



SAHARA
AND SAHEL
OBSERVATORY



MENA-DELP Project

**Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Knowledge Sharing and
Coordination project**

In support to

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia

**ELABORATION OF A DOCUMENT ON ECOSYSTEM NATURAL CAPITAL
ACCOUNTING (ENCA)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

[AC/OSS/MENA-DELP/190417]

MARCH 2017

1. CONTEXT

Biodiversity and sustainable development are inextricably related: conserving and valuing the natural capital help develop livelihoods and contribute to improving the quality of human life and well-being.

The ecosystem services issue is placed high in the UN 2030 Agenda. Paragraph 33 of the declaration focuses entirely on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and two sustainable development goals (SDGs) are directly related to biodiversity; Goals 14 and 15 include extensive targets on biodiversity and marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Aichi, Japan, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the period 2011-2020. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development.

Of a particular interest is goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which attempts to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Target 2 of Goal A reads as follows: *“By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems”*

With a similar focus, the SDG (SDG 15.9) accompany this target by indicators complementing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and support it through statistical capacity building in developing countries (SDG 17.19).

These orientations and objectives reflect a growing interest in the implementation of national ecosystem accounts and biodiversity in relation to economy and human well-being. This need is particularly felt in the arid and semi-arid areas of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, characterized by an accentuated degradation of the ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region display a variety of landscapes and a wealth of biological diversity. They host numerous ecosystems, including oases, deserts, coastal areas, mountains, islands and wetlands. However, these ecosystems are threatened by several human and climate factors, and are often unable to provide the services essential for the socio-economic development of the region and especially for populations who are highly dependent upon its natural resources. These threats are all the more important in the arid areas of the MENA region, which suffer water and arable lands scarcity and where the adverse impacts of natural resources degradation and climate change lead to significant socio-economic problems and affect populations' livelihoods.

The « Desert ecosystems and livelihoods knowledge sharing and coordination » project MENA-DELP is funded by the World Bank (WB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The multi-phased MENA-DELP program consists of national investment projects implemented in five partner countries of the MENA region, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, supported by a “regional knowledge management and coordination” umbrella project, entitled: “The Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Knowledge Sharing and Coordination” regional (umbrella) project – referred to as MENA-

DELP. The project is coordinated by OSS and aims to strengthen cooperation among national institutions in partner countries in a spirit of solidarity and consultation.

The MENA-DELP project aims at a better understanding of the linkages between desert ecosystem services and desert livelihoods for an informed decision-making, mainly through:

- improved knowledge of the linkages between ecosystems and livelihoods in the desert areas including arid and semi-arid regions;
- Improved knowledge-sharing systems on questions related to desert ecosystem and livelihoods;
- Improved networks and information flows on desert ecosystems at the national and international level.

« *The better understanding of linkages between ecosystem services and populations' livelihoods* » inherently requires a prior understanding of linkages between biodiversity and development. As a matter of fact, degradation reduces ecosystems capacity to provide certain vital goods and services and often limits, in a very drastic way, social and economic progress, hence the MENA-DELP project's interest in increasing the awareness of policy and decision makers on the importance of ENCA and its major challenges.

In accordance with the strategic objectives of the MENA-DELP Programme and the needs expressed by the beneficiary countries, OSS proposes the elaboration of a document on Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting (ENCA) which would serve to better understand the concept, methodology, implementation tools of a national ecosystem accounting framework.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

These Terms of Reference are developed with the aim of recruiting a Consultant for the elaboration of a (vulgarization) document on Ecosystem natural Capital Accounting (ENCA) and its related concepts. The document is aimed at the non-expert public and should be brief (should not exceed 20 pages, figures and illustrations included) and written in a simple and clear language.

3. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The document aims to introduce policy makers and actors engaged in natural resources management to the basic notions and methodologies of the ENCA. It should allow to:

- Explain the interest of considering the natural capital value in the development process ;
- Define the terminologies, concepts, and basic notions of the ENCA ;
- Explain the modalities of the ENCA implementation in developing countries (Sahel and MENA region).

4. CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT

The consultant shall provide a document that tackles and addresses the following aspects:

- **Economic assessment of ecosystems : ENCA objectives and challenges**

Highlight the role and value of ecosystem services, of which people benefit, in order to direct policies towards sustainable development and stop/reverse biodiversity loss.

- **Definition of the ENCA principles and concepts**

This part will explain in a simple and brief way the basic notions of economic assessment of ecosystem services and integration of natural capital in national accounting. This part shall include illustrations in the form of figures and diagrams presenting the general structure of the main ecosystem natural capital accounts.

- **Presentation of the ENCA approaches and tools**

This part is dedicated to a description of the ENCA's main standards and methods developed at the international level and to giving examples on its implementation, especially in developing countries. The focus should be on the methodological framework and models developed by the UNO, namely the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

In addition, the consultant is also required to elaborate a brief note aimed at OSS experts outlining the ENCA evolution at the international scene.

5. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The expected deliverables should include:

- **A brief note on the ENCA background and concept at the international scene and its importance in decision-making at the national level;**
- **An extension document on the ENCA** that should be brief (should not exceed 20 pages, figures and illustrations included) and written in a simple and clear language;
- **A PowerPoint presentation** summarizing the major aspects presented in the document.

Expected outputs	Effort estimated in man/day	Date of reception
A brief note on the ENCA evolution	2	20 days after the signature of the contract
An extension document : 1) A detailed outline defining the content of the document (2 days after the signature of the contract) 2) A complete document	13	
A PowerPoint Presentation	1	

All deliverables requested shall be provided both in English and French.

6. QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant must be a holder of a university degree in fields related to Environment and land and water resources management (Agronomy, Forestry, life sciences, geography, etc...). In addition, s/he must possess the following qualifications:

- A significant experience (of 5 years or more) in themes related to biodiversity and economic environmental assessment.
- A good analysis and synthesis capacity.
- A perfect command of French and English and good writing skills.

7. BUDGET AND PAYMENT MODALITIES

The overall effort is estimated at about 16 men/day, as indicated in the table above. The daily rate is fixed at 300 US\$.

The payment will be made by OSS in one installment transferred to the consultant's account upon reception and final validation of the requested deliverables.

8. PRESENTATION OF APPLICATION FILE

The application package must respond to the profile requested by these Terms. It must include:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae; (use the standard model of OSS downloadable on: http://www.oss-online.org/sites/default/files/fichier/CV-template-OSS-ENG_1.doc)
2. A note presenting comments for ways how to improve these Terms of Reference.
3. Any other useful document.

9. APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Application files can be sent by post, email or delivered directly no later than **15th May 2017 at 16h, (Tunis local time)**. Applicants can choose one of the following submission methods:

Option A: Postal mail or direct delivery

Applications submitted by mail or delivered in a **sealed envelope** clearly marked with the mention "DO NOT OPEN - [Consultation: **ELABORATION OF AN EXTENSION DOCUMENT ON ECOSYSTEM NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING (ENCA)**] » to the following address, as attested by the date stamp of the OSS reception office.

**Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
Boulevard de l'Environnement -BP 31
1080 Tunis Tunisie**

Option B : E-mail

Applications submitted electronically must be sent to the following address: procurement@oss.org.tn with the mention of "[Consultation: **ELABORATION OF AN EXTENSION DOCUMENT ON ECOSYSTEM NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING (ENCA)**]" in the subject line.