

Terms of Reference: Environment and Climate Assessment Officer

Position: Environment and Climate Assessment Officer

Duty Station: Nairobi

Background: The Rural Kenya Financial Inclusion Facility (RK-FINFA) is a six-year development project financed jointly by the Government of Kenya and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). RK-FINFA supports the transformation of rural and smallholder agriculture sector through private sector-led development by improving the access of the smallholder farmers and rural micro, small and enterprises to appropriate financial services. It consists of three interlinked components: (a) Component 1: Technical Support and Innovation Services (TSIS); (b) Component 2: Rural Investment Instruments; and Component 3: Enabling Rural Finance Environment and Project Coordination.

RK-FINFA is in the process of recruiting an environment and Climate Assessment Officer to join the Project Management Unit (PMU), which is responsible for coordination and management of the day-to-day affairs of the project. Whereas the PMU is based at the National Treasury, as the Lead Agency, all project activities include proactive cooperation with the private sector, including financial institutions, the farming community as well as MSMEs and larger processing and marketing companies in key agricultural value chains.

Overall Scope of Work: Reporting to the Senior Rural Finance Specialist, the Environment and Climate Assessment Officer will be responsible for the successful implementation of the social, environment and climate strategies of RK-FINFA by working closely with the PMU staff and the implementing partners (participating financing institutions and technical service providers). The position will provide support to the project to comply with environmental and climate requirements through: (i) technical backstopping and advising the PMU and implementing partners in addressing a variety of environmental and climate issues, (ii) providing/coordinating environment and climate related training/awareness raising particularly in regard to setting up environmental and social management systems, (iii) supporting the PFIs to develop and implement ESMSs, (iv) providing support to PFIs and MSMEs to develop ESMSs appropriate to the nature and scale of their activities, and (v) ensuring that environment and climate issues are mainstreamed into project interventions and in the application of project documents. Specifically, the Officer will be required to ensure that the project interventions are in line with IFAD and Government Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP).

Main tasks and Responsibilities

The Environment and Climate Assessment Officer will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following duties:

- a) Guide the project in mainstreaming environment, climate and NRM considerations in the project design and implementation, including support to implementing partners and PFIs.

- b) Prepare guidelines, tools and notes for use in the project based on relevant environmental policies, acts and regulations/directives of the Government of Kenya and relevant safeguard policies of IFAD.
- c) Ensure that national and IFAD's SECAP guidelines and procedures are complied with at all times and all stages of project implementation.
- d) Support proactively the Rural Finance Specialist in the development and roll-out of the Green Financing Facility operations with the GFF Host Bank and the participating financial institutions.
- e) Support the Technical Service Providers in the development and application of technical green financing packages and training events/modules for both the FIs and their borrowing clients.
- f) Oversee and provide technical support towards the development of the ESMS, indicators, tools, guidelines on environment and climate aspects of the project's baselines, and ensure that the progress is also systematically monitored, including the mid-term and end line.
- g) Develop relevant training and capacity building materials for environment and climate awareness, and for setting up ESMS.
- h) Ensure that PFIs develop ESMSs appropriate to the activities they fund, and that they implement to the necessary environmental, climate and social processes and procedures as required by their ESMSs.
- i) Develop implementation strategies of AWPB activities related to environment, climate and NRM activities and ensure AWPB targets are met in a timely manner.
- j) Review activity plans, ESMSs and other safeguard requirements for PFIs, and implementing partners and contractors, to ensure environmental, climate issues are mainstreamed and mitigation measures are incorporated, and ensure all project documents and environmental documents are in harmony.
- k) Liaise with relevant officers at the all levels to monitor E&S performance of RK-FINFA on-lending activities.
- l) Monitoring the application of IFAD SECAP in pipeline and active projects, reporting on high-risk and/or sensitive projects.
- m) Contributing to project staff understanding of SECAP requirements over the entire project cycle.
- n) Ensure that environmental/climate risks and management measures are tracked on a continuous basis.
- o) Support Programme M&E through data collection and writing of required reports.
- p) Developing SECAP knowledge products, including contributing to the SECAP bi-annual compliance reports; Monitoring SECAP compliance and risk management. This includes reviewing selected project documents at the concept and design phases to: (a) liaise with project teams to support consistency in the integration of Environment, Social and Climate safeguard requirements (b) ensure the alignment of project designs with the safeguards of key partners; (c) make recommendations for risk management measures (d) populate the project watch list to ensure that environmental/climate risks and management measures are tracked on a continuous basis.

- q) Monitoring RK-FINFA SECAP watch list to ensure that SECAP risk rating during project implementation is at minimum moderately satisfactory and provide support to implementation teams where necessary to improve performance.
- r) Learning and knowledge management on safeguard issues.
- s) Carry out any other relevant duties as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Minimum Requirements

- a) A relevant Master's Degree from an accredited university in the field of specialization, e.g. Agriculture, Rural Development, Natural Resource Management, Environment, and Economics.
- b) Minimum 8 years of relevant and progressive experience in providing environmental management advisory services, hands-on experience in design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects and establishing interrelationships among international organizations and national governments. At least 3 years of the experience should be in projects funded by development partners.
- c) Sound knowledge of policy and regulatory frameworks for environmental, climate assessments and natural resource management in the agricultural/livestock context of Kenya.
- d) Demonstrated capacity to develop environmental and social management systems, execute safeguards, prescribe solutions to environment and natural resource management problems, manage budgets and programs, as well as prepare reports.
- e) Practical knowledge of Information Communication Technology (ICT) skills.
- f) Possess good communication skills in the national languages.
- g) Previous experience in development and implementation of green finance operations would be a major advantage for the candidate.

Other Requirements

- a) Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- b) Demonstrated technical understanding and ability to interpret environmental assessment documents.
- c) Experience in environment and social impact assessments and management plans.
- d) Experience in fieldwork and international policy frameworks related to project and programme development for climate change and environment financing is an asset.

Type and Duration of Contract

One year contract, with 3 months' probation period, renewable based on agreed performance targets and deliverables.