TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

***TERMS OF REFERENCE***

1. ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project No.** | 00103568 |
| **Project Name:** | "Promotion of financial instruments and land use planning to reduce emissions from deforestation" |
| **Location:** | Quito, Ecuador |

1. ***2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AND JUSTIFICATION:***

The Ministry of the Environment (MAE) receives financial assistance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as executing entity of the project "Promotion of financial instruments and land use planning to reduce emissions from deforestation", which It has the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as an agency accredited to the GCF.

The project is aligned with what is established in the REDD+ Action Plan, a public policy that has the general objective: to contribute to national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through conservation, sustainable forest management, and optimization of other land uses to reduce pressure on forests, thus contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

More specifically, the project will contribute to achieving the government's objectives, which are: 1) a reduction in gross emissions of at least 20% by 2025 compared to forest reference emission levels 2000-2008; 2) reforestation of 210,000 hectares of cleared land; 3) maintain climate regulation services (carbon) and others such as water regulation and associated biodiversity. Through this project, the GCF provides approximately 26% of the requested budget for the implementation of the 2016-2025 REDD+ Action Plan, which is national in scope and includes the 5 eligible REDD + activities.

The project forms a subset of the REDD+ Action Plan and executes it through 4 components:

* Favorable policies to reduce drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions. More specifically, it will support the coordination of initiatives to incorporate climate change and REDD + in national public policies and in the main land use planning instruments carried out by local governments, communities and indigenous peoples.
* Financial and economic incentives in non-forest areas to control agricultural expansion in forest areas and support the transition to sustainable "deforestation-free" agricultural production systems. It will do so by optimizing existing financial, economic, and market mechanisms, lines of credit, and fiscal incentives to implement agricultural and livestock production practices that reduce deforestation, and by strengthening purchasing policies for deforestation-free products, their certification, and traceability.
* Financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity.
* Instruments related to the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework, such as the NFMS and SIS, and the operation of the financial architecture of the REDD+ Action Plan to receive and channel future results-based payments.
1. ***OBJECTIVE:***

Provide support and technical assistance to the Government to improve project capacity and contribute to Ecuador's efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through conservation, sustainable forest management, and optimization of other land uses to reduce pressure on forests, thus contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

1. ***FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:***

Provide technical support to carry out the activities planned within the framework of the project. The objectives of the project will be achieved through i) expanding technical support with personalized support ii) developing and disseminating tools and methodologies that support the important steps of the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan in Ecuador; iii) organize specific workshops on key elements of the project; and iv) facilitate the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, through South-South and North-South cooperation, with a view to improving the capacity to advance the process of reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the country.

1. ***EXPECTED PRODUCTS:***

Provide technical assistance and contribute the following products in the framework of project implementation:

1. Support in the translation of reports and various documents (articles, publications) from Spanish to English. Review of reports and documents in English.
2. Generate technical support inputs for the preparation of terms of reference for specialized technical consultants to be hired in the project.
3. Technical and financial support for the implementation of activities through the use of UNDP programmatic tools (Letters of Agreement, Responsible Party Agreement). Includes legal advice for the establishment of the respective instruments. Success stories: Using these tools for restoration processes and Farmer Field Schools.
4. Legal and technical advice for private sector involvement leveraging previous UNDP experiences (successful case at the moment: Alliance with Lavazza for deforestation-free coffee pilot).
5. Facilitate the process of linking the project with other projects of the United Nations system, including technical support for the preparation of proposals that may lead to the signing of eventual agreements or access to financing. Successful cases: free access to the Cultivate Initiative (more information: https://www.agorize.com/en/challenges/undp-cultivate/pages/the-themes#ecuador) and to the community of practice for implement a pilot project with the GIZ-UNDP alliance of Big Data Positive Deviance. For the proposals that are being implemented, continuous support is also provided.
6. Technical advice in the strategic planning process. Successful case: Technical assistance was led and provided in the construction of the results chains of the Program using the open standards methodology[[1]](#endnote-1) that served the Program for the coordination between components, establishing results and roadmaps of activities in the short, medium and long term, as well as identifying synergies with other projects that the MAE manages.
7. Provide technical advice to strengthen the program's monitoring system. Successful case: Technically supported to strengthen the monitoring system, making adjustments to the indicators, including variables, and accompanying the acquisition of software for monitoring automation. Accompaniment is provided from headquarters to spatial monitoring on issues of forest cover and sustainable production.
8. Prepare the systematization of the strategic planning workshops of the Project using the systematization methodology of lessons learned elaborated by the FAO, for more information refer to <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ah474s.pdf>. The systematizations will include the preparation of reports where the commitments and agreements established by the actors are specified.
9. Give technical support and prepare proposals for articles together with the project management unit, both to leverage the Program's participation in international spaces and events, and in national and international media.
10. ***STAFF:***

The technical support will be carried out with personnel with knowledge of climate change, REDD+, conservation of natural resources and project management who will provide timely assistance to the project, particularly through the UNDP Specialist / Officer in charge of project monitoring.

1. ***DURATION OF ASSISTANCE:***

Technical assistance will be provided throughout the life of the project.

1. ***PLACE:***

Technical assistance will be based in Quito (UNDP offices).

1. ***BUDGET:***

Total approved amount: $153,867 that corresponds to technical assistance throughout the project, however, it will be charged to the 2017-2019 budget. The breakdown of the amount is shown in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year 2017** | **Year 2018** | **Year 2019** | **Total** |
| $ 26,660 | $72,968 | $54,239 | $153,867 |

1. The link of the open standards methodology is added for more information: <http://cmp-openstandards.org> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)