

Terms of Reference
National Land Degradation expert
Conservation and sustainable use of globally important agro-biodiversity

Location: Baku, Azerbaijan

Type of contract: IC

Starting date: 05 April, 2018

End date: 15 December, 2018

Background

Azerbaijan is considered to be part of Vavilov's Asia Minor center of origin of cultivated plants.

In general, the wild relatives of cultivated crops in Azerbaijan are genetically diverse, locally adapted and represent a potential source of genes and alleles for adapting crops to the ever-changing environmental conditions and human needs of the country.

The project seeks to: (i) improve the protection of viable populations of indigenous wild relatives of crops and local landraces in their natural habitats; (ii) augment the conservation of indigenous wild relatives of crops and local landraces in plant gene banks to ensure an adequate source of genetic resources for plant breeding; and (iii) increase the production, and extent of use, of local landraces in agricultural small holdings and commercial farms.

The project will be implemented in three regions - Sheki, Goranboy and Goychay. Within these three regions, the project will further focus on selected crop wild relatives, cultivated native species and cultivated landraces of wheat, vegetable and forage crops.

The project has been structured into three complementary components.

The first component will seek to expand the state of knowledge of agro-biodiversity, enhance the conservation of this agro-biodiversity and increase the intensity and extent of use native crops in the agricultural sector in the three project regions.

The second component will seek to build the capacities of, and improve the collaboration and cooperation between, agricultural institutions and small farmers in order to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation using native crops (i.e. the targeted crop species) in the three project regions.

The third component will seek to strengthen incentives that encourage the planting of, and improve access to commercial markets for agricultural products derived from, the targeted native crop species across the three regions.

Scope of work

More specifically, the Land Degradation expert will carry out the following tasks:

1. Field visits to project localities for the collection of baseline data as needed;
2. Identification of agro-ecological zone(s) in the project situated including production system;
3. General overview of target regions' Land Use Experiences (including food crop, tree crop, and crop-livestock) and applied agricultural practices;
4. Study target regions' land degradation, causes and driven factors;

5. Provide general info on loss of vegetative cover, degradation of vegetation (biomass, health, damage, age structure), degradation of soil properties (chemical, physical and biological) and soil loss by wind /water erosion;
6. Review and analyze the Sustainable Land Management national and local level legal and regulatory framework in Azerbaijan assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the regulatory, planning and enforcement framework for improvement soil quality of target region;
7. Describe possible project interventions that could lead to an improvement in soil quality from reduced application agricultural inputs and selected landraces;

Deliverables

N	Deliverable	Timeline
1	Brief report on the inception field trip: findings, recommendations, detailed work plan	April-June, 2018
2	Report on causes of land degradation in target rayon's identified	May-August, 2018
3	Report on regularity framework and institutional set up for land degradation investigated	June -September, 2018
4	Recommendations to improvement of soil quality under to be used crops provided	September-November, 2018
5	Implementation of specific measures to prevent land degradation in the selected farms	August-December, 2018

Monitoring: The National Land Degradation Expert will be an experienced national expert to provide analyses on land degradation and sustainable land use in the project. He/She will report to National Project Coordinator (NPC). The incumbent is expected to exercise full compliance with UNDP programming, financial, procurement and administrative rules, regulations, policies and strategies. During the contract period the working days: 120 days.

Qualifications and Competencies

- At least three years of professional land degradation experience in conducting studies.
- Good knowledge of Agronomy and Soil Science;
- Practical experience in assessment and study soil related issues;
- Previous working experience in the relevant field with international organizations;
- Good interpersonal and training skills are an advantage;
- Good organizational, time management and facilitation.

Technical skills

- A working knowledge of spoken and written of Azeri and English is required, including the ability to draft and edit project documents.
- Excellent computer skills, in particular mastery of all applications of the MS Office package.

Selection criteria: 1. Lowest price and technically compliant offer

- For more details please see procurement notice

Terms of Payment:

- Payment will be done in four instalments and based on completion of deliverables.
- 1 instalment – 20% advance payment, after signature of the contract (April,2018)
 - 2 instalment – 30% - deliverable 1 (June, 2018)

- 3 instalment – 30% - deliverable 2,3 (September, 2018)
- 4 instalment – 20% - deliverable 4, 5 (December, 2018)

Financial proposal should be done as a lump sum in consideration of supposed travels to the Project area. The breakdown is necessary. Daily allowance for internal travel is 92\$ per day.
Total no of days in the field: 50 days