

UNOPS helps its partners in the United Nations system meet the world's needs for building peace, recovering from disaster, and creating sustainable development. UNOPS is known for its ability to implement complex projects in all types of environments around the globe. In an effort to promote organizational excellence, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following position:

Vacancy Details

Vacancy Code	VA/2010/73104/CFE/IICA3/01
Post Title	Consultancy for Final Evaluation
Post Level	IICA level 3
Position status	Non-rotational
Project Title	Regional Dialogue and Twinning to Improve Transboundary Water Resources Governance in Africa - Africa Water Governance Project
Org Unit	EMO IWC
Duty Station	Home-based
Duration	25 working days during 1 May – 31 August 2010
Closing Date	26 March 2010

Background

Introduction

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy at the project level in GEF has four objectives: i) to monitor and evaluate results and impacts; ii) to provide a basis for decision making on necessary amendments and improvements; iii) to promote accountability for resource use; and iv) to document, provide feedback on, and disseminate lessons learned. A mix of tools is used to ensure effective project M&E. These might be applied continuously throughout the lifetime of the project – e.g. periodic monitoring of indicators -, or as specific time-bound exercises such as mid-term reviews, audit reports and final evaluations.

In accordance with UNDP/GEF M&E policies and procedures, all regular and medium-sized projects supported by the GEF should undergo a final evaluation upon completion of implementation. A final evaluation of a GEF-funded project is required before a concept proposal for additional funding can be considered for inclusion in a GEF work program. However, a final evaluation is not an appraisal of the follow-up phase. Final evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, performance and success of the project. It looks at early signs of potential impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. It should also identify/document lessons learned and make recommendations that might improve design and implementation of other UNDP/GEF projects.

Project Background

The “Regional Dialogue and Twinning to Improve Transboundary Water Resources Governance in Africa” Project is a regional GEF grant being implemented on the entire African continent with several implementing partners (as detailed further below).

The goal of the project is to increase African leaders and stakeholders' knowledge and political will for balancing sustainable uses of water resources at the transboundary and regional basin systems scales by institutionalizing systems-thinking and adaptive management feedback mechanisms. It has the following four components:

Component 1: Legal, policy and management reforms in transboundary waters management.

Objectives: To facilitate policy, legal and institutional reform for transboundary waters management through increased knowledge and capacity of decision-makers, legislators and public opinion-makers.

Outcome 1: Enhanced understanding and capacity of regional and national decision-makers, legislators and the media to influence governance and reform shared water resource planning and management; Regional learning mechanisms institutionalized among African RBOs; Regional African perspectives presented at WWF 5

Component 2: Systems thinking approach to shared and transboundary water resources

Objective: To enhance regional and national knowledge and capacity for the management and planning of shared water resource systems through the integration of groundwater dimensions, climate impacts and development of science and policy linkages for river basin and lake system management;

Outcome 2: Capacity of key actors and institutions to mainstream groundwater considerations and climate change impacts in water resource management strategies and policies enhanced; African perspectives and priorities on groundwater and climate change articulated and presented in WWF5 session; A framework for collaboration on great lakes systems through enhanced science and policy linkages agreed; Lakes Management and governance perspective presented in WWF 5 include African Great Lakes.

Component 3: Mechanisms for investment planning and financial sustainability.

Objective: To strengthen investment planning processes in shared water resources management and infrastructure by sharing lessons on transition from donor support to self-sustaining regional water institutions and providing a basis for assessing optimal investments in support of benefit sharing discourse

Outcomes: Methodology for assessing benefit sharing options for investment tested; investment commitments at water system levels catalyzed; lessons on transition from donor support to self-sustaining regional water institutions transferred.

Component 4: Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Outcomes: Project components implemented effectively and efficiently accordingly; appropriate implementation of agreed monitoring and evaluation plan and subsequently completed evaluation of project based on project objectives and performance indicators.

Implementation and Execution

The project is implemented by UNDP and executed by UNOPS with several partners activity lead (PAL) for the different components. The PALs include InWent, UNESCO-IHP and UNU-INWEH and their respective subcontracts as relevant. A part time Project Coordinator assists with the day to day management of the project (as part of Component 4).

Duties and Responsibilities

The objective of the final evaluation is to enable the UNDP, UNOPS and stakeholders on the African continent to assess the project outputs, their impact and sustainability, and to take decisions on future orientation on how a project of this nature can be more effective in the future.

The final evaluation should address such issues as:

Project Design

- relevance of project design within the framework of GEF guidelines and global concern regarding African Water Governance issues;
- appropriateness of the project's concept and design to the current economic, institutional and environmental situation in the target continent;
- contribution of the project to the overall development objective as declared in the Project Document; and
- the likely impact of project interventions and sustainability of project outputs.

Project implementation

- general implementation and management of the different components by the implementing partners in terms of quality of inputs and activities, adherence to work plans and budgets, major factors which have facilitated or impeded the progress of project implementation;
- adequacy of management arrangements as well as monitoring and backstopping support given to the project by all parties concerned;
- institutional set-up through the Project Steering Committee and the degree to which it has encouraged full involvement of the intended beneficiaries on the African continent, such as River Basin Organisations (RBOs); and
- inputs of the bodies responsible for good governance and promoting the effective development and management of African water resources such as ANBO or others.

Project management

- responsiveness of project management to changes in the environment in which the project operates (to what extent and how well the principle of the adaptive management has been practiced);
- the role and effectiveness of UNDP as an Implementing Agency;
- the role and effectiveness of UNOPS as Executing Agency;
- the role and effectiveness of the project management structure; and
- co-operation among Partner Activity Leads, UNOPS and UNDP.

