

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Consultant To**

### **Undertake Project Review of Selected UNEP/APFED “showcase” projects**

December 10, 2014

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#### **Background**

The Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) was set up in 2001 and brings together eminent experts from Asia and the Pacific to address critical issues facing the Asia-Pacific region and to propose new models for equitable and sustainable development. In 2005 the second phase of the programme had three components: Policy Dialogue, Knowledge Initiative and the Showcase Programme. This project is managed by the APFED Showcase Facility hosted by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP ROAP).

The Showcase Programme was designed to be an “innovation facilitation” to incubate innovative solutions, catalyse knowledge sharing to promote widespread application for sustainable development in the region. The APFED Showcase Programme commenced in 2005 with two pilot projects, came into full operation in 2006 and continued until 2010/11. During this period, 58 pilot projects in 20 countries were implemented under five thematic areas – Climate Change, Biodiversity, 3R, Capacity Building and Multifocals. The programme incorporated a “Replication Framework” that underscored information dissemination, training and capacity, proactive collaboration with external facilitators and catalytic funding as ways in which replication can be improved.

While a number of the showcase projects have been assessed by the project review/assessments as being successful in terms of meeting the needs of the community and demonstrating sustainable solutions, it has been observed by APFED that replication or scaling-up is not taking place as expected. There is a tendency to re-invent, despite the efforts made to disseminate information and create networks to increase replication. Similar experiences are reported in the literature and other similar programmes, where sustainability beyond the life of the project and replication are found to be limited.

The lack of replication, the economics of repeating or reinventing the wheel, the continued focus on innovation and pilot projects has implications on donors and the development sector professionals in terms of creating a multiplier effect to address the identified problem and to benefit a much wider target group. Overall, however there is little emphasis given to the generation of evidence that enlightens exactly how replication takes place both during and after the projects.

In order to increase the knowledge based on how projects can be made sustainable and more importantly what factors influences replication and scale up, UNEP has contracted the Centre for Poverty Analysis to carry out a review of the show case projects.

## **Study Objective**

This study is aimed at increasing the understanding of the factors which impact longer-term project success, and what aids or hinders replication of those projects at the local and national levels.

The research questions are as follows:

- What makes a project successful? (success to be defined in line with the objectives of the project (innovation) and the ultimate goals of sustainability (last beyond time with impacts for the community and environment that makes a change in the status quo beyond the life of the project)
  - a. What are the key factors that increase the levels of success of a project/intervention?
  - b. How important is context in terms of developing a replicable model?
- Why are successful projects not being replicated?
  - a. What are the factors/drivers of a project that lead towards replication (this would tend to be a group of elements and hence it would be necessary to look at the inter-linkages)
  - b. At what level are they more likely to be replicated? (Local, National etc)
  - c. What are the more common pathways in which replication takes place?

## **Role of the Consultant**

CEPA seeks to procure the services of several consultants to carry out ground level verification of Showcase projects in different countries in the Asia Pacific region and develop a case study on the sustainability and replication of the project.

Each consultant is required to carry out the following specific tasks:

- 1) Participate in the methodology development workshop
- 2) Adapt the information gathering tools in the local languages and formats
- 3) Carry out key person interviews with project implementers, partners and other local level informants to verify and triangulate information
- 4) Carry out site visits and Focus Group Discussions with the beneficiaries
- 5) Develop the case study based on the project information (in English).

Consultants are also expected to carry out the logistics necessary to complete the above tasks.

## **Qualification and requirements**

The interested consultants are expected to have the following skills and experience

- 1) Familiarity with the context of the country and development processes – including sustainable development policies and practices within the country of expertise
- 2) Good links to local level stakeholders
- 3) Academic experience and subject knowledge in environment, development or sociology
- 4) At least 5 years experience in project evaluation including using qualitative research methods
- 5) Countries for case studies will be selected from: Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. Consultants are expected to have work experience with one or more of these countries, along with the proficiency in local languages.

**Time Frame**

The tasks need to be carried out from January and to mid - February 2015, and will require 10 working days (excluding the participation at the methodology workshop). The consultants are expected to attend the methodology workshop that will be held in early January (between 7 – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015).

**Application process**

Interested individuals are requested to send their CV and writing sample, along with a cover letter (2 pages maximum) that presents a statement of interest along with work experience, country of interest, fluency in languages, availability in specified timeline and your expected daily rate. Deadline for application is 22 December 2014.

Please submit your applications to Ayomi ([ayomi@cepa.lk](mailto:ayomi@cepa.lk)). For further information on the project please contact Karin ([karin@cepa.lk](mailto:karin@cepa.lk)) or Eranga ([eranga@cepa.lk](mailto:eranga@cepa.lk))

**The Centre for Poverty Analysis**

The Centre for Poverty Analysis is a Sri Lankan think tank that works on issues related to poverty and development. It is registered in Sri Lanka under the Company's act as a not-for-profit company. CEPA's established expertise in qualitative research that has been complemented by increased capacity in statistical analysis. CEPA's work revolves around five thematic areas of post conflict development, infrastructure development, environment, vulnerability and migration. The themes contribute to CEPA overall knowledge base of poverty, prosperity, vulnerability and inequality. The Environment thematic looks to increase the understanding of the inter-linkages between the environment (its resources, management and use) and how it affects the lives of poor people and vice-versa. The objective of this work is to provide better integration of environmental factors into decision making, planning and programming at all levels and support the sustainable development paradigm. One of CEPA's core strengths is poverty impact monitoring and CEPA provides assessment and evaluation services to clients. CEPA's clients and partners include Bi-lateral Donors (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Swiss Development Agency) INGOs (Oxfam, CARE), NGOs (Energy Forum, Sarvodaya) as well as international research organisations (Overseas Development Institute, Oxford University).

Further information on the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) can be found on [www.cepa.lk](http://www.cepa.lk)