TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Project title:	"Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia''project
Type of position:	International consultant
Type of Contract:	Individual contract
Number of days:	40 days
Duty Location:	Home office and work office
Language Required:	English
Expected Start Date:	25 July , 2022

A. Project description

Mongolia is among the countries most impacted by climate change, due to its geographical location and livelihood of local communities associated with the pasture based livestock husbandry. Increased temperatures, coupled with decreased precipitation, has resulted in a drying trend impacting pastures and water sources. In respect of natural hazards the frequency and intensity of extreme events, including summer drought followed by harsh winters, cold waves related low temperatures, and higher snowfalls etc. Unsustainable herding practices and increase of livestock numbers, inconsistent with climate parameter fluctuation are leading to destabilization of income source of herding families, while further stressing increasingly fragile ecosystems.

The "Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia'' project funded by the Green Climate Fund was launched in March 2021. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry (MoFALI) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for 7 years in Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Zavkhan and Khovd aimags. The objective of the project is to strengthen the climate resilience of resource-dependent rural populations in the 4 targeted aimags through feasible adaptation measures for maintaining ecosystem services. This is one of the Project's primary outcomes and it aims to build capacity for the engaged ministries, such as Ministry of Economy and Development (MoED), MET, MoFALI and agencies as the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM), as well as local government and professional institutions to use modern planning instruments in everyday and long-term management of resource use based activities in an inclusive manner with respect for civil society and the local community.

It is well-known that adaptation activities are extremely costly, owing in part to uncertainties on possible future climate conditions and scenarios. Because of the inherited adaptive capacity of local communities to reversible variability of climate change, adaptation measures in Mongolia can be based on a combination of traditional knowledge and modern know-how . All adaptation measures can be divided into three categories: 1. Passive adaptation based on indigenous technology and traditional lifestyle for which will not be needed an additional investment because of low negative impact of uncertainties. 2. Active adaptation which will need a certain additional effort in accordance with expected climate change but, mainly might require a moderate size of the investment. 3. Pro-active adaptation which, as a rule, will require transformative change based on the "theory of change". It could lead to some paradigm shifts in the concept of national development and to promote more active multilateral and bilateral cooperation for technology transfer and financial support.

These principles are suggested to explore in the NAP process for Mongolia and in this regard they should be narrowed down for those 4 target aimags in differentiated manner depending on climate zone, landscape features, and associated way of life, in terms of residents resources use for revenue. The objectives of the consultations can be refined if necessary within the framework of general

principles outlined in the UNFCCC guidelines, in accordance with national circumstances, which can be changed due to force-majeureevents such as pandemic, regional conflicts and attributed economy and social downturn.In order to make sure the outcomes of the Project are fully owned by the Government of Mongolia, particularly, by the MET and local governments, the following issues need to be in focus:

- Measures to avoid a possible maladaptation, which could result in unneeded economic loss and negative social consequences,
- Mobilize and draw on the inherited adaptive capacity of the local communities to climate variabilities.
- Special consideration on nature-based and/or community-based solutions in adaptation options using the country's advantages of dominant of intact ecosystems,
- Prioritize adaptation measures to identify areas where actual needs for transformative change with significant financial implications, but substantial social benefits,
- Prioritize risk assessment rather than vulnerability rate to address the issues in relevant timeframes, where risk is a function of the loss associated with the risks,

Keep sight on possible co-actions with synergy effects for maximized outputs and co-benefits from both adaptation and mitigation,make bridges between science and practical activities, as well as provide links between indigenous knowledge and modern innovation. The project is expected to benefit an estimated 800,000 people (approximately 130,000 direct and 800,000 indirect beneficiaries), of whom 50% are women. To achieve the project goal, the following activities within the interrelated components will be implemented and the expected results will be reached which include:

Output 1: Climate information integrated into land and water use planning at national and sub-national levels;
Output 2: Climate-resilient water and soil management practices scaled-up for enhanced small-scale herder resource management;
Output 3: Herder capacity to access markets built for sustainably sourced, climate-resilient livestock products.

The ongoing National Mongolian Livestock program established targets for both overall livestock reduction and improved herd structure. The program aimed to reduce the total number of livestock by 16% or 6.8 million, from the baseline in 2008, while improving the ratio of animals within the national herd-reducing the number of small animals, especially goats, while moderately increasing the number of larger animals. However, the target did not adequately consider of additional stresses that climate change would place on land and water resources. Current livestock numbers far exceed the programme`s 2021 targets, and pressures on both water and land resources has increased significantly since the baseline year of 2008.
Land degradation undermines the ecosystem service provision, limiting the economic returns from semi-arid rangelands. Therefore, under the project Output 1, a scenario analysis on ecosystem services will be carried out for introducing policy reforms in the livestock sector.
UNDP CO is seeking to work with an international expert who is well experienced in valuation of the ecosystem services of water, land, and forest to demonstrate the values of the respective ecosystem services into the transactions of the livestock products value chain.