Project impact

- achievements of the project against the original objectives, outputs and activities as detailed in the project document;
- awareness of the participating RBOs regarding project outputs;
- level of ownership of the project by the participating stakeholders such as RBOs;
- commitment of RBOs to support the ongoing project;
- likely degree of support from the beneficiary countries in integrating the project objectives into their regional/national development programmes and other related projects, and how well the project fits into their national development policy;
- impacts on policy and strategy of countries;
- project impact on improving the capacity to prepare and implement collaborative, targeted and effective efforts for the management of African's water resources ;
- cooperation among and engagement of the international organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- cooperation with sister projects in the GEF IW portfolio, and
- sustainability of the project's impact.

Products Expected from the Evaluation

The end result of this evaluation exercise should be a Final Evaluation Report with an executive summary, findings, assessment of performance, lessons learnt, recommendations and description of best practices. The Final Evaluation Report should provide an assessment of the project progress towards meeting the objectives of the project (on the six-point rating scale from Highly Satisfactory {HS} to Highly Unsatisfactory {HU}). It should also rate project implementation on the six point rating scale (see attached file for

guidelines). The consultant should also take steps to verify and track the realization of the co-financing committed in the Project Document. The evaluation consultant should also submit a Mission Report, which can be combined into the Final Evaluation Report as an Appendix.

Based on the objectives and methodology of the final evaluation, the evaluation consultant should provide conclusions and recommendations, including:

- General recommendations on the implementation of the project;
- the degree to which the project objectives have been met;
- significant lessons that can be drawn from the experience of the project and its results, particularly those elements that have worked well and those that have not; and
- recommendations on further action upon completion of the current project and for the implementation of the subsequent GEF interventions.

In addition, the Mission Report should contain at least the following and be attached to the final evaluation report:

- Itinerary
- List of meetings attended
- List of persons interviewed
- Summary of field visits
- List of documents reviewed
- Any other relevant material.

As the report is the product of an independent evaluation, it is up to the evaluator(s) to make use of the information provided during the mission. However, the evaluator is responsible for reflecting any factual corrections brought to his/her attention prior to the finalisation of the report. Therefore, in order to ensure that the report considers the view of all parties concerned, is properly understood, and is factually accurate, it is necessary for the evaluator to submit draft reports to the project, UNDP/GEF and UNOPS. UNOPS will revert promptly with collective feedback from project partners in order that the evaluator may finalise the report. The final version of the evaluation mission report should be submitted in electronic format (MS Word) and hard copy to UNOPS no later than 31 August 2010.

Methodology

The evaluation will consist of two main activities:

- Document review;
- interviews with individuals who are either affiliated to the project in some way or who have or might be expected to be impacted by the project.

Document Review

The Evaluation Consultant shall familiarise him/herself with the project through a review of relevant documents. These documents include *inter alia*:

- Project Document
- Project Logframe
- GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) for all the years of project implementation
- Minutes of meetings of Steering Committee
- Progress reports
- Financial Reports (provided by UNOPS)
- Project outputs (technical reports, workshop proceedings, etc.)
- UNDP Handbook for Programme Managers: Results-Oriented Monitoring and Evaluation

Hard copies of selected documents, which are not available through the internet, shall be made available to

the Evaluation Consultant by the Programme Coordinator and the UNDP.

Field visits

The evaluation consultant might be required to travel.

Interviews

The evaluation consultant will carry out interviews with:

- UNOPS
- UNDP
- Project Coordinator (former and current)
- Partner Activity Leads and their sub contractors
- Selected members of the Project Steering Committee
- Representatives of relevant stakeholders that took active part in the project implementation,
- Other constituencies and stakeholders not directly involved in the project which may have experienced, or may be expected to experience, its impacts.

Although the Evaluation Consultant should feel free to discuss with the authorities concerned all matters relevant to their assignment, he/she is not authorised to make any commitment on behalf of UNOPS, UNDP, or GEF.

Management arrangements

A consultant will be hired through a contract with UNOPS. The travel of the Evaluation Consultant will be organized by UNOPS through direct purchase of ticket and payment of travel allowances or through the involvement of UNDP. The Project Coordinator will provide the required assistance with contact details of the relevant Partner Activity Leads and identified stakeholders/ beneficiaries.

Time frame

The overall evaluation assignment will be for a total of 25 days, covering a period of 1 May 2010 to 15 August 2010 with the following milestones:

- By 30 April: Appointment of Consultant
- By 14 May: Workplan to be submitted
- 1 May – 30 June 2010: Evaluation
- 15 July 2010: First draft Report submitted by Consultant for comments
- 30 July 2010: Comments back to Consultant
- 6 August 2010: Final Draft Report submitted by Consultant

Required Selection Criteria

Competencies

The Evaluation Consultant will have considerable knowledge and experience regarding the GEF IW operational programme; and will have in-depth knowledge of international water policy and legislation. The consultants will possess good knowledge of water management issues and relevant scientific understanding and in-depth experience of project evaluation techniques, particularly of those projects which are funded by GEF on the African continent. He/she shall not have been directly involved in the design or implementation of the project.

Education/Experience/Language

- Masters degree in Water Resource Management or related area

- minimum 11 years of relevant experience (Bachelors degree with 13 years of relevant experience may be considered in lieu);
- knowledgeable and experienced on international waters related issues;
- knowledgeable and experienced on GEF/ UNDP related issues;
- experienced in the water issues on the African continent;
- experienced in monitoring or evaluations with emphasis on GEF project evaluation;
- no prior involvement in the Africa Water Governance Project.

Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a letter of interest, complete Curriculum Vitae and an updated United Nations Personal History Form (P.11) (available on our website), via email to iwvacancies@unops.org. Kindly indicate the vacancy number and the post title in the subject line.

Additional Considerations

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.

For more information on UNOPS, please visit the UNOPS website at www.unops.org.