

EUROCLIMA+ Programme

« Forests, biodiversity and ecosystems » Sector

Terms of Reference

External final evaluation of the Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Sector of EUROCLIMA+ Programme.

April 2022

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0 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
CC	Climate change
DEU	Delegation of the European Union
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DAC	OECD's Development Assistance Committee
EC+	EUROCLIMA+
EF	Expertise France
FBE	Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems
FIIAPP	Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
LA	Latin America
M&E	Monitoring & evaluation
MSAs	Member State Agencies
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSU	Programme Support Unit
RFP	Resilient Food Production
TA	Technical Assistance
ToRs	Terms of reference
UM	Urban Mobility
UN	United Nations

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of the assignment	External final evaluation of the Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Sector, EUROCLIMA+ Programme.
Expert sector	Monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
Activity	9 projects and 3 projects extensions.
Beneficiaries	<p><u>Direct beneficiaries:</u> Implementing organizations (multi-partners consortiums, 9 coordinator organisations, 26 co-beneficiary organisations, from local civil society, international cooperation NGOs, local and indigenous communities, public and private sector organisations in Latin America).</p> <p><u>Final beneficiaries:</u> Approx. 1'503,656 final beneficiaries, including producers, leaders, local authorities, decision-makers, technicians, and officials, among others.</p>
Countries	Mexico, Brazil, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica.
Foreseen period for the realization of mission	Between Juin and August 2022.
Location	<p>Home based with virtual meetings during working hours in Latin America and France</p> <p>Possibility of field missions, depending on feasibility and relevance.</p>
Languages	Spanish mandatory, English desirable.

2 CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The EUROCLIMA + programme is a regional cooperation project between European Union and Latin America (LA). Its objective is to support LA countries in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through a) the identification and implementation of innovative projects in six priority sectors¹ identified jointly with the 18 partner countries, and b) the promotion of a policy dialogue at national and regional level. The actions are implemented by five Member State Agencies - MSAs (AECID, AFD, Expertise France, FIIAPP, GIZ) and two regional United Nations agencies (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UN Environment).

These Terms of Reference pertain to the **Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (FBE) Sector**², which is jointly implemented by Expertise France (EF) and GIZ.

¹ Six sectors: FBE (Forest, Biodiversity and Ecosystems), DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction), RFP (Resilient Food Production), UM (Urban Mobility), Water and Energy and energetic efficiency.

² See <https://euroclimaplus.org/bosques> for further details on FBE sector and projects.

- EF leads the FBE thematic sector of EUROCLIMA+ and is responsible for launching a call for projects, selecting and funding innovative projects within the priority areas of the thematic sector, as well as ensuring technical monitoring during the implementation of project activities.
- GIZ is responsible for the Technical Assistance (TA) delivered to the projects: advising project teams and beneficiaries in the implementation of actions, strengthening capacities, generating exchange, analysis and lessons learned on common interests shared by projects and supporting their scaling up to sub-national, national and international levels.

The specific objective of the FBE Sector is to support LA countries in implementing and showcasing projects and best practices in order to improve their capacities (e.g. in terms of institutions, public policies, regulatory framework, monitoring systems) in managing forests, biodiversity and ecosystems, in accordance with sectoral commitments related to the NDCs.

Nine multi-country projects were implemented between January 2019 and December 2021 in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. During the first semester of 2021, three new grant contracts were signed to support some of the FBE granted projects by financing upscaling and/or replicable actions. These projects extensions were under implementation until March 2022 (See Annex 1 for full list of FBE projects).

Various studies covering cross-cutting topics such as natural resources governance, the Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services for Climate Action, the indigenous peoples' contribution to climate action in Latin America, among others, have been carried out by GIZ in the framework of the Technical Assistance activities.

Expertise France carried out two specific studies that seek to contribute to knowledge generation in the FBE sector and share operational lessons learned. The first study aimed at measuring and increasing the potential impacts and scalability of FBE projects; the second intended to contribute to the articulation between the three United Nations Conventions of Rio 1992, with particular focus on NDCs.

An assessment of FBE projects and TA's logframes was carried out by GIZ in the second semester of 2021, to assess their alignment with the overarching logframes of the FBE thematic sector and Euroclima+ Programme.

It must be noted that some FBE projects have carried out their own external final evaluation. The assignment covered by the current terms of reference might use the data collated and the findings provided by these project evaluations.

Monitoring of projects, TA activities and sectors within the EUROCLIMA+ Programme is performed through an online platform called EUCLIDES (a monitoring database especially designed for the EUROCLIMA+ programme, including indicators at the output/outcome level and project/action activities).

