



**SAHARA  
AND SAHEL  
OBSERVATORY**

**DESIGN AND WRITING OF A DOCUMENTARY  
BOOK ON “AFRICAN ECOSYSTEMS: BETWEEN  
DEGRADATION AND RESTORATION”**

Terms of reference

**[AC/OSS/Depart-V&P\_LivreDocumentaire/020721-12]**

July 2021

# 1- CONTEXT

Even if no accurate and up-to-date estimates are available, the international community agrees that the degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and even their disappearance, is now taking an increasingly breathtaking pace. Restoration therefore becomes an absolute priority and the future of humanity depends on it.

The ecological restoration process, or more precisely the ecosystem restoration, has developed over the past decades. It is defined as "a process of assistance for the recovery of a degraded, damaged or destroyed ecosystem" and considered to be an innovative and promising strategy that aims at preserving biological diversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

Restoring ecosystems has been a crucial element of Goal 15 of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and is also a core component of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 of the United Nations Development Agenda 2030. It is also well established in the 2050 vision of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ecological restoration is thus crucial for human survival and has become highly important for the conservation and repair of ecosystems. However, even though our restoring ability is modest, it shall never grind our restoration efforts to a halt.

There must be a significant investment in restoration so that interrelated crises of global warming, biodiversity loss and land degradation can be successfully addressed.

By 2030, restoring 350 million hectares of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems could generate 9 trillion dollars worth ecosystem services. Restoration activities could also lighten the atmosphere by 13 to 26 gigatonnes of greenhouse gases. The economic benefits of these operations are ten times greater than the necessary investment costs.

In Africa, 100 million hectares are expected to be restored under AFR100 and 45% of the land is affected by desertification and communities in the most fragile areas are often impoverished and ill-fed. The economies and sources of income of hundreds of millions of people are now more than threatened. Overexploitation, degradation and unsustainable practices result in considerable losses, changes in natural habitats and ecosystems, as well as a sharp reduction in ecological services. While land represents 70% of the natural resource base and provides 70% of employment in rural areas.

The OSS, as an intergovernmental organization with an African vocation, is deeply aware of the degradation of ecosystems under the pressure of climate change and human activities. Through its country support missions, the OSS contributes to improving the resilience of ecosystems and the circum-Saharan populations through its actions and programs with the main purpose of providing decision-makers with useful and relevant information to facilitate the decision-making process to avoid environmental degradation.

In this regard, the OSS plans on providing decision-makers and the general public with a documentary book which identifies the major ecosystems of Africa and describes their degradation and also the prospects for restoration. This fits perfectly into the framework of the United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration. In this context, these terms of reference have been elaborated with a view to engaging an experienced consultant to help develop the above-mentioned book.

## 2- PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

These Terms of Reference are developed to engage a consultant who will design and write a documentary book on African ecosystems. The book will inform decision-making in terms of restoration of ecosystems. Based on the most recent bibliography, the document will be based on: (i) the potential of Africa, (ii) the degradation of natural ecosystems, (iii) the restoration of natural ecosystems, and (iv) prospects and recommendations.

## 3- SCOPE OF THE WORK

The consultant who will have to write the text of the book will follow the following scheme. He/she may, however, propose other points and/or chapters in the bid:

### Part I – Potential

By reviewing the main biophysical and socio-economic indicators of Africa, this part will describe and especially highlight the potential of the continent. The main topics to address will relate to the following aspects:

- Biophysics (climate, soil, hydrography, geomorphology, etc.);
- Social (demography, education, health, etc.);
- Economic (Primary, secondary, tertiary sector...).

### Part 2 – Degradation of natural ecosystems

This part will first cover a summary description of key natural ecosystems in Africa and the major causes of their degradation, which can be:

- The fragmentation of ecosystems;
- Climate change;
- Irrational exploitation of the resources;
- Governance and management efficiency.

### Part 3 – Restoration of natural ecosystems

This chapter, main element of the document, will be dedicated to ecosystem restoration in the following sub-chapters:

- Definitions
- Overview of Ecosystem Restoration Techniques
  - Forests
  - Deserts
  - ....
- International and African initiatives for the restoration of degraded natural ecosystems in Africa
  - International frameworks and initiatives (Bonn initiative, CBD, UNCCD...)
  - Regional frameworks and initiatives (AFR 100...)
- Progress and country commitments
- Obstacles and difficulties.

### Part 4: Prospects and recommendations

The consultant will have to make recommendations and suggestions which would contribute to the restoration of ecosystems as claimed by the UN for the current decade.

## 4- METHODOLOGY

The consultant will have to analyze, from the existing literature, aspects related to (i) Africa's natural assets as well as the major biophysical and socio-economic aspects that define it; (ii) flagship natural ecosystems with a focus on their degradation status, and (iii) actions to restore its ecosystems.

In the light of the previous analyses and descriptions, the consultant will formulate practical recommendations which would contribute to the restoration of African ecosystems.

The consultant will work in close collaboration with the OSS Executive Secretariat and in consultation with the Watch and Prospective Department. He/she will carry out the tasks entrusted to him/her and adopt an iterative process in order to take into account any remarks and proposals made by the OSS. For this to happen, and depending on the document preparation phases, the consultant will have to:

### Phase 1

- Participate in a scoping meeting with the OSS relevant departments;
- Propose the final summary of the work, the action plan and the timetable for its development.

