Terms of reference for conducting a joint trend analysis of resource allocation towards the ENR and agriculture sectors at the national and local levels to inform the CSOs and networks position on climate resilience

Introduction

These are Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the required technical support for conducting a study of the trends for resource allocation in the ENR and agricultural sectors at national and local levels.

These ToRs therefore provide information on the overall objectives of the consultancy assignment, the general methodology, tools and approaches, expected outputs/deliverables and the required qualification and experiences of the consultant.

1.0 Background

The agriculture sector, which is mainly subsistence, employs the largest proportion of Uganda’s work force. The sector remains a major employer to date, with 68.9 percent of the working population engaged in agriculture contributing about 26% to the GDP in 2015. However with such a contribution to the gross domestic product, the budget allocations for this sector have been a topical issue. The government of Uganda has not fully complied to some of the so many critical instruments like the Maputo declaration. The Declaration contains several important decisions regarding agriculture, but prominent among them was the “commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation”.

The scenario in the Ministry of agriculture is not different from the Ministry of water and environment, whose budgetary allocations have stagnated at approximately 3% of the country’s budgets for over 10 years. This has had a huge implication on the sector, yet it takes up all the pressures from other sectors. With the previous and current allocations, within the water and environment sector, the sector continues to be affected grossly. One of the major challenges that were sighted for not achieving the NDP II targets was the inadequate allocations to such critical primary growth sectors.

CSOs and NGOs have always directed their advocacy towards increased financing to the two sectors mentioned above, however this has not yielded much, except for a slight increment for the agricultural sector in the 2016/17 budget to UGX 832.42 billion representing a 65% increase.

With Financial support from DANIDA through Care international in Uganda, Environmental Alert (EA) is implementing a 4 year project titled ‘Strengthening resilience and promoting inclusive governance for environmental sustainability’.

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2. The ENR-CSO Network is another civil society network that brings together local and international NGOs that work in the broader environment and natural resources sector. The ENR-CSO Network has an elected leadership and a secretariat that coordinates its activities. The Network is active in mobilizing its members’ engagement in sub-national and national level forest policy processes, including the national and district annual budget cycles.

3. PROLINCUSA - Uganda envisions a world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agriculture and NRM innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods.
women and youth in vulnerable communities (STRENPO). Under this program, EA contributes largely on the Second objective that seeks to ensure that Civil society organizations and networks have increased capacity and expanded spaces for negotiation between empowered citizens, refugees and accountable duty bearers through multi-stakeholder platforms focused on resilience. It also seeks to ensure that Government and other duty-bearers, at district and national levels are inclusive and accountable in delivering a well-coordinated response to key drivers of risks and thereby responding to the demands and needs of citizens and refugees.

EA therefore is desirous to conducting a study to understand the budgetary trends, basis for allocations as well as the existing gaps within the budgeting processes within the Agricultural and environment sectors. Information generated from the study will be used to strengthen the capacity of the CSOs in engaging duty bearers on issues of budget advocacy within the ENR and Agric sectors respectively.

2.0 Target
The researcher/research firm is expected to engage with relevant stakeholders especially from and beyond the project operation districts in Uganda (Arua, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa) to offer proper representation, and the line ministries and agencies i.e MWE-CCD/NFA/NEMA, MAAIF, MoLGs

3.0 Purpose of the assignment:
Specifically the assignment seeks to:

i. To conduct a trends analysis of the budget allocations in the ENR and Agric sectors teasing out the aspects on climate resilience.
ii. To understand the basis of the budget allocations and teasing out the existing gaps within budgeting processes.
iii. To inform the policy brief/networks position with key recommendations that are specific to climate resilience for both ENR and the Agric sectors.

4.0 Methodology and approaches
It is expected that varying participatory methods will be applied in order to maximize participant involvement of the key respondents. Literature review, gap and trends analysis, key informant interviews, Focused group discussions among other approaches shall be employed.
Any other creative and progressive methods of data collection can be proposed and considered by the consultant. To note is the need for simplicity in making the final report and CSO position paper.

5.0 Expected outputs/Deliverables
1. Inception report: Outlining details/process of how the trends analysis will be will be conducted.
2. Draft study report
3. Final study report

4. UFWG is a platform with a broad spectrum of stakeholders who play different yet complementary roles in their individual, collective and institutional capacities. These include field technical support, small grants management, research and products development, awareness creation, piloting alternatives, media publicity of issues and policy processes, public debates, advocacy and legislative lobbying, budget analysis and advocacy as well as independently monitor the implementation of the Forest Policy commitments. Environmental Alert is the Secretariat of the UFWG.
4. A policy brief/CSO networks position with clear recommendations specifically on climate resilience

6.0 Timeframe

The assignment is planned to be undertaken mainly in the month of March, 2020. The following are the assignment tasks, related deliverables and proposed timelines is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The assignment tasks, related deliverables and timelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Number of days</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Development, presentation and submission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inception report: Outlining details/process of how the trends analysis will be conducted.</td>
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<td>of inception report to EA.</td>
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<td>2) Contractual processes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contract signed</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Data collection</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trends analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Compilation of reports and position paper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Trends analysis report and CSO position</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Validation of the report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Compilation of Final report and Position/policy brief.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Submission of Final reports</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Final reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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7.0. Correspondence

All contractual and implementation correspondences will be addressed to Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD), Environmental Alert, P.O. Box 11259 Kampala – Uganda, Email: ED@envalert.org or joszake@gmail.com

8.0 Qualifications and required competencies for the consultant

EA is looking for a consultant with the following skills and competencies
a) Relevant academic background in social sciences, natural sciences and environment;
b) Knowledge and experience in Budget tracking and monitoring, lobbying and advocacy
c) Demonstrated experience in carrying out similar assignments
d) Extensive work experience and proven record in Capacity development, advocacy, Organizational/institutional developments and strategic management;
e) Strong analytical and excellent writing and reporting skills;
f) Familiarity with NGO context;
g) Ability to work efficiently and deliver on committed outputs under the assignment within agreed timelines and deadlines.

9.0 Application process

Applicants should submit both their technical and financial proposals in soft and hard copies and addressed to the Executive Director, Environmental Alert P.O. Box 11259, Kampala, Uganda. Or email to envalert@envalert.org with a copy to ed@envalert.org or hand deliver to Plot 3, Sonko Lane, Kabalagala (off Gaba Road).

Applications should be delivered to the above address not later than 07th March 2020. For more information contact: Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD) on email joszake@gmail.com, ed@envalert.org

10.0 About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in 1988 and the year (2018) marked 30 years of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a 1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, ‘Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.’

EA’s mission is to, ‘Advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resources management and food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.

Program and institutional Components:
1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:
EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA’s operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

Further information about EA and the Networks visit: www.envalert.org