The monitoring and evaluation system of the FBE component includes two levels: 1) Monitoring of the FBE component and TA activities, implemented by GIZ and 2) Monitoring of the granted projects, implemented by Expertise France, ensuring continuous technical and financial monitoring during the implementation of the projects.

3 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The final evaluation is designed to provide documented evidence of the performance and value of the projects implemented within the sector and in relation with the overarching objectives of the sector itself. The evaluation is a requirement from the donor (European Commission) to ensure transparency and improve future programmes.

More specifically, the objective of the assignment is three-fold:

- Undertake a global and independent analysis of the performance and value of FBE projects, against appropriate OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria;
- Assess, in an evidence-based manner and in articulation with the projects' assessment, the overall success of the FBE Sector expected outputs (Results 1, 2, 3 & 4) and outcomes;
- In doing so, a related third objective is to document lessons learned and make recommendations for improvements to EF and European Union.

3.2 SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will cover the programme duration and the nine projects that were supported by the FBE Sector Programme (see Annex 1 for the list of FBE projects).

It will deal with two levels of implementation within the FBE sector:

- **Project level:** the nine multicountry projects and three projects extensions. The assignment will appraise each project and project extension, and analyse crosscutting and common trends to draw general lessons learned.
- **Sector level:** the FBE sector, based on the Sectoral logical framework and its respective indicators:
 - **Impact (Overall objective):** Contribute to the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions by countries in the thematic sector forests, biodiversity and ecosystems (FBE).
 - **Outcome (Specific objective):** LA countries have implemented and learned from project experiences and best practices to improve their capacities (e.g. in terms of institutions, public policies, regulatory framework, monitoring systems, etc.) for better management of forests, biodiversity and ecosystems, in accordance with sectoral commitments related to the NDCs.
 - **Result 1 (output):**
 - a. Initiatives responding to NDCs commitments in the FBE Sector have been implemented at the national or multi-country level.
 - b. Lessons learned and best practices from FBE initiatives have been shared in the 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - c. Individual and institutional competencies for the management of NDCs processes in the FBE sector have been strengthened in the 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
 - **Result 2 (output):** Improved access to financing for the FBE sector actions.
 - **Result 3 (output):** Improved transparency and accountability of climate policy in FBE Sector.

- **Result 4 (output):** Strengthened intersectoral, multilevel and multi-stakeholder coordination for the FBE Sector.

The intervention led by EF specifically focused on the first output.

3.3 INTENDED USERS OF THE EVALUATION

The main users of the evaluation results and recommendations are:

- FBE EF and GIZ Management Team;
- FBE project implementing organisations (multi-partners consortiums, a full list will be provided in the inception phase);
- The European Union (DG INTPA, DEU);
- The Programme Support Unit (PSU) of the EUROCLIMA+ programme in Brussels;
- National Focal Points.

4 KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The proposed final evaluation questions are general and will have to be specified in the evaluation matrix with the collected information within the inception phase, as well as for each project evaluated when relevant. The evaluation shall apply the OECD-DAC criteria³.

1. To what extent did the selected projects respond to the EC+ Programme FBE sector objectives?
2. To what extent did the selected projects respond to the needs of target stakeholders and beneficiaries, including specific needs based on gender and diversity / inclusion aspects?
3. Did the FBE Sector approach in mainstreaming crosscutting dimensions from project formulation to implementation, such as gender equality, good governance and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights, help projects to integrate these dimensions more effectively?
4. To what extent did the projects reach their intended outputs and outcomes? *(for this question, the evaluators should be able to exploit the information and analysis provided by the final evaluation reports of some projects and will have to undertake a first-hand assessment for projects for which the information is lacking. This will be discussed with EF FBE team during the kick-off meeting)*
5. Did the FBE Sector governance and set-up put in place allow greater efficiency? *(including the articulation between EF and GIZ roles and responsibilities)*
6. Did the consortium mechanisms put in place to implement the selected projects allow for ownership and greater efficiency and effectiveness?
7. Were the projects resources efficiently mobilized in relation to the expected results?
8. To what extent are the project activities carried out aligned with or feed into public policy (local, national and supra-national) and at what level?
9. To what extent do the activities succeed in reducing inequalities and vulnerability to climate change and improve population and biodiversity resilience?

³<https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/revised-evaluation-criteria-dec-2019.pdf>

10. To what extent did the support provided by the FBE Sector ensured greater sustainability and scaling-up of the projects and their effects on the long-term?
11. To what extent are the benefits of the projects sustainable, or likely to continue over the long-term?

