**The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus** is an independent, not-for-profit organisation

with international character based in Tbilisi, Georgia. The mission of REC Caucasus is to assist the Caucasus states in solving environmental problems and support in building the civil society through promotion of public participation in the decision-making process, development of free exchange of information and encouragement of cooperation at national and regional levels among NGOs, governments, businesses, local communities and all other stakeholders.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Project Title:** UNEP/GEF “Land Restoration and Ecosystem Service Improvement through Use of Fruit and Nut Tree Biodiversity in Armenia” Project GEF ID 11140

**Leading Organization:** The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)

**Post Title:** Technical Expert on Land Restoration and Innovations

**Contract type:** Service Agreement

**Starting Date:** December 2023

**Duration:** 19th December 2023 – 30th April 2024

**Duty Station:** Republic of Armenia

**THE MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager and will have the following responsibilities:

1. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, identify areas in selected regions (marzes) for measures on mitigating risks of climate change and land degradation through planting fruit and nut trees and other tree species in deforested areas (pilot sites),

2. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, identify the areas to implement sustainable land and forest restoration (demonstration sites) through indigenous fruit and nut trees in degraded communal areas outside the pilots,

3. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, identify indigenous fruit and nut trees species and varieties with adaptation capacity (drought-resistant) for use in restoration of degraded lands and deforested ecosystems,

4. Identify and review available forest inventory documents for establishment of a national database and information system on indigenous forest tree and shrub species, high-value non-timber forest resources, fruit and nut tree species recommended for use in land and forest restoration practices,

5. Identify information to be used for development of maps on climate change vulnerability and land degradation, vulnerable zones and mining sites and making decisions on combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures,

6. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, identify gaps and issues in knowledge management system to promote innovation, integration, transformation and scaling up of the use of fruit and nut tree biodiversity,

7. Review international and national best practices for water and soil-saving technologies to be used for land and forest ecosystem restoration activities,

8. Identify and consult stakeholders and local communities on technologies on value addition and creation of new nutritionally rich food products, options for development of eco-agrotoursim (ecosystem services marketing) based on local fruit and nut tree species,

9. Review Information system development opportunities that can be available at local regional and national levels and accessible for use by public and private sectors.

10. Collect data from primary and secondary sources, regarding the values of the forest systems and their contribution to the economy of the target communities

**Competencies:**

* Professionalism: Knowledge of community and urban forest land restoration management experience (theory and practice)

especially of mountain areas of Armenia; familiarity with methods and principles of community forest and greening management policy and practice in Armenia.

* Communication: excellent communication skills.
* Teamwork: good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain working relations in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect to diversity
* Technology awareness: fully proficient computer skills, especially in word processing, Internet and database utilization.

**Field of study:**

Advanced university degree in environment related science, social or economics science

**Experience:**

At least 4 years of managing experience of land and forest restoration

**Language:**

Excellent writing and speaking skills in Armenian and Russian. Working skills in English is an advantage.

**Outputs, Terms and Conditions for provision of services**

Major outputs should be delivered together by the incumbent, the PPG and the International Experts:

* Provide detailed activities for the Project Log Frame activities related to the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity to restore landscapes
* Identification and detailed description of Pilot sites for restoration activities
* Identification and description of demonstration plots
* List of appropriate Fruit and Nut tree varieties for restoration with their descriptive traits.
* Report on the review of available forest inventory documents for establishment of a national database and information system on indigenous forest tree and shrub species, high-value non-timber forest resources, fruit and nut tree species recommended for use in land and forest restoration practices
* The component of the capacity and training strategy report on land restoration using fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity.
* Provide a report on information available for the development of maps on climate change vulnerability and land degradation, vulnerable zones and mining sites and making decisions on combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
* Report on best practices for value addition, nutritional improvement and water and soil management to restore degraded lands.

**Tentative schedule for delivery of outputs by the consultant: End of March, 2024**

**Payment mode**

1. Lump sum payable consultancy fee (30 %), upon delivery of the following outputs:

 a) Identification of appropriate areas in selected regions (marzes) for measures on mitigating risks of climate change and land degradation through planting fruit and nut trees and other tree species in deforested areas (pilot sites),

b) Identification of appropriate areas to implement sustainable land and forest restoration (demonstration sites) through indigenous fruit and nut trees in degraded communal areas outside the pilots,

2. Lump sum payable consultancy fee (40 %) upon submission of the following outputs:

c) identification of indigenous fruit and nut trees species and varieties with adaptation capacity (drought-resistant) for use in restoration of degraded lands and deforested ecosystems,

d) Identification and review available forest inventory documents for establishment of a national database and information system on indigenous forest tree and shrub species, high-value non-timber forest resources, fruit and nut tree species recommended for use in land and forest restoration practices,

e) Identification of appropriate information to be used for development of maps on climate change vulnerability and land degradation, vulnerable zones and mining sites and making decisions on combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures,

f) Identification of gaps and issues in knowledge management system to promote innovation, integration, transformation and scaling up of the use of fruit and nut tree biodiversity,

3. Lump sum payable consultancy fee (30 %) upon satisfactory completion of the task and upon approval by the PPG Manager/Coordinator of all deliverables, including:

g) review international and national best practices for water and soil-saving technologies to be used for land and forest ecosystem restoration activities,

h) Identification and consultation of stakeholders and local communities on technologies on value addition and creation of new nutritionally rich food products, options for development of eco-agrotoursim (ecosystem services marketing) based on local fruit and nut tree species,

i) Review information system development opportunities that can be available at local regional and national levels and accessible for use by public and private sectors.

j) Collect data from primary and secondary sources, regarding the values of the forest systems and their contribution to the economy of the target communities

In addition to the consultancy fee the expert will be paid cost of field trips and taxi fees, provided with accommodation, per diems, local transport during in country missions according to REC Caucasus established rates and procedures.

Interested candidates should submit their updated CVs and cover letters to the following address: inforeccaucasus@gmail.com by the 11th of December, 2023, by 12:00 a.m. EVN time. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.