Key stakeholders of the assignment are: MET,MoED, MoFALI, NAMEM, UNDP and other relevant public institutions, private entities, NGOs and Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

B. The objective of assignment is to conduct an analysis of existing ecosystem services for the provision of sustainable policy and investment options in the livestock sector.

C. Scope of work

The following outputs should be achieved as a result of the consulting services:

1. **Desk review and study on the current situation through ecosystem service lens**

    - Review current land and livestock management challenges in Mongolia through the ecosystem service lens, identifying issues in livestock policy, economic investments and related programmes that are inadvertently contributing to land degradation;
    - Review the previously conducted studies on ecosystem services valuation work;
    - Desk review for applying the most suitable methods for assessing the value of different ecosystem services in the case of Mongolia (take into account of data availability, social and cultural characteristics and main provision of ecosystem services of land, forestry, and water resources etc).

2. **Carry out an assessment of the existing ecosystem service provision for different ecological zones of Zavkhan, Khovd, Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimags**
    - Based on the method chosen, conduct an assessment of the existing ecosystem service provision for different ecosystems in the Khovd, Zavkhan, Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags in close cooperation with National consultancy team;
    - Conduct scenario analysis to support livestock-related policies and reforms under development by informing resilient land, water management and livestock sector based on ecosystem service analysis-comparing a business-as-usual scenario in which rangeland ecosystems eventually collapse versus an ecosystem-based adaptation scenario in which productivity losses are halted and reversed;
    - Introduce international best practices in ecosystem-based livestock management and provide potential investment options for the Mongolian case;
    - Recommend private sector investment options for agriculture sector development based on ecosystem service analysis to address unsustainable number of livestock in the country against drying landscape due to climate change;
    - Facilitate consultations amongst partners, MET, and on sustainable land and livestock management;
    - Organize and facilitate necessary meetings with private investors and herder communities in the livestock sector to discuss potential investment options as ecosystem service trade-offs;
    - Respond to stakeholder feedback;
3. **Knowledge dissemination and trainings and final report:**
    - Develop guidelines and handouts on ecosystem service tradeoffs and efficient use of newly introduced analytical tools for policy transformation;
    - Facilitate workshops and trainings for policy and decision-makers at the national and sub-national levels, as well as private sector investors in 4 aimags on climate change impacts on natural resources and livestock sector.
    - Finalize the report and compile it into a consolidated report, which should be prepared jointly with the national consultancy team on assessing the value of ecosystem services for submission to the MET and PIU in both Mongolian and English.

D. Expected Outputs, Deliverables, and Schedule of Payments

The following outputs should be delivered:

Deliverables/Outputs	Target due dates	Installment (%)	Review and Approvals Required
Inception report: It consists of the following: • Detailed work plan and schedule of tasks to be performed during the project, with roles and responsibilities for all parties involved.	Within 10 days after contract signing	10% of the total fee	MET, PIU and UNDP
Progress Report 1: Desk review and study on the current situation through ecosystem service lens • Desk review of current land and livestock management challenges in Mongolia through the ecosystem service lens, identifying issues in livestock policy, economic investments and related programmes that are inadvertently contributing to land degradation. • Draft report on a research method to assess the valuation of ecosystem services that is applicable to the case of Mongolia (based on recommended method, the national consultancy team will carry out the valuation of ecosystem services in 4 aimags). • Validate the chosen approach with pertinent stakeholders	1 week	30% of the total fee	MET, PIU and UNDP
Progress Report 2: Carry out an assessment of the existing ecosystem service provision for different ecological zones of Zavkhan, Khovd, Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimags • Review of the assessment report on the valuation of ecosystem service provision in 4 aimags; • Report on scenario analysis to support livestock-related policies and reforms under development by informing resilient land, water management and livestock sector based on ecosystem service analysis; • Recommendation on potential private sector investment options incorporating values of the ecosystem services • Provide guidance on how to incorporate the value of the ecosystem services into the transaction of livestock products and apply the scheme for 1-2 sites.	Within 8 weeks	30% of the total fee	MET, PIU, UNDP and relevant stakeholders

Final report: Knowledge dissemination and trainings: • A package of guidance materials and manuals developed and prepared in collaboration with the consultant team on ecosystem service tradeoffs and the efficient use of newly introduced analytical tools for policy transformation; • Training report on a workshop for policy and decision makers at the national and sub-national level, as well as private sector investors in 4 aimags, on the climate change impacts on natural resources and livestock sector; • Consolidated final report, which should be prepared jointly with the National consultant team and submitted to the MET and PIU in English.	2-3 weeks prior to the contract ending	30% of the total fee	Upon satisfactory result of the PIU and Programme Analyst of UNDP, and relevant stakeholders including MET, MoFALI

E. Institutional arrangements

The contractor will be supervised by the National Project Coordinator, Project Unit and PO of UNDP. He or she will be expected to meet and liaise with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), CO UNDP Mongolia, project local coordinators, and respective ministries and agencies including MET, MoFALI , National and local agencies, Local governors, NGOs, private sector and relevant international projects. The PIU, the MET, and the MoFALI Industry own the copyright of all outputs.