5 METHODOLOGY

The FBE Sector projects concluded the implementation of activities at the end of 2021, and project extensions in March 2022. It will consequently be difficult to reach the former implementation teams of all projects. It is therefore expected that a sort of rapid assessment is done at the onset of the assignment to generally examine the availability of relevant data and of key informants. Field visits will have to be discussed during the kick-off meeting; if the evaluators judge field work to be necessary, they will have to propose a purposefully chosen sample of projects, either based on the results of this initial assessment, or on other criteria such as the existence of a final evaluation of good quality, the availability of former teams or Co2 emissions, as it will not be possible in any case to visit all nine projects. Primary data collection will also have to be done remotely when relevant and possible.

The final evaluation will be conducted as a performance evaluation using, ideally, a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods: document review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions (and/or direct observation if field visits are done). Quantitative data collected in the course of routine monitoring and endline data should be incorporated into the analysis. Additionally, a participatory approach should be followed throughout the evaluation.

The applicants are expected to propose a methodology (outlined in the evaluation proposal and refined in detail in the inception report) based on these instructions to effectively evaluate the FBE sector and projects, and to identify the core reasons for success or failure. Data collection and analysis should adhere to research methods good practice. Due to the limitations described above, the methodologies proposed should try to be feasible in an online format as well.

The final evaluation will comprise three phases:

Task 1: Inception phase for the evaluators to develop and agree with EF FBE team the overall objective, approach and methodology, deliverables, budget and workplan. To this end, the relevant data and documents will be made available to the evaluators. The evaluators will have to examine the data and information available, and check with EF FBE teams the interlocutors available at project level, in order to refine the methodology and the potential field work to be done. An inception report, including an evaluation questions matrix, will be provided after this preliminary work, to be validated by the EF FBE team.

Task 2: Evaluation phase during which findings will be collated and analysed. This will involve a desk-based review of existing Euroclima+, FBE sector and projects documentation, complemented by other approaches to collect data and learning concerning funded projects. If decided so, field work will be organised and undertaken, but in any case, it is crucial to plan for remote data collection. Expertise France will be sensitive to approaches that are “stakeholder-centred”, such as case studies and testimonies, and that will illustrate the findings.

At the end of this phase, the evaluators will discuss the first findings to EF FBE team during an online workshop; it is expected that the main lessons learned and recommendations be co-constructed with the teams during this workshop. The draft report will integrate the discussions from this workshop. Particular attention will be paid to the objectivity, balance, and detail of the assertions and evidence provided, as well as to the operational and concrete nature of the recommendations.

Task 3: Delivery of evaluation findings and recommendations. The final report will integrate the comments made on the draft report. It is expected from the evaluators that the evaluation findings will be presented to evaluation users: EF and GIZ FBE Teams, projects implementing organizations, members of the EC+ Programme Support Unit and DG INTPA. Modalities and formats for these restitutions will be discussed.

6 TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

Task	Deliverables expected
<u>Task 1:</u> <u>Inception Phase</u>	<p>Inception report (10 pages maximum) refining the methodology of the assignment and workplan (evaluation and field intervention planning, evaluation matrix, development of data collection tools, draft and final reports). The report will be based on a kick-off meeting to be held with EF FBE team.</p> <p>To be provided no later than 15 working days from the notification of the contract.</p> <p>The EF FBE team will review and validate this inception report before starting Task 2.</p>
<u>Task 2: Evaluation work</u>	<p>Data collection tools will have to be sent for information to Expertise France.</p> <p>Online workshop materials with presentation of initial findings and co-construction of lessons learned and recommendations</p> <p>Draft evaluation report (30 pages maximum). The structure of the evaluation report (draft and final) will be agreed upon by the evaluators and EF FBE team prior to its submission.</p>
<u>Task 3:</u> <u>Restitution</u>	<p>Final evaluation report with the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: description of the evaluated intervention, its logic, history and stakeholders. Presentation of the evaluation's purpose and questions. • Methodology: description of the methods used for data collection and sampling strategy if applied; description of the limitations. • Findings: Factual evidence relevant to the questions asked by the evaluation and interpretations of such evidence (answered evaluative questions); assessment of intervention results and performance against given evaluation criteria. • Lessons learned: general conclusions with a potential for wider application and use.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations: specific and actionable proposals regarding improvements of the project or management. • Annexes: ToRs, brief reports of meetings held, tools and/or samples of questionnaires used, list of respondents, bibliography, etc. <p>The report should not exceed 40 pages excluding appendices, and should be provided within 50 working days from the signature of the contract. Findings should be referenced.</p> <p>We welcome testimonies and photos (if consent is provided) to provide illustrations of evaluation observations.</p> <p>Executive summary that includes key findings and the main recommendations and conclusions.</p> <p>Presentation of the final findings and recommendations: Powerpoint and other presentation materials.</p>
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The applicants are expected to propose a workplan in their technical offer, detailing the days worked per task and per member of the evaluation team, as well as indicative dates and locations. This workplan will be discussed and validated during the kick-off meeting.

