

Terms of Reference for Experts to Conduct Feasibility Studies and Full Proposal Development for the Proposed SDF2 Funded Sustainable Land Management Project in Maroodijeex and Awdal regions – Somaliland

1. Background to SDF

The Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) was established in 2012 to provide a single vehicle through which development partners could support Somaliland's development goals. The first phase of the SDF was implemented in 2013-2017 and supported the Government of Somaliland (GoSL) filling a critical gap through funding projects that are fully aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) while at the same time recognizing the role of GoSL in the delivery of basic services.

The Somaliland Development Fund – Phase 2 (SDF2) covers the period 2018-2023. SDF2 is conceived as an inclusive economic development programme. It supports the GoSL in delivering infrastructure that is relevant for inclusive economic development. It focuses on sustainable investments that spur job creation and fast growth, while at the same time laying the foundation for long-term resilience and development, leading to a more stable and peaceful Somaliland. SDF2's support is fully aligned with government priorities as defined in the National Development Plan 2 (NDP2) 2017-2021 and reflect the priorities set out in Somaliland Vision 2030.

The objectives of the SDF2 are threefold:

- Support increased inclusive economic growth through investment in productive, strategic infrastructure to enhance economic growth and revenue generation.
- Strengthen and maintain the capabilities of the government of Somaliland to prioritise and manage the sustainable and equitable development of Somaliland's infrastructure.
- Support strong government ownership of development priorities aligned with the National Development Plan.

2. Background to agricultural context in Somaliland

The production sector including Agriculture is among the most important sectors for Somaliland Economy. Agriculture, in particular, is the second most important and next to livestock and makes 13.4% of the country's GDP. There are 10 agro-ecological zones and most of them are arid or desert with limited agricultural production; however, the land that is suitable for cropping is estimated to be 350,000 hectares. The rainfall is very low and variable throughout the country with an average of 14.5 inches in most parts of the country, which comes during GU and Dayr seasons. Therefore, droughts and water scarcity are major obstacles to agriculture in Somaliland.

3. Proposed project

The proposed Sustainable Land Management Project seeks to improve the agricultural production of small farmers through Soil and Water Conservation, research, extension, farmer training and

the supply of farm inputs. Lack of these interventions will increase the land degradation and poor crop production which can result in a decrease in crop production and food insecurity in general.

This project will target two agricultural areas in Somaliland located in Awdal and Maroodijeex regions. The proposed project is aimed at improving the agricultural production of small farmers through Soil and Water Conservation, research, extension, farmer training and the supply of farm inputs. Lack of these interventions will increase the land degradation and poor crop production which can result decrease in crop production and food insecurity in general.

3.1 Durdur Ad Catchment

Durdur Ad Catchment (DAC) is among the 10 zones that cover approximately 3,824.34km. DCC recently experienced a land degradation, concurring once a fertile land in Awdal region and turning to a barren land with extensive soil erosion and deep gullies, which is threatening the basic sources of livelihoods for agro-pastoralist households. The land use system in DCC was fundamentally sustainable since nomadic pastoralists stayed on the land for short periods; thus, providing the vegetation in the grazed area with the opportunity to recover. Currently, this catchment is settled permanently for crop production and livestock raring with an intensive land use system often including high stocking rates and a predominantly for sorghum mono-cropping culture. Since this community is dependent almost entirely on crop production and livestock keeping, the declining natural agricultural resources base has direct implications for rural livelihoods and community resilience to environmental shocks.

3.2 Maroodijeex Upper Catchment (MUC)

Maroodijeex Upper Catchment (MUC), located around 30KM from Hargeisa capital city, was faced with similar soil erosion and land degradation experience for the two decades. This land degradation challenges were partially reversed with SDF1 support to the agricultural sector under the MUC project. This project delivered comprehensive land use management interventions including soil and water conservation interventions, improved farming practices, research, and extension services. However, research and extension services component require further strengthening to sustain the investments made in Aburin research center.

