CONSULTANCY

ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

Impacts, Vulnerability and Risks Sub-programme

ANNOUNCEMENT NO:	**13/CON05/A**
PUBLICATION/TRANSMISSION DATE:	**19 July 2013**
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:	**02 August 2013**
CONSULTANCY:	**Writing of a technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation.**
DURATION OF CONSULTANCY:	**30 working days (between 12 August and 04 October 2013)**
DUTY STATION:	**Consultant's home**

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the focus of the international political process to address climate change. The UNFCCC secretariat supports the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol through a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties.

The Adaptation programme supports Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in assessing, developing and implementing adaptation plans, policies and actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience and in improving the scientific basis for international climate policy and action, including through the review of the adequacy of the long-term global goal.

Background

The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) was established under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The objective of the NWP is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.[1]

Recognizing the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, and gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change, the SBSTA, at its thirty-eighth session, requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to undertake the following activities with a view to developing recommendations for practitioners on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change:[2]

- To prepare a technical paper, before SBSTA 39, on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;

[1] Further information on the Nairobi work programme is available at <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.
[2] FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9, paragraph 5.

- To organize a technical expert meeting, before SBSTA 40 (June 2014), on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, taking into account the information contained in the technical paper above.

Objective and scope

The technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change aims to serve as a background paper for the technical expert meeting. It will include recommendations for practitioners on the two subjects: the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.. The technical paper will also highlight the role of, and linkages between indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, and gender-sensitive approaches and tools within the context of adaptation.

The paper will consist of two substantive parts:

- Part I on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation;
- Part II on the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The consultant will be engaged to work on Part I, which will include, *inter alia*:

- A review and synthesis of information on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, drawing examples from different regions, countries, and sectors and within different adaptation contexts;
- An analysis of needs and gaps in both understanding and application of the tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different regions and countries, and in different sectors;
- Recommendations for practitioners on the use of these available tools for adaptation and on enhancing the use of these tools to reduce vulnerability of communities to climate change;
- Opportunities for possible collaboration among relevant organizations and adaptation practitioners for enhancing the understanding and application of these tools.

The main text of the paper will be approximately 60 pages (25 pages for each of the two substantive parts) and will contain an introduction, including the roles of, and linkages between two substantive subjects, a concluding section including recommendations, and an executive summary of 2–3 pages. Annex(es) could be included to provide details of supporting information (e.g. case studies).

The technical paper needs to be written in clear and plain language with the use of summary tables and explanatory diagrams wherever possible, keeping in mind that the primary targeted audience is policy-makers engaged in the UNFCCC process and adaptation practitioners in general.

While the consultant will contribute mainly to the substantive Part I of the technical paper, he/she will also be responsible to regularly liaise with the consultant who will be assigned to work on Part II, to ensure the timely delivery of the paper, and to coordinate on the content of the paper including to develop an introduction section, overall recommendations, and an executive summary concerning both substantive parts.

Requirements and qualifications

Education: University degree in climate change, sustainable development, disaster risk management,, environmental science, or other related discipline;

- **Experience:** Internationally recognized expertise in climate change adaptation, in particular indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and environmental policy;
- At least 8 years of practical experience working on climate change adaptation related issues;
- At least ten peer reviewed[3] publications on a subject relating to climate change adaptation, including on indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation;
- Sound understanding of the UNFCCC intergovernmental process on adaptation;

Language requirements: Excellent proficiency in English-language and writing skills are essential, and familiarity with the UN editorial style is an asset.

To apply

Candidates whose qualifications and experience match the requirements for this consultancy should use the on-line application system available at http://unfccc.int/secretariat/employment/recruitment.

[3] Evaluated by other experts in the same field.