### Phase 2

- Conduct a bibliographic research on environmental, social and economic indicators in Africa;
- Develop an updated assessment of Continent's assets and potentials.

### Phase 3

- Prepare a survey on ecosystems in general, and their degradation in particular;
- Analyze the causes and consequences of ecosystem degradation;
- Identify and describe the key natural ecosystems of Africa. This activity will be closely agreed with the OSS services. At this level, it is recommended to keep the ecosystems that best describe the ecological and geographical aspects;
- Characterize the dynamics of key ecosystems degradation over time (reference situation, evolution and future projections). The methodology to adopt will be agreed and adopted in consultation with the OSS relevant teams.

### Phase 4

- Describe the current state of activities and programs related to ecosystem restoration in Africa;
- Analyze the various previous and current initiatives relating to the restoration of global ecosystems, particularly in Africa;
- Carry out a survey on the commitments of African countries in terms of restoration and the state of implementation of these various initiatives;
- Describe the different restoration techniques to be practiced / adopted by flagship ecosystem, boxes on "best practices" would be included in this part.

### Phase 5

- Establish a summary benchmarking on ecosystem services (monetary value of restoration, the cost of non-action, economic contribution, profitability, return on investment ...);
- Formulate strategic and technical recommendations to decision-makers in terms of ecosystem restoration.

## **Phase 6**

- Develop final products (final text of the document, summary and a PPT presentation to the OSS for validation);
- Present the products during meetings or workshops organized by the OSS.

## **Keep in mind**

- The illustrative part of the degradation and restoration will be provided by the OSS through the development of degradation and restoration maps of key natural ecosystems in Africa;
- The consultant will have to submit each part developed, separately to the OSS as indicated in the table below:

<b>Expected products</b>	<b>Estimated effort (man-days)</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
Phase 1: The final summary and action plan	2	10 days after signing the contract
Phase 2: The potential of Africa	10	30 days after signing the contract
Phase 3: The degradation of ecosystems	10	50 days after signing the contract
Phase 4: The ecosystem restoration	10	70 days after signing the contract
Phase 5: Prospects and recommendations	6	80 days after signing the contract
Phase 6: The document, summary and presentation	2	90 days after signing the contract
<b>Total duration of the mission</b>	<b>40 men / days for a period of 90 days</b>	

**Keep in mind:** It is worth noting that time for the OSS validation is not considered.

The consultant will use as reference documents (non-exhaustive list):

- i. Thematic studies conducted at the international level by (Multilateral Environmental Agreements, UNEP, African Union, etc.);
- ii. Reference document for ecosystem restoration, a practical guide to healing the planet (UN);
- iii. The IPBES regional report for Africa;
- iv. The OSS-produced National environmental monographs and land use atlases;
- v. The OSS-made "Vulnerability of ecosystems and populations to climate change in West Africa" study;
- vi. Etc.

## 5- DELIVERABLES

At the end of the consultation, the consultant shall provide the OSS with:

- A French "African Ecosystems: between degradation and restoration" text of the documentary book;
- A summary of the text for decision-makers and;
- An accurate Powerpoint presentation that faithfully summarizes the document content.

## 6- REMUNERATION

The effort for the development of this document is estimated at 40 man / days spread over 90 days. The daily rate is set at five hundred Euros/day (500 € / Man day). Payment will be made in a single remittance, upon receipt and validation of the final version of the 3 deliverables mentioned in point 5 above.

## 7- QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant must have:

- At least a postgraduate level in disciplines related to the sustainable management of natural resources, (e.g. water resources, hydrology, environment, agriculture, ecology, forestry) or other disciplines that the OSS will deem relevant;
- At least 10 years of proven experience in the development of similar works;
- Experience and knowledge of the African environment.

## 8- APPLICATION FILE

The application file must include:

1. A brief methodological note describing how the consultant plans to produce the deliverables;
2. The detailed curriculum vitae of the consultant using the standard OSS CV template, downloadable from the following link: [\[OSS CV Template\]](#);
3. Copies of any other reference deemed useful.

### Keep in mind:

- Incomplete application files will not be considered.

## 9- EVALUATION

The following table provides an overview of the applicants' evaluation models:

Evaluation criteria	PTS
University degree in specialties related to sustainable management of natural resources or other related subjects, e.g. water, hydrology, environment, agriculture...	20
Professional experiences and references in the fields of ecosystems	20
Professional references related to the topics of the book	20
Methodology and timetable	20
Professional references on Africa	10
Presentation of the bid	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## 10-MODALITIES AND SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The applicants' files must be sent to the OSS by e-mail at the following address:

[procurement@oss.org.tn](mailto:procurement@oss.org.tn)

Emails must contain the following subject line:

**Call for submission: Preparation of the "African ecosystems: between degradation and restoration" documentary book [AC/OSS/Depart-V&P\_LivreDocumentaire/020721-12]**

Deadline for receipt: **July 27, 2021 at 11:59 p.m** (Tunis time)