4. Scope of work

SDF2 implementation framework requires all projects submitted for SDF2 funding should be identified, designed, and developed by the respective line ministries and agencies of the Government of Somaliland (GoSL) in line with their sector strategies and aligned to the second National Development Plan (NDP2) 2017 - 2021. In this regard, the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) has developed a Project Concept Note in line with the sector priorities and has been approved by the SDF2 Joint Steering Committee (JSC). The next step in the process is the development of a full project proposal. The SDF Secretariat is therefore seeking the services of three Short-Term Experts (STEs) to support MoAD in the development of the full proposal. The experts are:

1. Senior Agricultural Production Expert (Team Leader)
2. Soil and Water Conservation Expert

3. National Civil Engineer

The STEs should not replace government capacities, but instead reinforce existing ones. As part of the assignment, the STE will therefore be expected to involve relevant MoAD staff in writing the proposal as a part of on the job training.

5. Key tasks

Under the leadership of the Team Leader who is also the Senior Agricultural Production Expert, the team will be responsible for the following:

5.1 Senior Agricultural Production Expert - Team Leader

Referring to the SDF2 Project Proposal template, Guidance Note and Project Cycle Manual, in close collaboration with MoAD team, the Senior Agricultural Expert shall accomplish the following tasks:

Overall leadership

- Overall leadership and guidance for the assignment;
- In coordination with the MoAD lead in the development of the project concept note and full project proposal based on input from the other consultants;
- Provide guidance, assist and coordinate the activity of the National Engineer, Soil and Water Conservation Expert and ensure that their activities fully inform the development of the full Project Proposal; and
- Submit the final project proposal document to the SDF Secretariat for review and approval.

Feasibility assessment

- Review the MoAD Strategic plan, Maroodijeex and Awdal Regional Development Plans, the National Development Plans and other related documents relevant to the proposed project;
- Undertake detailed structured consultations with the Ministry of Agricultural Development in Hargeisa and in Awdal region;
- Review relevant literature and undertake field visits to Durdur Ad and Maroodijeex Upper Catchment in Awdal and Maroodijeex regions and Awdal regions including but not limited to level of erosion, existing of gullies, effects on agro-pastoral communities, and capacity requirement of Aburin research centre in line with the sustainability principle;
- Assess the current status (operations and institutional arrangement (system/structure) for management of the agricultural catchment and identify appropriate gaps and how they can be addressed;
- Assess the justification for the two proposed catchment viz. a viz. other needs in the soil and water conservation in the two regions and provide appropriate recommendations; and
- Validate the findings of the feasibility assessment with the MoAD before using them in the development of the project proposal.

Agricultural production

- Review the Project Concept Note prepared by the MoAD;

- Review the Land Use Policy and Water Resources and Climatic Issues strategies and other related documents relevant to the proposed project;
- Hold detailed meetings with the MoAD senior and technical staff to understand the rationale and the appropriateness of the proposed project to the agricultural sector in Somaliland;
- Undertake field visits and hold meetings with relevant stakeholders and review relevant literature to understand how the extent of soil erosion in the whole watershed, how conservation agriculture is organised in the proposed project sites (Gebilay, Baki, Boon, and Hargeisa districts) and how conservation efforts can be organised to enhance agricultural productivity. The visits should be conducted in consultation with the MoAD officials both at the National, regional and district levels.
- Hold discussions with farmers, community leaders, local authorities and MoAD to understand community and land ownership structure, how the conservation efforts can be sustained at the community level and conflict potential once the land has been rehabilitated and soils conserved.
- Assess the agricultural production in the two catchments areas and come up with ways of improving or reorganising them for better production.
- Review the status of Aburin Research Centre especially the pending construction works, policies and procedures, institutional set up in place to governance and how gaps can be filled to ensure sustainability of the sustainability of the centre;

