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| Programme: | Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS) |
| PN: | 15.2101.2-002.00 |
| Assignment: | Conduct two studies in Armenia related to IBiS indicator framework |
| Period: | 02 July– 30 October, 2018 |

1. **Brief programme information**

The biodiversity of the South Caucasus is of global importance, but the huge variety of species and the proper functioning of the ecosystems are under threat. There is considerable pressure from the exploitation of natural resources by the local population, private industry and governments.

In each of the three countries of the South Caucasus – Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – there are National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and initial sectoral strategies for managing biodiversity and ecosystem services. As yet, however, these are unable to withstand the challenges posed by the conflicting interests of different sectors (forestry, pasture farming, agriculture, nature conservation and tourism). There is a lack of coordination between the various state and non-state actors and population groups (e.g. shepherds and farmers). In addition, there is not enough reliable data available on the different sectors to support planning and decision-making processes.

Within the framework of the Caucasus Initiative of the German government, the programme cooperates primarily with the environment ministries of the three different countries of the South Caucasus. The programme follows a multi-level approach. At national level, it promotes the development or revision of biodiversity strategies and regulations, particularly in forest and pasture management, and in erosion control. The experience gained from the pilot measures at district, municipal and local levels are incorporated into this process. As part of these pilot measures, relevant actors are provided with the skills needed to implement integrated approaches for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The module objective of the programme is to promote better coordination of biodiversity and ecosystem services management across sectors on the basis of solid data. The programme comprises four areas of intervention with the following objectives:

1. Instruments and coordination processes for the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services at local level are tested.
2. The implementation capacity of line ministries, their subordinate bodies and of training institutions regarding the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is improved.
3. The perception of the general public towards the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services is more positive.
4. The regional exchange on sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is improved.

IBiS follows up on the achievements of the “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus” programme and the “Integrated Erosion Control in Mountainous Areas, South Caucasus” programme, and is due to last four years (from December 2015 to November 2019). The programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

1. **Context**

In Armenia, GIZ-IBiS works with the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development with different pilot measures in several rural communities/municipalities, such as Sisian subregion of Syunik Marz in the south, Aragatsotn and Shirak Marz in the north of the country.

In Sisian subregion of Syunik Marz, livestock farming is one of the most important activities for the communities. In previous years, this activity has been at stake due to the loss in vegetation cover and soil erosion caused by unsustainable practices. This had led to a decrease in the availability of edible plants for the cattle, resulting in a decrease in the quantity and quality of the meat and dairy products. As a part of the IBiS program, pasture management plans have been proposed to integrate sustainable pasture management practices, based on previous monitoring analysis and studies on the effectiveness of the proposed measures. In 2017 pilot activities on degraded pasture lands started to be implemented to gain experiences on pasture rehabilitation measures, conducted in cooperation with local municipalities, the Armenian National Agrarian University as well as with the Worldbank financed CARMAC project (Agriculture Development Foundation under Ministry of Agriculture).

In Aragatsotn and Shirak Marz, communities highly depend on the ecosystem services provided by pastures. The erosion control, provision of groundwater, provision of grass for livestock grazing, herbs for selling at market places as important ingredients for Armenian cuisine or for producing tea, are only some of the services that these ecosystems offer and that are crucial for the subsistence of local population. Nevertheless, due to pressures such as overgrazing / undergrazing, mining-activities, the soil is in a degradation process, leading to erosion and the loss of the ecosystem services, impacting the livelihoods of the communities. IBiS, together with its main stakeholders on community level, implemented a range of measures to decrease or even control erosion, including afforestation and bioengineering measures on eroded land to stabilize and protect the soil. The implementation of these measures seeks to promote the provision of the ecosystems’ services and their benefits to the local communities.

The following studies shall be conducted:

1. Evaluation of one pilot project, considering gender-differentiated interests and participation (indicator 2b)
2. Gender-sensitive cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for two incentive mechanisms for the implementation of sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services at local level (indicator 2c).

International consultants are contracted to develop and introduce the methodology at the regional level as well as to provide advice during data collection, analysis and reporting. This will happen partly face-to-face, partly on a distance base.

A national consulting company will be selected to carry out the studies in the mentioned pilot regions in Armenia.

1. **Objectives and tasks**

The objective of the assignment is to carry out the mentioned studies in accordance with the provided methodologies.

***Task A) Evaluation of one pilot project***

IBiS Armenia decided to get a set of pilot activities evaluated: erosion control measures (including afforestation and bioengineering) and pasture amelioration measures. Mentioned activities were implemented in 10 pilot communities, but only in 2 of them the whole range of measures. Therefore the communities Saralanj (Shirak marz) and Geghadzor (Aragatsotn marz) were selected for the evaluation.

