



## THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR THE CAUCAUS

### Terms of Reference for National Project Personnel

Vacancy number: RECC-2020-FAO-04

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Technical Advisor in Agricultural Development (<i>part time</i>)</b>		
<b>Division/Department:</b>	RECC Projects' Implementation Unit		
<b>Programme/Project Number:</b>	"Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands" (GEF Project ID: 10151 / FAO Entity Number: 654524 / FAO Project Symbol: GCP/GEO/006/GFF)		
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Georgia		
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	September 1, 2020	<b>Duration:</b>	1 year with the possibility of extension up to 1 April 2023
<b>Reports to:</b>	Sophiko Akhobadze	RECC Executive Director	
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED</b>			
<b>Background</b>			
<p>The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC) as operational partner is involved in implementation of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) financed Project "Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands – GEF Project ID: 10151" ("the Project"). GEF Implementing Agency for the Project is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).</p> <p>With the above regard, in May, 2020 the RECC and the FAO signed the Operational Partners Agreement (OPA) for the Implementation of the Grant Project "Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands". This Agreement governs the implementation by the RECC of the relevant parts of the Project as defined in the results matrix, work plan and budget in Annex 3 of the OPA. It describes the relationship between the RECC and FAO and their responsibilities.</p> <p>Under the Project and within the context of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Georgia aims to maintain and increase the amount of healthy and productive land resources in line with the national sustainable development goals. Georgia has released five voluntary LDN targets. The project is directly linked to the implementation of two of these targets: Target 1: Integrate LDN principles into national policies, strategies and planning documents; and Target 4: Degraded land will be rehabilitated.</p> <p>The project sets out to support the national efforts to implement LDN targets of Georgia through restoration and sustainable management of the degraded pasturelands (Targets 1 and 4). It follows the STAP (GEF) guidelines "Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality" and takes a phased approach. First, the country has selected three target municipalities based on the priorities of the LDN TSP, and the target landscapes for implementation</p>			

activities. The target municipalities are located in the Eastern part of Georgia and include Dmanisi, Gurjaani, and Dmanisi. The target municipalities and landscapes have been characterized by key bio-physical and socio-economic parameters to set the project baseline in line with the voluntary LDN indicators.

Achieving LDN requires land managers to monitor land use decisions that may impact the neutrality. Thus, the project will develop pastureland management plans in target municipalities and manage counter-balancing at the level stipulated in the plans. The project will strengthen the enabling environment for LDN, land-use planning processes, and security of tenure rights with the specific focus on pasturelands. It will be followed by development of a LDN Decision Support System (DSS) using the proposed hierarchy of responses (avoid>reduce>reverse) based on the status of land degradation and using three LDN voluntary indicators (land cover, land productivity, and SOC) that will be piloted in the three target municipalities. This also involves balancing of the anticipated losses from impacts of pastureland use decisions through restoration of degraded pasturelands (land use of the same type), thus achieving LDN on the ground on pasturelands in the three target municipalities generating associated GEBs related to land restored and under SLM. The counterbalancing of the LDN will be done at the same scale as land use planning process that will be established in the three target municipalities. This will be followed by scaling up the select approaches within three target municipalities using the land use plans and targeted capacity building programs and awareness raising campaigns. The three LDN indicators, additional national indicators for rangeland health, GEBs and socio-economic benefits will be monitored. Local knowledge and continuous learning will be applied to validate/interpret the data, and anticipate/adjust/create new steps – closing the LDN loop.

The experiences of this project will be replicated across Georgia through activities of national and international partners, and shared with other countries in the region and at UNCCD.

### **Specific objective of the assignment**

RECC is looking to recruit an experienced **Technical Advisor in Agricultural Development** (part time) to be member of the Project core team in RECC and responsible for technical, management and administrative support and the day-to-day implementation of the RECC's relevant Project parts under the OPA. He/She will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the RECC Executive Director (*Project Policy and Institutional Advisor*) and the technical guidance of the FAO Project Coordinator (PC) located at the Project Implementing Unit (PMU), in close consultation with the government designated National Project Director (NPD) representing the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA).

### **Duties, Responsibilities and Scope of Work**

The incumbents will have the following tasks:

- Liaise with the FAO, MEPA, project partners and other stakeholders to ensure the flow of cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the project, and ensure the participation of decision-making senior staff within relevant ministries and pilot municipalities in project activities;
- Assist the RECC Executive Director in guiding of work of the RECC Project core team (*incl. Project Finance Assistant and Project Administrative Assistant*)
- Support the formulation of the Project detailed work plan for RECC's parts under the OPA and make necessary arrangements for its successful implementation in a timely manner;

- Monitor the RECC Project budget and ensure preparation of quarterly and yearly expenditure plans through project financial-administration staff;
- Prepare drafts of terms of references (to be further agreed with FAO) and supervise task specific national and international consultants' work and report on their performance;
- Provide technical support to the implementation of the project approach, namely, real time monitoring and informed decisions transferred to end-users, so that products/services of the project will produce effects and changes for the target group/s;
- Support the facilitation of establishing stakeholder engagement and information/data sharing to enable the scaling up of the Project approach;
- Review the progress made in the implementation of the project and lessons learned and make recommendations for improving the performance and the necessary adjustments to the work plan and budget;
- Provide technical support to the preparation of policy/legal, technical and communication materials of the project;
- Assist in developing of relevant memorandums, consulting and service agreements where necessary, as per RECC procedures and OPA requirements;
- Attend (on behalf of RECC) and support work of the Project Steering Committee;
- act as interlocutor among all parties for the Project's timely and satisfactory implementation, and ensure adequate access to data and information in governmental organizations for the RECC Project core team;
- Support the identification/development of training plans proposed under project outputs, and coordinate their implementation;
- Prepare project progress reports to review and monitor the outputs/deliverable of the project against agreed work plan, and identify constraints and issues that require timely resolution and corrective actions.

#### **Qualifications and Experience Requirements**

The Technical Advisor in Agricultural Development should have:

- A Master's of Science in natural resources/agriculture/biology and or related fields; Advance is preferable.
- At least 5-7 years of experience and familiarity with pastureland management and activities as well as International Organizations' work.

#### **Technical Competencies**

- Results focused
- Good team building and leadership skills
- Ability to travel to the pilot regions and municipalities in Georgia
- Ability to develop good working relations with a variety of stakeholders
- Good project management skills including familiarity with the development of results frameworks project work plans and budget

- Good reporting skills
- Good organizational and communication capacity
- Good written and oral working knowledge in English and Georgian
- Advanced computer skills

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
Project's progress quarterly reports	Quarterly
Project's progress annual reports	Annually
Other project reports under OPA requirements	Per OPA requirements