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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE

DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DoERN)

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUTA DJALLON HIGHLAND

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT, EXPERT IN CLIMATE FINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE SET-UP OF A PROJECT FOR GREEN FINANCE AND CLIMATE FUNDS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE FOUTA DJALLON HIGHLAND

September 2025

1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The Fouta Djallon Highland (MFD) consists of several high basins located in the centre of the Republic of Guinea and extending into Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. This Highland is the source of several major international rivers in West Africa, including the Gambia, Niger and Senegal, as well as numerous other rivers. The sub-region is characterised by a Guinean to Sudano-Guinean climate. Given its geographical and climatic diversity, this region has a wide variety of ecosystems. The Fouta Djallon Highland is a huge reservoir of biological diversity that must be protected and preserved, as it is home to many plant and animal species, some of which are considered endemic and require special protection. The Highland also contains significant mineral resources. This cross-border area is undergoing accelerated degradation of its natural resources as a result of natural actions and human interventions, including (i) traditional practices of shifting agriculture on burnt land; (ii) excessive logging; (iii) accelerated soil erosion; (iv) reduction in flora and fauna species; v) increased water runoff; and vi) the cumulative effects of climate change, etc.

Several projects to safeguard and preserve the Fouta Djallon Highland have been implemented under this programme (PRAFD, PGIRN, etc.). The evaluation of these projects highlighted a number of positive results but also identified weaknesses that explain the persistence of environmental problems, in particular i) the lack of an adequate and functional framework for the governance of the Fouta Djallon Highland's natural resources; (ii) the lack of monitoring and evaluation tools and decision-making aids for knowledge, planning and governance of water resources and associated ecosystems in the Fouta Djallon Highland; (iii) limited knowledge of the state of degradation of water resources and associated ecosystems in the Fouta Djallon Highland linked to human activities and the adverse effects of climate change; and (iv) the lack of initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the Fouta Djallon Highland; (v) the absence of a sustainable mechanism for financing activities and the Fouta Djallon Highland preservation system.

The specific context of the Fouta Djallon Highland countries requires a regional initiative for the sustainable management of biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems in the face of climate change, the implementation of integrated water resource management, including uses aimed at protecting the headwaters of rivers. This initiative should focus on transboundary cooperation around the Fouta Djallon Highland river basins in order to build on the achievements and results already made in other projects for the benefit of local populations in particular and West Africa in general.

2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Programme is to: "Ensure the protection and rational use of the natural resources of the Highland and its areas of influence in order to contribute to improving the living standards of the population living in the highlands and sub-basins of the Programme's member countries by reversing the trend of resource degradation.

Specifically, the Programme has the following objectives:

- Establish a regional framework and mechanism to bring together all initiatives that contribute to the preservation of the resources of the Fouta Djallon Highland and its dependencies;
- Establish a regional monitoring and evaluation framework by operationalising the Fouta Djallon Highland Regional Observatory for Natural Resources and Climate (ORRNC-MFD).
- Establish a regulatory framework for data management and strengthen institutional capacities for cooperation between all stakeholders (OB, countries, NGOs, etc.).
- Improve the coordination of IWRM activities and sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity at the transboundary basin level.
- Establish a regional mechanism for the sustainable financing of the Fouta Djallon Highland's natural resources and climate preservation system and activities.

3. CONSULTANT'S MISSION

In view of the above, the PRAI-MFD Coordination Unit aims to set up a regional programme to reinforce the political will already expressed to build a regional coalition for the preservation of the Fouta Djallon Highland. To achieve this, it needs to find the necessary resources to finance this programme, which will involve multiple stakeholders and sectors. Among the target sectors, climate change issues will be at the heart of this programme, which is why the Coordination Unit intends to engage the services of an expert to assist it in formulating projects to be submitted for financing from green funds, climate funds and other innovative funds, which is the subject of this commission.

As part of the stakeholders' commitment, particular attention will be paid to resource users, notably the private sector (in particular mining and logging companies), in order to guide their investments towards the sustainable use of resources and the development of public/private partnerships on infrastructure for the conservation and optimal use of natural resources, particularly water.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE MISSION

The main objective of the Consultant's mission is to support stakeholders in developing bankable projects that are eligible for green financing and climate funds. Specifically, the Consultant will be tasked with :

- Conduct an assessment to identify financing opportunities suitable for projects to preserve the Fouta Djallon Highland;
- Support the Coordination Unit in developing a project proposal aligned with donor criteria;
- Support the Coordination Unit in mobilising climate and environmental financing;
- Define strategies and recommendations for effective fund mobilisation.