In particular, the consultant under this assignment shall fulfil the following tasks:

1. Joint preparation and participation in workshop on methodology for facilitators
2. Testing of the evaluation methodology and adaptation to the local context
3. Conducting focus groups and "expert" interviews
4. Data analysis & reporting
5. Presentation of findings to GIZ IBiS team

***Task B) Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)***

Objectives:

* compare costs and benefits of the implemented integrated management measures in the pilot areas and the “business as usual scenario”;
* provide information on whether it is worthwhile to implement the integrated management measures;
* provide recommendations on the best management intervention level.

Method:

* + comparison of costs and benefits of the implemented integrated management measures in the pilot areas and the “business as usual scenario”
  + should not be limited to a financial analysis, but also include the costs and benefits related to the provision in quantity and quality of relevant ecosystem services, as well as crucial externalities;
  + shall be elaborated with a distributional perspective and also incorporate a sensitivity analysis and consider gender aspects.

Specific tasks:

* Participate in distance training session on data collection and information on the socioeconomic and biophysical context of the 2 pilots (pasture management and erosion control measures).
* Participate in a kick-off meeting with IBiS (preferably by Skype) and define, in close consultation with the program:
* The specific scope of the CBA.
* The discount rate to be used in each CBA.
* Gender aspects to be considered in each CBA
* The costs and benefits to be integrated in the 2 CBA. This includes deciding on the costs and benefits associated to relevant ecosystem services related to the implementation of the integrated measures.
* The different scenarios to be assessed in the CBA, including the “business as usual scenario”. The scenarios on the integrated management measures should consider changes in the levels of intervention of the measures, location and time frame.
* Variables to be examined during the sensitivity and distributional analysis.
* Data and information collection in pilot regions
* Data collection and research on statistical and other background data at the national level, price calculations
* Data analysis and reporting (supervision and quality assurance by international consultant)
* Other issues on request of the international consultant

1. **Expected outputs**

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| 1. **Evaluation of pilot measure** | 1. **Two CBA** |
|  | Inception report explaining the applied methodology for analyzing the particular pilot projects and the structure of the final report (max. 10 pages) |
| Documentation of focus groups and expert interviews | Files of data sheets with row data and analyzed information, according to the templates provided by the international consultant |
| Evaluation report (max. 20 pages without annexes; structure to be agreed by GIZ-IBiS) | Separate reports for 2 CBA, max. 20 pages each (without annexes) |
| PPT of no more than 10 slides on main findings | PPT of no more than 10 slides containing the summary findings and recommendations (with illustrations, text, graphs and pictures) for both CBA |

The consultant company shall work in close cooperation with Caroline Wegner, Artur Hayrapetyan and Astghik Danielyan.

All deliverables are to be presented electronically in English language to Caroline Wegner, GIZ IBiS Advisor.

1. **Time frame and work schedule**

To achieve the previously stated objectives and tasks, the consultancy is planned to take place between 02.07.2018 and 15.10.2018.

The tasks to be performed and the deadline in which they should be finished are detailed below:

**Task A) Evaluation of one pilot measure**

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| **Tasks** | **Work days** | **Deadline** |
| Joint preparation and training of methodology for facilitators | 1 day \* 3 persons= 3 days | 31.08.2018 |
| Testing of evaluation tool and adaptation | 1 day \* 3 persons= 3 days | 31.08.2018 |
| Implementation: focus groups and "expert" interviews | 4 days\*2 persons= 8 days | 10.09.2018 |
| Data analysis and reporting | 6 days | 15.10.2018 |
| **TOTAL amount of days** | **up to 20 days** |  |

**Task B) Conduct 2 CBAs**

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| **Tasks** | **Work days** | **Deadline** |
| Distance training session with international back stopper on gathering data and information in the context of the 2 pilots | 2 days | 02.07.2018 |
| Kick off meeting with IBiS and international back stopper: Definition of scope, time frame, discount rate, costs and benefits and scenarios to be integrated in each one of the five CBA | 1 day | 06.07.2018 |
| Meeting the international back stopper and visiting the pilot sites | 3 days | 24.08.2017 |
| Preparation of inception report | 2 days | 30.08.2018 |
| Data and information collection in pilot regions | 10 days[[1]](#footnote-1) | 10.09.2018 |
| Data analysis and reporting | 8 days | 15.10.2018 |
| **TOTAL amount of days** | **up to 26 days** |  |

The assignment covers up to 46 working days in total, in the period of 02.07.2018 to 30.10.2018.

1. It is expected that the data collection related to the two studies in the pilot regions will be combined. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)