

Fixed-term consultancy: REDD+ Regional Technical Advisor - Africa

Location: Home-based

Context: WCMC works in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on UN-REDD Programme support to nationally led REDD+ processes, promoting the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in REDD+ implementation. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) was agreed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. The UN-REDD programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes to curb deforestation and forest degradation, which accounts for approximately 17% of carbon emissions, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. It is now clear that stabilizing global average temperature rise within two degrees Celsius will be impossible to achieve without reducing emissions from the forest sector.

Given the challenge that African countries are facing with respect to deforestation, forestry and other land-use practices in order to meet climate and biodiversity targets, and the need to scale up sustainable public and private finance and investment to make this a reality, WCMC is seeking an experienced consultant to actively support a number of REDD+-focused activities in the Africa region, in direct collaboration with the UN-REDD team.

Qualifications / special skills or knowledge:

Academic: The consultant should have an advanced academic degree (Master's or equivalent) in environmental sciences, forest policy, forest management, natural resources management, international development, environmental economics or related field.

Professional experience: At least seven (7) years of professional experience in REDD+, forestry and climate mitigation, forest policy, forest management, climate change, ecosystem management or related fields, is required. Previous experience working in the African region, including advising governments, engaging with stakeholders at the country level and partnering with private companies and financial institutions, is strongly desired. Experience in project design is also required.

Languages: For this position, oral and written fluency in English is required. Speaking and writing French is an asset for the region.

Duration: 12 months

Funding: The maximum total cost for this consultancy is USD 87,000, depending on skills and experience, with the selected candidate being paid based on monthly assignments, report documenting deliverables and progress against the workplan and key targets.

Workplan: The international consultant is expected to support WCMC as part of its (WCMC's) collaboration with the UNEP UN-REDD regional work in Africa. The consultant will also work closely with the UNEP Senior REDD+ Technical Advisor of the Africa region and the Safeguards Programme Officer to oversee activities and implement the programme of work. He/she will deliver the following services:

- (i) Implementation of in-country activities for the Africa region on safeguards and other topics, in line with the UN-REDD annual workplan;

(ii) Projects documents submitted to donors following strategic opportunities identified among the team; and

(iii) Communications and knowledge management outputs.

Activities: In accordance with the annual work plan of the UN-REDD Programme, the consultant will be responsible for providing technical backstopping and support to WCMC, as part of its (WCMC's) collaboration with the UNEP UN-REDD regional work in Africa. The consultant will also work closely with the UNEP Senior REDD+ Technical Advisor of the Africa region and the Safeguards Programme Officer, as well as other relevant UNEP team members and/or country focal points, by performing the following tasks:

1. Follow-up on safeguards activities as defined in the UN-REDD inception report for 2022 and 2023 (50%):
 - Follow-up on the progress of safeguards activities in the targeted countries for the African region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Uganda, etc.); and
 - Provide technical inputs and feedbacks on the consultants' deliverables, support quality control of the documents to ensure all issues and needs are being addressed.
2. Support the resources mobilization process (25%):
 - Identify strategic opportunities, needs and gaps to contribute to the planning process in line with the UN-REDD Results Framework for the 2021-2025 period;
 - Transform these opportunities into concrete project ideas with strong theory of change to be implemented on the ground;
 - Draft the project documents according to donors' procedures and support the submission process; and
 - Consult with partners, country focal points and related stakeholders to collect feedbacks and update the documents when needed.
3. Support the day-to-day activities of the Programme across the region (25%):
 - Provide technical backstopping on the deliverables of the consultants hired by the Programme;
 - Provide inputs for WCMC, UNEP and UN-REDD quarterly, semester and annual reporting;
 - Support WCMC communications and knowledge management team, as well as the African focal point of the UN-REDD communications and knowledge management team, by developing materials to enhance the visibility of the Programme, internally among WCMC and UNEP and externally among partners;
 - Support the organization and development of knowledge exchange events; and
 - Organize and participate to in-country missions to liaise with national counterparts and other international partners involved in REDD+.

Deliverables: Monthly assignment reports detailing progress and achievements with regards to engagement with partners, government agencies and other relevant projects. This will include key results/achievements and outputs, substantiated with evidence.

Reporting lines: The consultant will report to WCMC, as part of its (WCMC's) collaboration with the UNEP UN-REDD regional team in Africa, and the UNEP Senior REDD+ Technical Advisor of the Africa region.

How to apply: Please send a cover letter indicating your relevant experience, as well as a CV, by 9th September 2022.