

Terms of Reference for Consultancy Botswana and Malawi

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

Project Title: *Building Capacity to Access Forest Financing for Advancing Implementation of Forest-related SDGs and the UNSPF in Four Developing Countries*

Background

Forests cover 33% of the earth's land area and provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to humankind through its significant contribution to poverty eradication, climate change mitigation and adaptation, maintaining of biodiversity, clean air, water quality, weather stability, etc. However, forests, especially natural forests, are still disappearing in an alarming rate. From 2010 to 2015, 32.5 million hectares of natural forests were lost globally (FAO-FRA 2015). With acknowledgement of the importance of forests, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015 squarely address the need for forests and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in its Goal 15. In addition, forests and SFM also contribute to the achievement of most of the other SDGs through their multiple functions. In January 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the first ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) (UNSPF), which provides a global framework for actions to sustainably manage of forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation in a holistic and coherent manner.

A major constraint to achieving the forest-related SDGs and UNSPF, is the lack of funding for forests and SFM, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, mainly due to other pressing priorities such as employment, health and education, and general lack of resources and poverty. Furthermore, despite significant resources being available from existing international funding mechanisms (especially climate financing), the actual financial flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition have been limited by a number of disbursement constraints. In fact, poor access to international (multilateral and bilateral) funding often presents additional challenges to the sheer availability of financial resources for SFM. Conclusions drawn from working experiences of the UNFFS show that limited access to international forest financing is due to many factors that include, among others:

- Lack of capacities to develop effective strategic plan to leverage forest financing
- Weak country capacities to prepare bankable/fundable projects

It is in this context that the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat developed the current project that is designed to contribute to building the capacity of developing countries to mobilize funding for sustainable forest management in the context of the UN Forest Instrument, upon request.

The project aims to build the capacities of Botswana and Malawi to develop national forest financing strategies and (ii) a project concepts that can attract funding from existing international funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund. In this regard, the UNFF Secretariat seeks the services of an international consultant who has knowledge of, and experience in, the development and formulation of national forest action

plans and project proposals. The project is part of the GFFN activities funded from the Chinese contribution.

Work Assignment

The main objective of this consultancy is to provide technical support to Botswana and Malawi in developing a national forest financing strategy for mobilizing financing from all sources and in project proposal development for accessing funds for implementing sustainable forest management from multilateral funding sources. The specific responsibilities/tasks of the International consultant are to:

A: Botswana

1. Facilitate the organization of the validation workshop for the NFFS and concept note. The validation workshop is to be conducted virtually if the current conditions, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, still continue.
2. Complete preparation of the national forest financing strategy for Botswana incorporating comments from the validation workshop
3. Finalise preparation of the project concept note on sustainable forest management for submission to one of the multilateral financing agencies

B: Malawi

1. Assist UNFFS in conducting the national forest financing strategy and project validation workshop to be held in Lilongwe, Malawi; The validation workshop is to be conducted virtually if the current conditions, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, still continue.
2. Finalise a national forest financing strategy taking into account views and inputs provided by stakeholders during the validation workshop.
3. Finalise preparation of the project concept note on sustainable forest management in partnership with UNCCD and IUCN (accredited entity) for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
4. Produce and submit an end-of-assignment summary report (Not exceeding 10 pages) focusing on the process and methodology followed, key outputs, lessons learned and recommendations by 30 June 2020.

Contract Duration

The consultant will be engaged for 25 working days from 15 March to 31 July 2021.

Duty Station

The consultant will work remotely for the duration of the contract and remain available for regular supervisory and review teleconferences.

Travel

Botswana

The consultant will undertake two trips to Botswana totaling 14 days. Travel costs will be obligated separately upon approval of each trip.

- The first trip will be to finalize stakeholder consultation within Botswana and to collect outstanding baseline data for preparation of the concept note. This will include consultations with

potential project implementing partners, the NDA and accredited entity. This trip will be undertaken in February 2020.

- The second trip will be to participate in the NFFS and project concept note validation workshop where the second drafts of the concept and national forest financing strategy will be shared with a wider range of stakeholders to discuss and validate the project concept and National forest financing strategy.

However, if the current conditions, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, still continue, the task above will be undertaken virtually.

Malawi

The consultant will undertake two trips to Malawi totaling 10 days. Travel costs will be obligated separately upon approval of each trip.

- The first trip is to complete stakeholder consultation within Malawi. This will include collecting final views from key stakeholders on feasibility of the proposed measures for accessing finance for sustainable forest management from all possible sources and finalise the financing model for the project concept note with input from the government of Malawi.
- The second trip will be to organize and assist in facilitating the project concept note and NFFS validation workshop where the second drafts of the concept and national forest financing strategy will be shared with a wider range of stakeholders to discuss and validate the project concept and National forest financing strategy. The expected achievement is to collect comments and from stakeholders to finalize the project concept and annexes prior to submission to the donor..

Expected Outputs and Delivery Dates

The consultant shall work along the following deadlines:

Botswana

1. Successful organisation of the validation workshop by 30 June 2021
2. Final National forest financing strategy incorporating comments from UNFFS by 30 July 2021
3. Final project concept note and relevant supporting documents incorporating comments from UNFFS and validation workshop by 31 July 2021

Malawi

1. Validation workshop by 30 April 2021
2. Final National forest financing strategy incorporating comments from UNFFS by 31 May 2021
3. Final project concept note and relevant supporting documents incorporating comments from UNFFS and validation workshop by 31 May 2021

All written outputs will be delivered electronically, via email to UNFFS, Mr. Peter Gondo at gondop@un.org.

NOTE: All deliverables are considered the sole property of the United Nations.

Fee and Payment schedule

The consultant will be paid a total of \$12,500.00 payable in two instalments as follows: The first payment of \$6,250.00 will be made upon successful submission of the national forest financing strategy and concept note for Malawi by 31 May 2021; and final payment (50%) is upon successful completion and submission of the national forest financing strategy and concept note for Botswana by 31 July 2021.

Performance Indicators

1. Quality and comprehensive national forest financing strategies based on the country's national priorities.
2. Quality concept notes that is accepted by the accredited agency, Governments of Botswana and Malawi and the targeted funding agencies.
3. Successful execution of the validation workshops

Competencies and Qualifications

The consultant shall have the following competencies and qualifications:

1. At least 10 years' experience in natural resources management, forest financing and forest policy
2. Proven experience in development and formulation of medium to full size projects for submission to the multilateral fund for financing;
3. Have demonstrated technical/scientific expertise relating to forest management, international cooperation, biodiversity conservation the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, community-based forest management, forest financing, payment for environmental services, emerging carbon markets/emissions trading systems including REDD+;
4. Excellent policy analytical, technical, managerial and drafting/writing skills;
5. Possess thorough knowledge on the Rio Conventions and protocols, and knowledge of the UN Forest Instrument;
6. Have an advanced university degree in forest management, economics, social, environmental studies, natural sciences, development studies, or any related discipline;
7. Ability to prepare and present reports in English.
8. Be free from any interest that might cause him/her to act in other than an impartial and non-discriminatory manner.

Supervision

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of Mr. Peter Gondo, Inter-Regional Adviser, under the overall guidance of the Officer-In-Charge, Mr. Alexander Trepelkov and Chief of Section, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi.

Contact details: Two UN Plaza, DC2-2325, New York, NY 10017, Tel: 917-367-4923; fax: 91736733186; e-mail: gondop@un.org; alternate Yan Lang: yan.lang@un.org