

I. Position Information

Position : **Environment Economist (Local)**
Location : Tehran,
Type of Contract : Individual Contract
Languages : Farsi, English
Duration of Initial Contract: one year, renewable
Application Deadline : 30th April, 2011

II. Background

The MENARID Institutional Strengthening and Coherence in Integrated Natural Resources Management project has an overall objective of contribute to the removal of barriers to climate-resilient integrated natural resources management (INRM) in Iran by providing coordination mechanisms, policies, inventories of good practice, degradation assessments and INRM training. Participatory, gender sensitive, community-driven demonstration activities of INRM are undertaken in four watersheds, representing a range of dryland situations. The expected outcomes from project's substantive and complementary components include:

1. Enhanced engendered knowledge and understanding of the drivers of land-use change causing land, ecosystem and water degradation with consequent impacts on ecosystem services and local livelihoods
2. An enabling environment for INRM and the use of the enhanced knowledge
3. Community-driven, climate-resilient approaches and techniques for sustainable land and water management demonstrated through INRM practices

The project also explores possibilities for developing mechanisms for sustainable financing of INRM activities, such as Payment for Environmental Services (PES) as innovative mechanisms for allocating funds from the beneficiaries of environmental services to the providers of these services, including carbon sequestration and water provision. The project will strengthen the institutional, legal, policy, financial and technical capacity of the concerned organizations at national and provincial levels.

The project started in September, 2010 for five years duration. It is implemented by Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) of the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture (MoJA), Government of Islamic Republic of Iran.

III. Functions / Key Results Expected

Summary of Key Functions: Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager (NPM), and in coordination with the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), and International Expert on Environment Economics, the Environmental Economist (Local) will

- Design and manage sustainable financing mechanism in the area of land, water, biodiversity and climate change adaptations,
- Assess economic viability and environment sustainability of potential project interventions,
- Design and manage the vulnerability assessment and engage with key stakeholders to disseminate lessons from the project on adaptation,
- Support knowledge building and knowledge sharing through synthesizing good practices and lessons learned,
- Support NPM, CTA and International Environment Economist in other related activities, when desired.

1. Ensures implementation of operational strategies, focusing on achievement of the following results:

- Identify and define specific economic methodology to be used in the project in coordination with Chief Technical Advisor, NPM and International Environment Economics Expert,
- Support and conduct analysis of economic, social and environmental valuation of goods and services related to the natural resource use, ensuring quality control;
- Provide technical inputs to design project interventions that are cost effective and environment friendly,
- Support and contribute to strategic discussions on viability and sustainability of project interventions vis-à-vis environmental issues with concerned stakeholders,
- Provide coaching and advisory services on sustainable financing mechanisms related to MENARID project,
- Identify potential stakeholders in sustainable financing mechanism and involve them in design and implementation of the mechanism.
- Promote the comprehensive capacity development processes in relevant areas in consultation with other experts,
- Contribute to the preparation and finalization of project reports.

2. Ensures effective and efficient functioning of the Project Management Unit (PMU), focusing on achievement of the following results:

- Conduct studies to estimate the quantitative environmental benefits at global as well as local levels from INRM practices at demonstration sites,
- Assess viability and cost effectiveness of project interventions that would promote environmental friendly practices and provide sustainable livelihoods to local communities,
- Support other experts in developing M & E indicators for measuring environmental benefits at local, regional and global level.
- Carry out surveys, assessment and feedback analysis in coordination with International Expert to monitor the impact of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and other sustainable financing mechanism on overall project effectiveness,
- Follow through with user feedback, progress and integrates the feedback to the future learning initiatives.

- ❑ Periodically visit the field to supervise and support implementation of project activities.

3. Lead knowledge building and knowledge sharing, focusing on achievement of the following results:

- ❑ Build linkages with environmental research institutions for effective research and capacity building activities,
- ❑ Document and disseminate best/good practices on economical and participatory approaches,
- ❑ Facilitate knowledge exchange by supporting and coordinating participation in existing network of UNDP/GEF projects sharing common characteristics,
- ❑ Identify and participate in additional networks, for example scientific or policy-based networks that may also yield lessons that can benefit project implementation.

IV. Competencies and Critical Success Factor

Corporate Competencies:

- ❑ Demonstrates commitment to UN’s mission, vision and values,
- ❑ Advocates and promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the MENARID project,
- ❑ Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.

Functional Competencies

Knowledge Management and Learning

- ❑ Promotes knowledge management in the office through leadership and personal example,
- ❑ Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more practice areas, acts on learning plan and applies newly acquired skills,
- ❑ Seeks and applies knowledge, information and best practices from within and outside of the MENARID-Iran project.

Development and Operational Effectiveness

- ❑ Excellent communication skills with ability to communicate sensitively and effectively across different stakeholders,
- ❑ Ability to conceptualize issues and analyze data,
- ❑ Ability to work with minimum supervision,
- ❑ Ability to supervise and train support staff,
- ❑ Ability to plan and organize work,
- ❑ Strong skills in computer and information technology

Leadership and Self-Management

- ❑ Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities,
- ❑ Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude,
- ❑ Remains calm, in control and good humoured even under pressure.

V. Required Skills and Experience

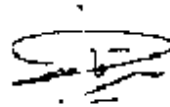
- Master's Degree or equivalent in environment, economics or other relevant discipline.
- Minimum 5 years of progressively responsible experience in environmental economics and preferably dealing with economic issues related to climate change, integrated land and water management and/or biodiversity conservation in large national or international development project.
- Previous experience with UNDP/Government of Islamic Republic of Iran projects in similar position is highly desirable,
- Fluency in Farsi with working knowledge in English (reading, writing and speaking).

VII. Additional Information

- Please send a cover letter justifying your candidature together with an updated CV of no more than 3 pages to -----.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for further selection process.

Signatures- Job Description Certification


Direct Supervisor (National Project Manager)



Name: Seyed Abolfazl Mirghasemi Signature

Date: 9th April 2011

Acting NPD (National Project Director)



Name: Parviz Garshasebi Signature

Date: 9th April 2011