Request for Expression of Interest:
Short-Term Consultant for the study Climate Change Early Warnings Systems

Background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides support to address global environmental concerns related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. Two funds managed by the GEF: Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), provide climate adaptation support in developing countries. This support is implemented on the ground through a network of 18 accredited agencies.

The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) has a central role in ensuring the independent evaluation function within the GEF. The GEF IEO is based in Washington DC. It is administered by the World Bank but is independent of its management as well as the management of the GEF. Its director reports directly to the GEF Council, the GEF governing body. All contracts with the IEO are World Bank contracts. More information about the GEF IEO can be found at Office’s website: www.gefieo.org/

The LDCF and SCCF were established in response to guidance received from the 2001 meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC on the need for climate change adaptation support in developing countries. The LDCF is mandated to, among others, provide support to the least developed countries’ (LDCs) climate adaptation efforts, including the preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), the implementation of NAPA priority projects in LDCs, as well as support for the preparation of the NAP process in eligible developing countries. The SCCF is mandated by parties to the UNFCCC to provide support to parties not included in Annex I of the UNFCCC. With its broad scope covering climate change adaptation as well as mitigation, the SCCF represented the only comprehensive climate change fund under the UNFCCC until the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). During the GEF-8 period, the SCCF is being refocused to prioritize supporting the adaptation needs of SIDS and strengthening technology transfer, innovation and private sector engagement.

Early Warning Systems (EWS) for climate change adaptation, a frequently deployed intervention by the LDCF and SCCF, are receiving increased attention in international climate agreements as a vital intervention to reduce the worst impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. LDCF and SCCF project interventions have included investments in automated weather systems and their operations and maintenance; agro-hydrometeorological forecasting; institutional capacity building; and last-mile technologies.
The IEO is conducting a study on LDCF and SCCF support to climate change EWS. The initial evaluation questions are as follows:

1. What are the activities funded by LDCF and SCCF to support EWS?
   a. What types of activities associated with EWS are funded by LDCF and SCCF to support EWS?
   b. Are LDCF/SCCF projects addressing the most important aspects of EWS?
2. How effective have LDCF/SCCF EWS interventions been?
   a. How have LDCF/SCCF EWS interventions performed based on performance documentation?
   b. How effective have LDCF/SCCF EWS interventions been when tested with disaster events?
3. What is the added value of LDCF/SCCF in EWS interventions?
4. What are the lessons learned specific to the design and implementation of LDCF/SCCF EWS projects?

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

The consultant will contribute in the following ways:

- **Summary of Best Practices**
  - Prepare a report highlighting best practices in EWS for climate adaptation, including evidence and examples of what has worked, what has not worked, and why. This will serve as an input for the portfolio analysis tool used to review projects and a framework for assessing EWS interventions supported by LDCF/SCCF.

- **Development of data collection tools**
  - Using the outputs from activities listed above and knowledge of best practices, the consultant will assist in the development and design of data collection tools (interview protocols, portfolio review), ensuring EWS are assessed correctly in the context of LDCF/SCCF projects.

- **Interpretation of findings**
  - Review results of GEF project portfolio review (completed by other members of the evaluation team).
  - Provide context of portfolio review results based on conclusions drawn from the summary of best practices findings, addressing whether the interventions designed are consistent with best practices, and any gaps, technological aspects, and the constraints to application of these alongside the demonstrated benefits.
  - Synthesize evaluative evidence gathered from previous tasks and contribute to final evaluation report writing.

Qualifications

The candidate should have following qualifications:
• Advanced degree in a subject matter related to climate change, climate resilience or another related environmental field.
• Expertise in development projects related to climate change EWS, with at least 15 years of experience.
• Experience in project evaluation, especially in environmental and natural resource management preferred.
• Preferred knowledge of and/or direct experience with the GEF and its Agencies.
• Demonstrated ability to work in multidisciplinary teams.
• Excellent presentation and communication skills; spoken and written English.

Other arrangements
The duration of the consultancy will be for a maximum of 20 days from August 2022 to April 2023.

The consultancy will take place at the consultant’s own place of work and travel is not anticipated.

Submission requirements
Interested consultants are hereby invited to submit a CV and a cover letter expressing how their work experience fits the qualifications above in English, to gefevaluation@thegef.org with “Climate Change Early Warning Systems-STC” in the subject line. The application deadline is July 25, 2022.

The GEF IEO is proud to be an equal opportunity and inclusive employer with a dedicated and committed workforce and does not discriminate based on gender, gender identity, religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.