



Terms of Reference for the Great Green Wall Initiative on Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Forest Management Innovation Programme. GEF-SGP 7th Operational phase.

1.0. Background:

Desertification, climate change and loss of biodiversity are crucial problems for arid regions in Africa, where they combine to exacerbate food insecurity and adversely affect the countries' development efforts and the livelihoods of the poorest populations on the planet. Climate predictions for Africa show a severe risk of extension of arid areas, putting efforts to fight poverty on the continent at risk. Efforts made to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), SDG 13, SDG 15, Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 01) and other multilateral environmental and development agreements to improve the resilience of human and natural systems to climate change have not been attained at the level expected, in both the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of poverty.

Land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss are among Zambia's main environmental challenges with far reaching consequences for ecosystems, livelihoods, and the economy. Land degradation is largely driven by anthropogenic activities which include unsustainable agricultural practices, overgrazing, and charcoal production. These practices have led to biodiversity loss, reduction of ecosystem services and the reduction of income for forest and land-based livelihood strategies.

The Great Green Wall (GGW) is an African initiative to stop and reverse trends in land degradation, desertification, climate change and loss of biodiversity, especially in the arid regions of Africa through a coherent and common set of interventions. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) GGW, is an initiative aimed at addressing land degradation, desertification, and climate change in the Southern African region. This Great Green Wall Innovation Programme is a partnership between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the African Union Commission.

2.0. Great Green Wall Initiative: Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Innovation Programme.

The initiative aims to support innovative community-led projects to contribute to the implementation of the SADC GGW strategy and the Operational Phase 7 (OP7) strategic framework, for the GEF-SGP. The GGW Innovation Programme aims to demonstrate and generate lessons and good practices on how related community led projects could actively

promote participation of women, the youth and non-state actors (civil society organizations - CSOs) in the implementation of GGW Initiative strategy.

With increasing involvement in land and water management and as collectors of water and fodder, women and youth provide critical support to the health of farms and livestock in areas where soil is unproductive, rains are erratic/insufficient, and the men have migrated in search of work, leaving the women behind to earn additional incomes through agriculture and allied activities. While women are sometimes restricted in their ability to share their own knowledge of land management, engagement with women and youth organizations is essential to ensure that innovations and best practices developed through women-led initiatives, can be scaled up through partnerships and influence policy.

3.0. Priority themes and activities: Priority themes and activities for the SLM and SFM Innovation Programme will include:

Food security:

- *Empowering women for dietary diversification using improved agricultural techniques that conserve limited resources.*
- *Promote practices that improve nutrition to smallholder households, supporting their efforts to cultivate and consume locally grown, nutritious foods.*

Climate resilient agriculture and agroforestry:

- *Empowering women and youth in resource-efficient agricultural value chains*
- *Enhancing practices, choices, and concerns of women farmers in the areas of seed production, agro-biodiversity, sustainable agricultural practices, and natural resource management*
- *Diversifying production to include a variety of foods that enhance nutritional outcomes and increase resilience to climate shocks.*

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

- *Community forest management and restoration*
- *Agroecology-based food production and gathering*
- *Water management using user-friendly technology developed by youth to support farmers.*

Advocacy, Policy Influence

- *Documentation of innovations, good practices and lessons learnt derived from the supported community-based, women and youths-led projects.*

4.0. Social inclusion: The effective involvement of women and youth in implementing the GGW Innovation Programme is critical. CSOs and CBOs interested in applying for this grant should focus on the principal of Leaving No One Behind, thus, local people and persons with disabilities should also be involved.

5.0. Priority landscapes: For phase 1 of the GGW Innovation Programme, the prioritized landscapes will include Central, Western and Southern Provinces of Zambia.

6.0. Application process: The CSOs/CBOs have been identified as crucial actors in the implementation of the GGW SLM and SFM Innovation Programme. The GEF-SGP invites eligible

organizations to prepare a concept paper using the provided template. We highly recommend that proponent organizations, engage the communities in the development of the concept paper to ensure the proposed project idea is relevant, innovative, and inclusive. The concept idea should be aligned to the SGP OP7Country Programme Strategy and the GGW strategy.

Encouraging and building partnership among organizations and groups is an integral part of the GEF-SGP. Less experienced community organizations are encouraged to take part in SGP activities, assisted by an experienced local or national NGO, who will play a key role as mentors and partners. Only organization with 2 years' experience from the date of registration will be considered.

7.0. Budget: The grant amount for the budget will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. **The implementation capacity of the CBOs/CSO and the ideas being proposed will be considered when approving the grant amount.**

8.0. Project duration: The duration of proposed project should not exceed 24 months.

9.0. Submission of concept papers : Concept papers must be submitted directly to the GEF Small Grants Programme - UNDP Zambia, gef.zm@undp.org and copy registry.zm@undp.org no later than **20th October 2023, 5:00pm.**