

Terms of Reference

Consultant – National Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project in South Africa

Background and objectives:

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment (UN Environment) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity are the implementing agencies of the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services. This project is funded by the European Union. It aims at assisting participating partner countries to advance the knowledge agenda on environmental and ecosystem accounting, to initiate pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and ecosystem valuation and to mainstream ecosystem related analysis and decision making at national, city and corporate level. The development of the knowledge agenda is undertaken with a view to improve the overall management of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at various levels of decision making and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in policy-planning and implementation.

The project will be executed through a mutually agreed National Plan and its related programme of work and will be overseen by national steering committee chaired by the Statistics South Africa (SSA) of South Africa. For day-to-day management of the project, a national expert will work as Co-Director in close consultation with its counterpart – Co-Director of the SSA in a Project Management Unit (PMU) to oversee and coordinate the activities of the programme work of the project in South Africa.

The consultant will work under the joint supervision of Statistics South Africa (SSA) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Duration: 24 months over the period of 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2019

Duty station or Location of Assignment: Consultant will work at SSA premises, with necessary travel for consultative meetings, costs of which are covered by the consultancy fee.

Compensation: commensurate with experience.

International travel: International travel will be required for the Consultant to participate in relevant expert group meetings, forums and workshops to present the outputs of this consultancy. Round trip transportation from the Consultant’s official address to meeting venues, DSA and terminal expenses will be provided in accordance with UN travel entitlements. Travel costs for these international travels will be obligated separately.

Duties and responsibilities:

The national expert will undertake the following tasks and activities:

Activity 1: Oversee and coordinate the work programme and project-related activities in South Africa

- a) Provide specific support and advice to SSA and the EU delegation to South Africa and serve as day-to-day project focal point

- b) Establish and co-lead the Project Management Unit and partnership among stakeholders
- c) Co-organize monthly coordination meeting with UN, EU and SSA to brief on the project implementation status in South Africa
- d) Co-lead the development of briefing notes and other communication material to disseminate the project updates and results to the broader national stakeholders and other international communities

Activity 2: Co-lead and support the development of a National Plan for Advancing Environmental-Economic and Ecosystem Accounting and the related work programme for the project in South Africa

Specifically, the incumbent will:

- a) Provide support to UNSD and SSA in organizing bilateral consultative meetings and high-level multi-lateral stakeholder meetings
- b) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of an assessment report based on desk study and visits of relevant organisations at national, city and corporate level. The assessment report will serve as an input to develop a national plan for advancing environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting in South Africa. The report will:
 - identify policy priorities, country interests, data availabilities, existing initiatives, relevant stakeholders and capabilities for the SEEA implementation in South Africa.
 - assess the existing statistical infrastructure and operations and develop plans to improve and harmonize the statistical processes of collection, compilation and dissemination of basic data consistent with the SEEA concepts, definitions and classifications to ensure a sustainable and cost efficient statistical production process of SEEA accounts, statistics and indicators over time
- c) Based on the national assessment, oversee and contribute the drafting of an associated programme of work on advancing environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting in South Africa, with agreed timelines and deliverables within the scope of the project, including the compilation of indicators, statistics, accounts, valuation and analysis is prepared and agreed by the broader stakeholder communities.
- d) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of a national plan broadly covering the objectives, main initiatives, stakeholders and priorities that is agreeable by the national stakeholders.

Activity 3: Co-lead and support the compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in South Africa

Specifically, the incumbent will:

- a) Oversee and contribute to the compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in physical terms for South Africa based on the assessment on policy priorities and data availability
- b) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of a national report that document the data sources, methodology data quality, compilation process, findings and recommendations on how to improve the quality and scope of the accounts in the medium term.

Activity 4: Co-lead and support the testing of selected SEEA-related ecosystem indicators in South Africa

Specifically, the incumbent will:

- a) Oversee and contribute to the compilation of selected SEEA-related ecosystem indicators based on existing data
- b) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of a national report that document the results of the indicator testing and the outcome

Activity 5: Co-Lead and support the organization of national forum and training workshop in South Africa

Specifically, the incumbent will:

- a) Co-lead and support the organization of a national forum once a year in South Africa during the project span (2017-2019) to ensure communication and outreach with the broader national stakeholders communities as well as other international communities
- b) Co-lead and support the organization of a national training workshop on ecosystem accounting in South Africa

Activity 6: Co-lead and support the work on economic valuation of ecosystems and ecosystem services

Specifically, the incumbent will:

- a) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of a national report on the assessment of valuation data points available categorized by ecosystem service and by geographical location in South Africa
- b) Oversee and contribute to the drafting of a national report that document analysis of how different policy choices impact ecosystem services both in physical and monetary terms in South Africa

Qualifications/special skills or knowledge

Education: University degree in statistics, economics, political sciences, international studies and development, environmental sciences, or a related field.

Experience: Proven experience within the UN system, government administration, non-governmental organization, consultancy service or a related organization.

Experience in the area of national accounting, environment statistics or environmental-economic accounts is desired. Knowledge on ecosystem modelling is desirable.

Experience in organizing and implementing projects on ecosystem assessment or related field is highly desirable.

Languages: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. Fluency in spoken and written English is essential; knowledge of the other is desirable. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

Competencies:

PROFESSIONALISM:

- Ability to provide technical advice in the development and implementation of programs, methodologies and policies with a view to improving statistical capabilities and standards of broad applicability.
- Shows pride in work and in achievements.
- Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter.
- Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results.
- Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns.
- Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges.
- Remains calm in stressful situations.
- Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

COMMUNICATION:

- Speaks and writes clearly and effectively.
- Listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately.
- Asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication.
- Tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience.
- Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

TEAMWORK

- Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals.
- Solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others;
- Places team agenda before personal agenda.
- Supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position.
- Shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

PLANNING AND ORGANIZNG

- Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies.
- Identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work;
- Foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

TECHNOLOGICAL AWARENESS:

- Keeps abreast of available technology; understands applicability and limitation of technology to the work of the office.
- Actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks.
- Shows willingness to learn new technology.