5. EXPECTED RESULTS FROM THE CONSULTANT

The main results expected from the mission are:

- An assessment of green and climate finance opportunities available for the Fouta Djallon Highland;
- A clear and relevant project proposal drafted and submitted to donors;
- A roadmap for the short-, medium- and long-term funding mobilisation strategy;
- Capacity building for the Coordination Unit on climate fund procedures and requirements.

6. CONSULTANT PROFILE

6.1. Qualifications for the assignment

The Consultant must have a university degree (at least five years of higher education) in environmental sciences, sustainable development, climate finance or any other related field.

6.2. General experience

The climate finance consultant must have at least 10 years' experience in the field of climate change.

6.3. Specific experience:

To carry out this assignment, the consultant must have:

- at least seven (7) years of relevant professional experience in setting up projects related to green finance and climate funds and in designing climate programmes/projects;
- have carried out at least two (02) similar assignments in the design and development of climate change mitigation projects/programmes submitted to the Green Climate Fund or the Adaptation Fund;
- at least three years' relevant experience in the field of capacity building in an African context;
- Specific experience in relevant areas related to climate and Regional Climate Strategy themes (agriculture, forestry, water, etc.);
- Good knowledge of Green Climate Fund procedures and issues relating to Regional Environmental Policy, the Regional Climate Strategy and ECOWAP.
- Good knowledge of international financing mechanisms (GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund, etc.);
- Work experience in West Africa, ideally in the Fouta Djallon Highland or similar contexts, would be an asset;
    - Good knowledge of ECOWAS community policies and commitments on the environment, sustainable development, natural resource management, climate and gender issues.

6.4. Language skills

The individual consultant must be fluent in English or French or Portuguese (reading, writing, speaking). Working knowledge (reading, writing, speaking) of the other official language(s) of ECOWAS (English, Portuguese or French) would be an asset.

7. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the selection procedure for individual consultants, in accordance with the ECOWAS Procurement Code in force.

8. DURATION AND TERMS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment will last for a period of **three (3) months** from the signing of the contract, for a total of 22 hours per day. The consultant will work closely with the Coordination Unit and, where necessary, with the programme stakeholders, the institutions concerned with the Fouta Djallon Highland and the identified donors.

9. SCHEDULE AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The products and deliverables expected at the end of the Consultant's mission should enable the Coordination Unit to have a fund-raising strategy and at least one bankable project document to submit to the climate fund circuit. The deliverables are presented within the deadlines indicated in the table below.

Table Presentation of deliverables and production deadlines

Specific objectives	Deliverables	Delivery deadlines
Start of the mission	**A kick-off report**, framework, validation of terms of reference, a refocusing of the working methodology that takes into account comments on the technical proposal and better consideration of the literature review	15 days
Diagnosis of financing opportunities	**An interim report,** which establishes a diagnosis of green and climate financing opportunities available for the Fouta Djallon Highland, a mapping of donors and relevant financing mechanisms; with a draft concept note for a project to be submitted for financing.	20 days
Green fund mobilisation strategy	**A draft final report,** which takes into account the comments from the interim report, with a strategic roadmap for mobilising short-, medium- and long-term financing.	20 days
Conclusion of the consultant's mission	**A final report** that takes into account comments on the final draft. The funding mobilisation strategy with a comprehensive list of funding sources and opportunities and a roadmap. With a finalised project ready to be submitted to identified donors attached as an appendix.	15 days

10. COMPOSITION OF SUBMISSION FILES

Applicants must submit their expressions of interest consisting of:

- Submission letter.
- Copy of the required diploma
- Detailed CV dated, updated and signed by the candidate, clearly highlighting the mandates carried out in connection with this mission.
- Proof of the information and statements contained in the CV, attestations, certificates, cover pages and signatures of similar contracts successfully completed.
- Understanding of the TOR, interpretations and amendments, if applicable.
- Working methodology and schedule for carrying out the assignment.

Candidates must submit their application files in a single sealed envelope marked **"Recruitment of an individual consultant to provide support for the development of a project for green financing and climate funds for the preservation of natural resources in the Fouta Djallon Highland/PRAI-MFD"** to the Office of the ECOWAS Resident Representative, Minière, Corniche Nord, Rue D1.777, Commune de Dixinn. BP: 4144 Conakry, or send by email to:mekane@ecowas.int with a copy to the following email addresses: sbangoura@ecowas.int, ikkamara@ecowas.int, and ykoffi@ecowas.int, specifying the job title in the subject line of the email before the deadline of **14 October 2025 at 10:00.**