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Resilient nations.*

Job Title: International Consultant for Mid Term Evaluation of the project entitled “Inle Lake Conservation and Rehabilitation Project”

Location: Yangon, MYANMAR with field visit to project area

Type of Contract: Individual Contract

Duration of Contract: 10 days

Background

Inle Lake is facing the devastating effects of unsustainable natural resource use practices. It is getting worse with the adverse impact of Climate Change. The lake is a vital part of the broader ecosystem and economy of Shan State, providing many goods and services to its surrounding communities. It is on the tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS). It is also acting as a main water resource for Law Pi Ta hydroelectricity power plant, a major tourist attraction upon which many in the local economy rely, providing agricultural products, providing traditional products such as silk and silver ware, and a habitat for rich biodiversity and traditional culture. Realizing the current conditions of Inle Lake, it is in urgent situation to carry out conservation and rehabilitation activities for the Lake. With the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), UNDP and UNESCO, funds from Norwegian Government have been provided to implement the Inle Lake Conservation and Rehabilitation Project with the aim to restore the environmental stability and to improve the quality of life of local community in and around the area of Inle Lake.

Based on the five-year plan of MOECAF for Inle Lake Stability and Conservation, the project strategy is set up with the consultation of different stakeholders including authorities concerned. The project focuses on Kalaw Chaung watershed area which is one of the four main sub watershed areas of the Inle Lake since the Kalaw Chaung is in serious and visible sedimentation rate and impact. The technical assessment on biophysical features and socioeconomic conditions in the targeted project area has been carried out and based on the findings, particularly the proposed detailed project activities and village land use plan, the project is being implemented with 12 Local Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations in line with Micro Capital Grant (MCG) model of UNDP after the first call for proposal for the project.

Following the approval of the project from MoECAF and signing the agreement letter between the UNDP and Norwegian Government on 2 December 2011, the fund for the project: \$ 2 million and \$ 0.47 million from Norwegian Government and UNDP respectively, have been provided to implement the Inle Lake Conservation and Rehabilitation Project with the aim to restore the environmental stability and to

improve the quality of life of local community in and around the area of Inle Lake. The project has been designed to be implemented according to the Micro Capital Grant (MCG) Model of UNDP. The project area covers (3) townships; Kalaw, Pindaya and Nyaungshwe including 71 villages.

Objectives and scope of the mid-term evaluation

The objective of the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to assess the progress in delivery of Project outcomes and based on this assessment, to take decisions on the future orientation and emphasis of the project during its remaining time.

The evaluation is an activity in the project cycle which attempts to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project. The evaluation will assess the achievements of the project against its stated outcomes, including a re-examination of the relevance of the outcomes and of the project design. It will also identify significant factors that are facilitating or impeding the delivery of outcomes. Whilst a review of the past is in itself very important, the evaluation is expected to lead to recommendations and lessons learned for the future.

The mid-term evaluation will, using the methodology described below, and bearing in mind the following points, review the status of each project outcome:

Project design

- Relevance of project design within Micro Capital Grant Model (MCG Model) of UNDP;
- Appropriateness of the project's concept and design to the environmental conservation and community development in line with government planning for Inle Lake Conservation and Rehabilitation;
- Contribution of the project to the overall development objective (i.e., the top-level outcome) as declared in the Project logical framework; and
- The likely sustainability of project interventions.

Project implementation

- Adequacy of management arrangements as well as monitoring and backstopping support given to the project by all parties concerned;
- Responsiveness of project management to changes in the environment in which the project operates;
- Effectiveness of MCG model;
- Co-operation among Implementing Partners (IPs) and relevant Government Agencies;

Project progress and impact (outcomes)

- Achievement, to date, of the project outcomes as detailed in the project document and the Project Implementation plan;
- Level of communities' responsibility on Environmental Conservation and Community Development based on project's intervention;
- Impacts on regional and national government policies and development planning;
- Project impact on enhancing inter-agency and inter-project co-operation within and between regions;
- Catalytic impacts arising from the performance of the project; and
- Sustainability of the project's impact.

Learning from First Half of Project and Recommendations for its Remainder

- Learn from efforts to date, as basis for exploring ways to adapt or restructure the project design or institutional arrangements, if needed;
- Challenges or difficulties faced;
- How participatory vs. “top-down” has the project been? Is this properly balanced? If not, how so (and how to adjust)? ;
- Identify implementation challenges and recommendations for improvement;

The mid-term evaluation mission will also briefly review the current proposed activities for the remainder of the Operational Phase of the project and provide perspectives and recommendations to improve their feasibility and impacts.

Methodology

The evaluation will consist of three activities:

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

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the above objectives and methodology, the evaluation mission should provide brief, clear, conclusions and recommendations, including:

- The degree to which the project outcomes are likely to be delivered;
- Significant lessons that can be drawn from the experience of the project and its results, to date, particularly those elements that have worked well and those that have not;
- General recommendations on improving implementation for the remainder of the Operational Phase project; and
- Recommendations on further action upon completion of the current project.

5. MTE Mission Report

The evaluation mission will produce a concise report according to the structure outlined in the UNDP Guidelines for Outcome Evaluators:

Sections include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- The Development Context
- Findings
- Conclusions
- Lessons and Recommendations

In addition, the final report should contain at least the following annexes:

- Terms of Reference for final evaluation [1]

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

In consultation with the UNDP Assistant Resident Representative or his designee, this report format may be revised insofar as no significant elements are omitted.

As the report is the product of an independent evaluation, it is up to the evaluator 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 finalization 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 2 days prior to delivery deadline for the finalized MTE mission report. UNDP will solicit and revert promptly collective feedback from project partners in order that the evaluator may finalize the report.

The final version of the evaluation mission report should be submitted in electronic format (MS Word) and hard copy to UNDP no later than 4 weeks following activation of this contract.

Competencies for the mid-term evaluation mission

Expected Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in knowledge management, international relations, natural resource management, development studies or related fields, or equivalent demonstrated experience;
- Notable experience in working with developing countries particularly Myanmar;
- Demonstrated ability to reliably contribute to output- and outcome-based evaluations, both assessment and learning aspects;
- Familiarity with MTE process, UN and/or World Bank M&E procedures preferred;
- Excellent ability to work in English, effective oral and written communication skills;
- Experience with researching and writing on international environment and/or international development issues; and
- Facility and access to use of Internet email and Microsoft Word (2000 or later).

Indicative mission timetable, deliverables and itinerary

The duration of the consultancy working days, including travel time to and from consultant's home country, are altogether 14 days. Electronic submission of all deliverables is required. Any hard copy reports should be delivered to UNDP at the end of contract.

This schedule may be updated through written (or emailed) agreement between the UNDP representative and the Evaluator, as needed, during the course of the contract.

Payment

Candidates for Evaluator will have to provide their proposed daily rate when they apply for the post. The selection process will go through technical review and financial review for 70% and 30% respectively.

The air fare (economy class) for selected evaluator to and from his/her home country will be reimbursed by UNDP.

Application Process

Candidates should clearly indicate the Post Title in their application, and should submit together with complete bio-data stating personal details, academic qualification, work experience, P-11 Form and a recent passport sized photograph not later than **28 February 2013**. Applications should be addressed to Resident Representative Attention: Procurement Unit, No. 6, Natmauk Road, UNDP, Yangon. E-mail: registry.mm@undp.org.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s)." UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised post.