Full proposal development

- Working with the other STEs and the MoAD team, develop a coherent project intervention logic based on which the project proposal shall be based;
- Guided by the SDF2 full project proposal development guidelines, develop a project log-frame coherent with project objectives thoroughly defining impact, outcome, output, activities, and indicators;
- Describe the project strategic context with a strong focus on sectorial context and project compliance with government development policies and regulations;
- Describe how the project is going to address the main cross-cutting issues with a strong focus on:
 - ✓ Institutional sustainability, i.e. who is going to manage the output after project completion?
 - ✓ Operational sustainability, i.e. how the project will be managed after completion?
 - ✓ Financial sustainability, i.e. how much will it cost managing the output after project completion?
 - ✓ Obtain inputs of the Environment, Gender and Conflict Analysis short term experts (engaged separately) for the environmental sustainability, gender and social inclusion and sensitive conflict programming components of the proposal.
- Assess the technical feasibility of the project providing draft technical solutions and options and future expansion prospects for the well field.
- Develop a cost-based project implementation plan detailed at the activity level.
- Develop a realistic project work plan detailed at the activity level.
- Develop a reliable project budget detailed at the activity level following SDF format.
- Develop a reliable procurement plan at activity level.

5.2 Short Term Expert – Soil and Water Conservation Expert

- Review the Project Concept Note prepared by the MoAD;
- Conduct visits to each of the proposed catchments locations in Auburn and Durdur Ad to gain an understanding of the condition of land erosion and degradation in those areas to determine the extent of repairs required, action required;
- Review the Land Use Policy and Water Resources and Climatic Issues strategies and other related documents relevant to the proposed project;
- Hold detailed meetings with the MoAD senior and technical staff to understand the rationale and the appropriateness of the proposed project to the agricultural sector in Somaliland;
- Undertake field visits and hold meetings with relevant stakeholders and review relevant literature to understand how the extent of soil erosion in the whole watershed, how conservation agriculture is organised in the proposed project sites (Gabiley, Baki, Boon, and Hargeisa districts) and how conservation efforts can be organised to enhance agricultural productivity. The visits should be conducted in consultation with the MoAD officials both at the National, regional and district levels.
- Hold discussions with farmers, community leaders, local authorities and MoAD to understand community and land ownership structure, how the conservation efforts can be sustained at the community level and conflict potential once the land has been rehabilitated and soils conserved.
- Review the existing standard designs/drawings of soil and water conservation structures infrastructures (if available) and ascertain their suitability for the proposed purpose.
- Based on the findings, determine the appropriate soil and water conservation measures in consultation with MoAD officials for soil and water conservation.
- Establish the basis of the budget estimates that have been used to compute the budget in the concept note. If the budget does not have a sound basis, propose a sound basis for estimating the cost of the project.
- Provide detailed text for inclusion in the full project proposal narrative, budget, workplan and logical framework.

5.3 Short Term Expert – National Civil Engineer

- Based on the approved concept note, conduct visits to each of the proposed catchments locations in Maroodijeex and Durdur Ad to gain an understanding of the condition of soil erosion and degradation in those areas to determine the extent of repairs required, action required;
- Review the existing standard designs/drawings of soil and water conservation structures infrastructures as well soil harvesting structures (if available) and ascertain their suitability for the proposed purpose.
- Conduct meeting with the other actors who have implemented similar works in the regions such GAA and GIZ/KfW to obtain information on standard costs for similar or comparable works and designs harmonisation;
- Based on the findings, determine the appropriate soil and water conservation measures in consultation with MoAD officials for soil and water conservation.

- Based on the information obtained from other actors and the field visits, draft new a cost estimates, sketches. The Cost estimate should be clear on measures, quantities and description and estimates should conform to the local market conditions;
- Provide an assignment report
- Provide detailed text for inclusion in the full project proposal narrative, budget, workplan and logical framework.

6. Duration, location and deliverables

6.1 Timing and duration

- Team Leader - Senior Agricultural Production Expert – 40 days
- Short Term Expert - Soil and Water Conservation – 20 days
- Short Term Expert – National Civil Engineer – 20 days

6.2 Locations

The experts will work from Hargeisa with travel to field locations in Wajaale and Aburin.

