

**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

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

**Post Title:** International Expert on Agrobiodiversity, Restoration and Capacity Building

**Contract type:** Service Agreement

**Starting Date:** December 2023

**Duration:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Duty Station:** Country of the International Expert, 15 days of work from which 7 days in the Republic of Armenia

## **THE MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager and International Expert on Project Development will have the following responsibilities:

1. Identify practical approaches in increasing the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity for urban and rural community development and develop an action plan for incorporation of the use of agrobiodiversity aspects in the project with quantifiable baseline and target indicators.
2. Assist the PPG team in baseline assessment of existing knowledge management and information system on agrobiodiversity, forest and land resources use and in development of a strategy based on review of national and international information systems supporting the access and use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity in land and forest restoration for both national researchers, non-government and community-based organizations;
3. Assist the PPG team in criteria set development for selection of sites for restoration using fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity.
4. Develop with the PPG team gender and age responsive training and capacity building strategy on assessment, access, management and improvement of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity use in land and forest restoration, on value adding and ecosystem services marketing produced by restored lands and forest ecosystems.
5. Design activities with the PPG team to develop a university, technical colleges, and middle/high school education institutes courses that will educate young people to assess, access, manage, and improve fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity to improve urban and rural livelihoods
6. In collaboration with the Technical Expert on Gender and Capacity Building, review international experience for developing gender and age responsive national capacity building strategy for all stakeholder groups dealing with agrobiodiversity conservation, land and forest ecosystems

management (including review of relevant UNEP and the GEF documentation on the requirements for gender mainstreaming into UNEP and UNEP/GEF projects, UNEP's Policy and Guide on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; UNEP's Gender Equality Strategy; UNEP's SRIF; GEF's Gender Mainstreaming at the GEF; GEF's Policy on Gender Mainstreaming; and GEF's Gender Equality Action Plan; to incorporate minimum requirements into project design, including outputs, activities, indicators).

7. Guide the PPG team, and provide technical inputs, to develop the project logframe, activities and a project training and capacity building strategy to assess, access, manage, and improve fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity for degraded land and forest restoration and to improve urban and rural livelihoods.
8. Guide the PPG team in the preparation of the M&E plan and indicators related to the monitoring (disaggregated by age and gender) of benefits to direct and indirect beneficiaries from the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity in land and forest restoration.
9. With the International Expert on Project Development and PPG Manager participate in the selection process of Technical Experts

**Competencies:**

- Knowledge of assessment and community management of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity (theory and practice); Familiarity with methods and principles of to develop information systems for communities and researchers to link fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity to community development and land restoration goals
- Capacity to develop middle school and higher education curriculum to integrate the use of fruit and nut agrobiodiversity into rural and urban educational programs.
- 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 (Master's or PhD degree) in environmental or plant related sciences

**Experience:**

At least 10 years of experience in agrobiodiversity project development and implementation

**Language:**

Excellent verbal communication and writing skills in English

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

Major outputs should be delivered together by the incumbent together with the international expert for Project Development and PPG Manager/Coordinator:

- Practical approaches to increase the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity for urban and rural community development identified and included in the Project Log Frame with quantifiable baseline and target indicators.
- List of criteria developed and sites selected for restoration using fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity
- List of fruit and nut tree species selected for restoration based on Bioversity's tool "Diversity for Restoration"
- Description of the Diversity Assessment for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience Tool (DATAR) adapted to Armenia's fruit and nut agrobiodiversity situation for rural and urban areas.
- Activities included in the Log Frame with quantifiable baseline and target indicators for the development of a university, technical colleges, and middle/high school education institutes courses

that will educate young people to assess, access, manage, and improve fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity to improve urban and rural livelihoods.

- Activities include in the Log Frame to ensure Gender and age responsive capacity building on assessment, access, management and improvement of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity use in land and forest restoration, on value adding and ecosystem services marketing produced by restored lands and forest ecosystems.

#### **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 practical approaches in increasing the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity for urban and rural community development and develop an action plan for incorporation of the use of agrobiodiversity aspects in the project with quantifiable baseline and target indicators.
  - b) Develop draft baseline assessment of existing knowledge management and information system on agrobiodiversity, forest and land resources use and in development of a strategy based on review of national and international information systems supporting the access and use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity in land and forest restoration for both national researchers, non-government and community-based organizations.
2. Lump sum payable consultancy fee (40 %) upon submission of the following outputs.
  - c) Develop criteria to set development for selection of sites for restoration using fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity.
  - d) Develop gender and age responsive training and capacity building strategy on assessment, access, management and improvement of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity use in land and forest restoration, on value adding and ecosystem services marketing produced by restored lands and forest ecosystems
  - e) Develop corresponding activities/action plans for a university, technical colleges, and middle/high school education institutes courses that will educate young people to assess, access, manage, and improve fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity to improve urban and rural livelihoods.
  - f) Review international experience for developing gender and age responsive national capacity building strategy for all stakeholder groups dealing with agrobiodiversity conservation, land and forest ecosystems management.
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) Guide the PPG team, and provide technical inputs, to develop the project logframe, activities and a project training and capacity building strategy to assess, access, manage, and improve fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity for degraded land and forest restoration and to improve urban and rural livelihoods.
  - h) Guide the PPG team in the preparation of the M&E plan and indicators related to the monitoring (disaggregated by age and gender) of benefits to direct and indirect beneficiaries from the use of fruit and nut tree agrobiodiversity in land and forest restoration;

In addition to the consultancy fee the expert will be paid cost of economy class round trip air tickets, airport and taxi fees, visa expenses, travel insurance, provided with accommodation, per diems, local transport and interpretation/translation 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: [infoeccaucasus@gmail.com](mailto:infoeccaucasus@gmail.com) by the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023, by 12:00 a.m. EVN time. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.