The international consultant will work with a national consultancy team as the "Ecosystem service team" under the main objective of conducting an analysis of existing ecosystem services for the provision of sustainable policy and investment options in the livestock sector. He or she leads the national consultancy team in executing all of the tasks outlined in this ToR and be responsible for the final deliverables. The International Consultant and Lead consultant are also responsible for identifying potential risks in a timely manner and providing timely notification of delays in the delivery of outputs.
The ecosystem service team will closely work with the national consultancy team dealing with drafting new National Mongolian Livestock program for 2030 in application of ecosystem service trade-off analytical product and sensitization for decision-makers and private investors in livestock sector.

All outputs, such as reports and relevant guiding documents, from these GCF supported and adaptation attributed projects should be well integrated, with adequate contribution from each other in a fully complimentary manner, with no overlap.

This Terms of Reference can be modified in consultation with the NPC without altering the purpose and scope of the Terms of Reference. The contract and payments will be performance-based and regularly assessed by the National Project Coordinator and the programme officer of the UNDP.

The PIU has the following responsibilities: (i) Provide relevant documentation and resources; (ii) Discuss and agree on the Terms of Reference; (iii) Monitor and assess the task performed and its progress. The contract and payments will be based on the performance and will be regularly reviewed by the PIU and key implementing parties.

F. Duration of the Work

Total duration of the assignment is 40 days after signing the contract. The expected date for the final report to be submitted by the end of November 2022.

G. Duty Station

Consultant can work from home office and regularly contact with the national consultancy team through online.

H. Qualifications of the Individual Contractor

The consultant shall be specialized in the following areas and have the following educational and professional qualifications and skills, which include:

Education and Professional Experience:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or higher) in biology, ecology or environmental science and management;
- 10 or more years of experience in environmental conservation and ecosystem service study and livestock sector management (list of similar work done);
- 5 or more years of experience in scenario analysis to support the provision of private sector investment options for agricultural sector development based on ecosystem service analysis;
- Experience working on UN-funded projects and programs is desired;
- In-depth knowledge and experience working in countries similar to Mongolia on national plans, strategies, and policies related to land degradation, ecosystem service assessment, and livestock sector policy reforms.

Skills:

- Excellent communication, articulation and coordination skills;
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English;
- Ability to understand different interests and seek for conciliation and coordination of activities;
- Ability to build informal networks internally and externally and visualize them as part of the value creation process;
- Ability to demonstrate behaviors such as teamleading, knowledge sharing and relationship maintenance;
- Ability to encourage collaboration and improve performance;
- Ability to work under pressure and deliver high quality results on time is required.

I. Duration of the contract:

40 days

J. Scope of Price Proposal

Contractor must send a financial proposal in accordance with related regulatory documents.The total amount quoted shall be inclusive and include cost components required to perform the deliverables identified in the ToR, including professional fees, content dissemination costs, third party involvement and any other applicable costs to be incurred by the contractor in completing the assignment. The contract price will be a fixed output-based price regardless of the extension of the herein specified duration.

K. Evaluation Method and Criteria

Professional service provider will be evaluated based on the following methodology of Cumulative Analysis. The award of the contract shall be made to the professional service provider whose offer will be evaluated and determined as a) responsive/compliant/acceptable; and b) having received the highest score out of set of weighted technical criteria (70%) and financial criteria (30%). Financial score shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal received by UNDP for the assignment.

L. Technical Criteria for Evaluation (Maximum 70 points)

A point-based scoring system is used for the technical criteria evaluation. A detailed breakdown of each criterion and its point is illustrated in Annex III. Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points (70% of the total technical points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

M. Documents required

Interested person must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate his/her qualifications.

a) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided in Annex I.

b) **Personal CV or P11**, indicating all past experience from similar projects as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references;

c) **Technical proposal**, including a) a brief description of why the professional service provider considers itself as the most suitable for the assignment; and b) a methodology, on how he/she will approach and complete the assignment.

d) **Financial proposal**, as per template provided in Annex II.

Incomplete proposals may not be considered.

N. Approval

The ToR is approved by:

DocuSigned by:
Khishigjargal Kharkhuu
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03-Jul-2022

Khishigjargal Kharkhuu
Program Analyst
UNDP, Mongolia

Annex 1. Technical Criteria for Evaluation for IC.

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
Technical criteria 1: Education and General Criteria		**30**
Advanced university degree (Master's degree or higher) in biology, ecology or environmental science and management		15
10 or more years of experience in environmental conservation and ecosystem service study and livestock sector management (list of similar work done);		15
Technical criteria 2: Qualification and Expertise		**50**
5 or more years of experience in scenario analysis to support provide private sector investment options for agriculture sector development based on ecosystem service analysis		20
In-depth knowledge and experience of working in countries similar to Mongolia in the field of national plans, strategies and policies related to land degradation, assessment of ecosystem service and livestock sector policy reforms		15
A brief description of how to perform the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference;		15
Technical criteria 3: Language skill		**20**
Fluent in English, both verbal and written;		20
Technical Score	***70***	**100**