

## **Terms of Reference for National Consultant**

**February 2022**

### **Terms of Reference for a National Consultancy to assist in facilitating the development and formulation of a national forest financing strategy and a concept note and annexes on sustainable forest management in Algeria for financing by multilateral financial institutions**

**Commissioned by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat**

#### **1. Background**

A major constraint to achieving sustainable forest management (SFM) is the lack of funding, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This is mainly due to competing priorities such as food security, health and education, and a general lack of resources. Furthermore, in spite of significant resources available from existing international funding mechanisms (especially climate financing), the actual financial flows to developing countries 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 actual availability of financial resources for SFM. Limited access to international forest financing is due to a number of factors that include:

- Weak country capacities to prepare bankable/fundable projects;
- Poor access to information on existing and emerging funding mechanisms;
- Diverse financing criteria and procedural requirements.

A major outcome of UNFF11 was the decision to strengthen the UNFF Facilitative Process (renamed the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network or GFFFN) to:

- Promote the design of national forest financing strategies, projects and programmes to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms;
- Serve as a clearing house on financing opportunities; and
- Serve as a tool for sharing lessons learned from successful projects

Furthermore, Member States agreed that the GFFFN should ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, medium-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds.

It is in this context that the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat initiated the support to the government of Algeria to build the Capacity to Access Forest Finance for Implementing Sustainable Forest Management. The activities of this support are designed to contribute to building the capacity of the Government of Algeria to mobilize funding for sustainable forest management in the context of the UN Forest Instrument.

The support aims to assist the country in development of a national forest financing strategy and project concept note on SFM, and to provide capacity building to the Government of Algeria to enable it to access funds from the GEF, the Green Climate Fund and/or other existing international funds for implementing sustainable forest management.

## **2. Work Assignment**

The UNFF Secretariat seeks the services of a national consultant to provide technical support to Algeria in national forest financing strategy and project concept note development for accessing funds from multilateral financing mechanisms, including the GCF and GEF, to implement sustainable forest management.

**Objective:** The objectives of the consultancy are:

1. Facilitate, with the assistance of the national UNFF focal point, national stakeholder consultations and other processes to get stakeholders' input in formulating the National Forest Financing Strategy and project concept note and develop links with the national planning process;
2. Produce the national capacity building workshop report;
3. Assist UNFFS and international consultant in the organization of the capacity building and validation workshops;
4. Attend the validation workshop and produce a workshop report;
5. 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 in particular on ways to better link forest financing with the national development plan.

## **3. Duration of the Contract**

The duration of the contract is 20 working days between 20 April to 31 December 2022.

## **4. Location of Assignment**

The national consultant should be based in Algeria. The national consultant will work remotely for most of the contract and remain available for regular supervisory and review teleconferences.

## **5. Travel**

The national consultant will undertake travel in Algeria for a total of 14 days for the purpose of holding consultations with key stakeholders on major challenges to, and opportunities for, sustainable forest management for the purposes of identifying priorities and required actions as well as existing and potential sources of financial resources for forest management. The dates of travel will be determined in consultation with the Government of Algeria and the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.

**NB: All domestic and international travel is subject to existing rules and regulations in the countries concerned designed to limit the spread of COVID-19.**

## **6. Expected Outputs and Delivery Dates**

The consultant shall work along the following deadlines in producing the deliverables jointly with the international consultant:

1. Capacity building workshop report by one week after the workshop.
2. Additional data and background status report to contribute to the pre-feasibility study to the project concept note.
3. Validation workshop report by one week after the workshop.

4. End of Assignment summary report (not exceeding 10 pages excluding annexes) focusing on the process and methodology followed, key outputs, lessons learned and recommendations.

## **7. Performance Indicators**

- Successful and timely submission of deliverables as specified in the work plan;
- Timely submission of background study/status report that has adequate information to guide national forest financing strategy and project concept note formulation;
- Timely submission of capacity building and validation of workshop reports in good quality;
- Timely submission of the end of assignment report in good quality.

## **8. Competencies and Qualifications**

The consultant shall have the following competencies and qualifications:

- At least 7 years' experience in sustainable forest management and with forest policy analysis and programming at strategic levels;
- 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+;
- Excellent policy analytical, technical, managerial and drafting skills;
- Possess thorough knowledge on the UNFF, Rio Conventions and protocols, Regional forest agreements and/or Protocols as well as national forestry and forest-related programmes and institutional arrangements in the country;
- Have an advanced university degree in forest management, economics, social, environmental studies, natural sciences, development studies, or any related discipline;
- Fluent in spoken and written French; and fluent in English will be an advantage;
- Be free from any interest that might cause him/her to act in other than an impartial and non-discriminatory manner.

## **9. Copyright**

The copyright of all deliverables will be retained with DESA/UNFF Secretariat.