long term as planned. The Government has established the Green Nation Fund that will be aimed at supporting the afforestation program. Yet, the ambitions of the afforestation program are high. This means that government investment alone cannot meet the needed funds, especially for the maintenance of the restored ecosystems. The issue is complex, and investment and financing sources must be broadened to raise more non-governmental funds including international financing, private domestic financing into forestry to meet the needs for sustainable forest management and forestry development. Introducing carbon offset trading will help to further easing the burden from the government.

The current TOR aims at conducting a feasibility study to design a comprehensive Master Plan for the Uzbekistan's Green Nation Program and possibly other afforestation/revegetation activities through covering the following work:

- Review the existing national policies and regulations on afforestation and urban greening activities.
- Review the country's zoning plans including ecological zones and ecosystem/forest types
- Review the classification of suitable plant species compositions.
- Review the challenges and opportunities in implementing the afforestation/revegetation and urban greening activities, including increase of pressure to limited water resources, and potential environmental benefits and risks.
- Identify key interests, parties and areas of afforestation /revegetation and urban greening activity.
- Assess key land ownership/tenure issues (legal, regulatory, financial, etc.) related to afforestation and greening activities.
- Assess the required resources: short, medium, long-term – starting with current situation: financial resource estimate for a 5-year massive afforestation and regeneration project; existing water infrastructure and possible future watering infrastructure needs, regeneration material production (nurseries)- current and future needs; available and possible future human (including education) and technical resources, and available and future needs in tree care services.
- Propose a basic concept of a Master Plan with potential structure, governance mechanism, a monitoring system, resources and commitments.
- Explore potential coordination mechanisms for implementation of a Master Plan.

III. Functions / Scope of work

Consultant will work under the general guidance of Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader. The main objective of Consultant's work is to conduct a feasibility study/needs assessment for developing a comprehensive Master Plan on afforestation in Uzbekistan. A potential Consultant will ensure the qualitative and timely delivery of the following tasks:

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Overall objective of the assignment is to conduct the feasibility study of designing a Master Plan for afforestation of Uzbekistan. To meet the objective, the consultancy will provide expertise and necessary resources to deliver the following tasks:

- To review the existing policies and regulations on afforestation, revegetation, urban greening activities including the nationwide Green Nation program aimed at increasing tree plantations through improving the tree planting and care management.
- To review where necessary land ownership/tenure issues related to afforestation and greening activities in Uzbekistan.
- To identify participants/responsible parties and content of a mapping exercise through research activities envisaged by the program that will cover environmental (including soil-climatic conditions), economic, social aspects, and other related topics.
- To review the challenges and opportunities in implementing the afforestation, revegetation, and urban greening activities, including increase of pressure to limited water resources, and environmental risks.
- To Assess the required resources: short, medium, long-term – starting with current situation: financial; water infrastructure; regeneration material production (nurseries); human and technical resources, and available and future needs in tree care services.
- Examine and assess key interests and priorities of various stakeholders and feasibility for establishing a Master Plan on afforestation by engaging with relevant government authorities, scientific community, and ministries in Uzbekistan to obtain initial interests and commitments by answering the following questions:
 - Why establish a Master Plan? – the rationale and a business case?
 - What would be the expected vision or mandate of such a Master Plan?
 - Through an extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders: What coordination/cooperation mechanisms and what types of subsequent detailed forest management plans would ensure a smooth implementation of a Master Plan and how? What are practical steps to set up for each proposed option for collaboration mechanism? Identification of key roles and responsibilities.
- Develop a basic concept of a draft Master Plan for Uzbekistan with potential structure, governance mechanism, a monitoring system, required resources and commitments, implementation modalities and sub-management plans based on the stakeholder consultations.
- Identify and describe risks, including managerial, administrative, financial and environmental, and potential barriers to the execution of a Master Plan.
- Propose coordination and management mechanisms for the implementation of a Master Plan with practical steps and follow up actions.

IV. Deliverables and Deadlines

The following tentative schedule of deliverables is expected under the current assignment. The final schedule will be agreed upon in the beginning of the assignment. All deliverables should be submitted to UNDP in electronic form in English.

Outputs/Deliverables	Due date (TBD)	Instalments
Output I: Assessment and mapping of key interests, priorities of the various stakeholders based on stakeholder consultations and drafting of a feasibility study for establishing a Master Plan on afforestation, and potential risks and barriers.	17 June 2022	1st installment (25%)
Output II. Analysis of the required coordination and management mechanisms for the implementation of a Master Plan, and description of practical steps (including financial, Human, and technical resources and logistics – nurseries etc. estimate) to set up each proposed option with key roles and responsibilities.	22 July 2022	2nd installment (25%)
Output III. Design of a basic concept of a draft Master Plan for Uzbekistan outlining potential structure, governance mechanism, implementation, and management modalities, monitoring system, required resources and commitments	26 August 2022	3d installment (25%)
Output V. Finalized feasibility study report based on feedback and comments of stakeholders and UNDP obtained at a validation workshop	30 September 2022	4th installment (25%)

This is a lump sum contract that should include all costs including the cost of hiring additional consultants and other related costs, if any, required to produce the above deliverables.

V. Monitoring and control

The obligations of Consultant under this Contract will be fulfilled after the submission of final drafts of deliverables defined by the current TOR and upon acceptance by the Inclusive Growth Cluster, UNDP Uzbekistan.

VI. Qualification Requirements

Education:	University degree (Masters or above) in in the field of Economics, Development Economics, Forestry or forest management, Public Policies, Environment, Social Policies, Development Studies, or other relevant fields
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 5 years of experience in sustainable forest management, monitoring and/ planning, the management of afforestation programs/projects and wide nation campaigns in high-quality policy advisory roles, including advisory roles on environmental issues, biodiversity conservation, economy, sustainable development. ○ Good understanding of policymaking, governance, and related mechanisms and tools.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some knowledge of work related to combatting desertification, dust and sandstorms by afforestation and related activities such as soil and sand dune fixation, water harvesting, pasture development, etc. ○ Some practical experience in biodiversity conservation projects. ○ Excellent understanding of green standards and principles is required. ○ Good understanding of gender aspects and gender mainstreaming into the development and business processes is required. ○ Proven experience in preparation of assessments and feasibility studies is required. ○ Previous experience with a development partner or government will be an asset.
Language Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fluency in written and spoken English is required, ○ Working knowledge of Uzbek or Russian would be an asset.
Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong analytical and advisory capacity, including the ability to analyze and advise innovative solutions ○ Strong data collection, communication, research, and writing skills ○ Client-orientation and excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills ○ Ability to use information and communication technology as a tool and resource
VI. Signatures- Post Description Certification	
Incumbent	
-----	Signature Date
Programme Manager Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader	
-----	Signature Date