

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DROUGHT PROTOCOL FOR AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

PROJECT TITLE: SUPPORT THE ALIGNMENT OF GUYANA'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO THE UNCCD'S 10-YEAR (2008-2018) STRATEGIC PLAN

The Support The Alignment of Guyana's National Action Plan to the UNCCD's 10-Year (2008-2018) Strategic Plan Project is intended to align the National Action Plan to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's 10 Year Strategy (2008-2018).

The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC) is the Government institution responsible for the implementation of the Project and will act as the National Implementation Partner in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and its Sectoral Agencies, and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Agency for the project and accountable to the GEF for the use of funds.

Background

This Project is to support the Alignment of the National Action Plan to the new UNCCD's 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) with funding from GEF. Guyana has been a Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since 24 September, 1997.

The Project addresses Guyana's need to continue to fulfill its obligations under the UNCCD, with particular focus on Decision 3 of the UNCCD COP 8 (Paragraph 5-“Urges affected developing country Parties, and any other affected country Party in the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities related to the Convention with The Strategy, inter alia, by addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives”).

Above all, the Project is a significant contribution to Guyana's efforts towards implementing the UNCCD 10-Year Strategic Plan 2008-2018 at the national level. The Project builds on the current status and achievements of Guyana with respect to planning to align the National Action Plan and UNCCD Reporting. The Project aims to integrate Guyana's obligations under the UNCCD into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative National Action Plan framework and strategizing process. This process is expected to produce measurable targets for Sustainable Land Management.

The Project will achieve its objective through the implementation of two components whose activities are thoroughly described in the GEF approved proposal for Land Degradation (LD) Enabling Activity (EA). These are: (1) Alignment of the National Action Plan (2006) to fully integrate new aspects of the UNCCD's 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018), and (2) Undertaking UNCCD Reporting and Review process.

The Need for an Early Warning System for Drought

According to the World Meteorological Organisation, there is a global need to urgently develop better drought monitoring and early warning systems. Drought is an insidious natural hazard that results from a deficiency of precipitation from expected or “normal” patterns that, when extended over a season or longer period of time, is insufficient to meet the demands of human activities and the environment.

Drought must be considered a relative rather than an absolute condition. A critical component of national drought strategies should be a comprehensive drought monitoring system that can provide early warning of a drought's onset and end, determine its severity, and deliver that information to a broad group of users in a timely manner. With this information, the impacts of drought can be reduced or avoided in many cases.

Research suggests four (4) basic approaches to measuring drought: Meteorological, Agricultural, Hydrological and Socioeconomic, and four (4) drought responses: Drought Alert, Response Processes, Coordination and Listening to Local Communities. Currently, Guyana has an Early Warning System (EWS) Framework, and a Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan which guides actions in the event of a national disaster.

Advancement in the EWS Protocol provides an opportunity for inclusion of drought in an early warning system. A focused appraisal is also needed to apprise decision makers of an early warning system for drought that is relevant and appropriate to Guyana's context.

This Study would fulfil the EWS through the establishment of a Drought Protocol relevant to Guyana.

Contract:

The GL&SC hereby provides a Contract for a qualified Consultant or a Consultancy Firm for a maximum period of two (2) months. The Terms of Reference and Special Service Agreement linked to this type of contract would apply.

Location of Work: Georgetown, Guyana

Languages Required: English, written and oral

Starting Date: October - November 2014

Expected Duration of Assignment: Two (2) months

Objectives:

- a) To inform the NAP Alignment process of an Early Warning System Protocol for Drought
- b) To review, assess and propose suitable technical solutions and an approved methodology for measuring drought impacts (drought types) and an implementation plan for the EWS on Drought in Guyana
- c) To identify resources and training which would strengthen the capacity of Agencies, and support implementation of the EWS for Drought

The Key Tasks of the Consultancy are as follows:

- Discuss and agree on the final set of tasks, budget and a work plan with the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys within one week of award of the Contract.
- Review the EWS Protocol and policies of Agencies under the EWS coordination structure and past reports on EWS.
- Prepare a draft component on drought for the EWS Framework (with stakeholders) which should include options for the country in the following regards:
 - Specifications of the types of drought (Hydrological/Meteorological and Agricultural) monitored,
 - Meteorological conditions of each drought type
 - Beneficiary sectors (agriculture, biodiversity, social, tourism)
- Conduct consultations to determine how a EWS for drought could be integrated and mainstreamed into existing EWS protocol.
- Review the capacities available at various Agencies, and capacities needed to support the institutions for long term monitoring and data management undertaken with recommendations for the development of the necessary capacities.
- Prepare a Draft Report on the recommendations for an EWS Protocol for drought, analyses of capacities and an Implementation Plan for the EWS on Drought and present at a forum to receive feedback and comments
- Finalize and submit all Reports based on comments/ feedback from Stakeholders and the Implementing Agencies.

Qualifications and Required experience:

The Consultant or Consultancy Firm should have the following:

- An Advanced Degree (MSc) in environmental / natural resource management, early warning system, meteorology/ climatology, preferably with professional working experience / exposure to EWS
- Proven ability to collect, verify and analyze information
- To present research with a high degree of accuracy and technical quality in Reports and Presentation
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing, in order to communicate complex, technical information to both technical and general audiences
- Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention
- Previous experience in the development of NAPs would be an asset
- Knowledge of the work of UNCCD and the National Focal Point Agency, and functions of other stakeholders.

Reporting and Supervision:

The Consultant/ Consultancy Firm would work under the technical guidance and supervision of the Commissioner of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, and would report and liaise with the Project Staff for all administrative and logistical arrangements.