6.3 Deliverables

Activity	By who	When
Inception report	TL with contribution from S&W Conservation Expert and National Engineer	4 th day
Draft feasibility study report	TL with contribution from S&W Conservation Expert and National Engineer	20 th day
Final feasibility study report	Team Leader	24 th day
Draft full project proposal	Team Leader	32 th day
One week break to allow for comments		
Addressing of comments	Team Leader	38 th day
Final full project proposal	Team Leader	40 th day

A consulting week will run from Saturday to Thursday (6 working days).

7. Required qualifications, skills and experience

8.1 Senior Agricultural Production Expert (Team Leader)

Qualifications and skills

- Master's Degree in Agricultural Sciences, Agronomy, Soil Science or Agricultural Economics;
- Demonstrated excellent command of spoken and written English; and
- Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills.

General professional experience

- Extensive previous experience (minimum 12 years) in implementing Dryland Agricultural Projects African arid and semi-Arid lands.

- Proven understanding of Project Cycle Management (PCM), Logical Framework Approach (LFA);
- Experience in conducting feasibility appraisal for dryland agriculture and soil and water conservation projects in Africa arid and semi - arid lands; and
- Demonstrated understanding of contribution of the agricultural sector to economic development.

Specific professional experience

- At least 8 years' experience in designing and supervising/managing projects related to Dryland Agriculture or Soil and Water Conservation in fragile and conflict affected countries;
- Designed and wrote proposal at least one project proposal focusing on dryland agriculture and soil and water conservation in the last three years;
- Conducted at least one feasibility or prefeasibility study for dryland agriculture or soil and water conservation in the last three years.

8.2 Soil and Water Conservation Expert

Qualifications and skills

- Master's Degree in Agricultural Engineering, Water Engineering or Range Management, Natural Resources Management;
- Demonstrated excellent command of spoken and written English; and
- Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills.

General professional experience

- Minimum of 10 years' experience in implementing Soil and Water Conservation Projects in African Arid and Semi-Arid lands; and
- Experience in conducting feasibility appraisal for Soil and Water conservation projects in Africa drylands.

Specific professional experience

- At least 8 years' experience design and implementation of soil and water conservation infrastructures in arid and semi-arid areas. Practical experience in labour intensive community-based implementation will be an added advantage; and
- Conducted at least one similar assignment in the last 3 years.

8.3 National Civil Engineer

Qualifications and skills

- At least bachelor's degree Civil or Technology Engineering;
- Demonstrated excellent command of spoken and written English. Fluency in Somali will be an added advantage although not essential; and
- Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills.

General professional experience

- Minimum of 10 years' experience working at a senior level in the designing, implementing/supervising construction projects in Somaliland;

Specific professional experience

- Evidence of at least three similar assignments in the last three years involving needs assessment and design of water harvesting infrastructure or buildings construction projects complete with detailed designs, BoQs and technical specifications.
- Ability to use engineering software such as AutoCAD and others.

8. Supervision

The Experts will work under the overall guidance of the SDF2 Team Leader and day to day supervision of the SDF2 Deputy Team Leader for Projects and the designated officer of the MoAD.

9. Payment

- All fees will be paid after completion and approval of the assignment final report;
- The SDF Secretariat will organize and pay for Experts accommodation and DSA as per SDF2 guidelines.

10. Duty of Care

- The Expert will work under the overall SDF Secretariat Health, Safety and Security protocols;
- The Expert will be expected to provide own insurance for health care, accidents, and other risks associated to the assignment. The SDF Secretariat shall be free from any liabilities arising from the same;

11. Other provisions

- Travel: The SDF Secretariat will facilitate the Expert's transport in Hargeisa and in the field.
- Meetings: The SDF2 Deputy Team Leader – Projects and the MoAD team shall organise all the required meetings;
- Relevant documents: The SDF2 Deputy Team Leader – Projects shall furnish all pertinent available data and information and give such assistance as shall be reasonably required by the Expert in carrying out the assignment;
- Personal Computers: the Expert is responsible for the provision of his/her own personal computer.