7 COORDINATION WITH THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

To carry out these activities, the evaluators will work under the supervision of the EF project manager for the FBE sector and coordinate tasks with her and the Senior forest and biodiversity Expert, being the focal points of the EF FBE team.

The EF FBE team main tasks will be:

- Facilitate communication between the evaluators and project stakeholders,
- Ensure the evaluators have access to all the necessary information and documentation linked to the FBE sector and projects,
- Organise scoping meetings with the evaluators,
- Validate the methodology and data collection tools and processes proposed by the evaluators,
- Gather and collect feedback and comments on the deliverables produced,
- Ensure the proper communication of the evaluation findings and recommendations.

Additionally, meetings will be organised with the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of the EUROCLIMA+ Programme.

8 EXPERTISE AND PROFILE REQUIRED

Expertise France expects a team of minimum 2 consultants to carry out the assignment. Their profiles must meet the following minimum requirements:

- At least a Master's degree in a relevant discipline (development studies, sociology, Forestry, Biodiversity, economics or other relevant fields) and a comprehensive knowledge of monitoring & evaluation (M&E)
- Good knowledge of climate change, global commitments and climate change challenges in Latin American countries, as well as Biodiversity and Forest management is considered an advantage
- Minimum 7 years of experience conducting studies, collecting data and producing quality baseline/midterm/endline study reports, preferably for international non-governmental organisations or multilateral agencies (mandatory for lead evaluator)
- Minimum 5 years of specific experience in climate change, multi-stakeholder settings in developing countries, especially in Latin American countries, is essential; experience with both government and civil society stakeholders will be considered an asset
- Display of sensitivity regarding indigenous and gender issues
- Proven experience in designing, implementing and documenting remote evaluations of development projects
- Fluency in Spanish, written and spoken. English is considered an advantage (not mandatory).
- Excellent command of virtual and collaborative tools needed to meet remotely with stakeholders (MS Teams, ZOOM or similar)
- Flexibility to work under time constraints between Europe and Latin America

The evaluation team must have all the software licenses needed to perform the assignment, especially regarding virtual environment and tools to be used for remote work.

9 APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates may express their interest by sending the following documents in Spanish by **May 23, 2022, 18:00 CET (Paris time)**:

- Technical proposal to meet the Terms of Reference: description of the consultant's understanding of the ToRs, of the methodology to be used, and a clear and elaborated work plan (maximum 10 pages),
- Financial Proposal:
 - a. A proposal assuming the realization of the work completely remotely, including detailed description of personnel related costs (working days of the proposed experts),
 - b. A proposal assuming the realization of the work in a mixed format, including remote work, as well as field missions in a sample of 3 countries,

- Contact information for three work-related references,
- Updated CV (maximum 3 pages),
- Example of previous work carried out (if any).

The technical offer will be evaluated mainly based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of the nature and scope of the assignment,
- Understanding of the project and its stakes,
- Clear methodological approach,
- Detailed and realistic workplan, including key milestones and accompanying timeline,
- Clear propositions to take into account the multi-country approach of the project into the project's methodology,
- Integration of gender sensitivity within the proposed methodology,
- Format is respected (no more than 10 pages)

The other selection criteria will concern the applicants' based on submitted CVs and submitted previous work.

Consulting firms are welcome to apply as well as team of independent teams of consultants.

The application process will occur in two phases:

- As a first step, Expertise France will freely establish a restricted list.
- The selected candidates will be invited to an interview. Additional documents (such as evaluation reports from past work experiences) could be requested by EF. Fees for services will be negotiated with the designated candidate.

ANNEX 1

Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Sector Projects, EUROCLIMA+ Programme

N°	Project	Coordinator	Co-beneficiaries	Project start date	N° of months
1	Siembra y cosecha de agua, canon de servicios hídricos y reconocimieto de pago de servicios ambientales, en el marco de la Cooperación Sur-Sur	AIDER : Asociacion para la Investigacion y Desarrollo Integral (Perú)	*Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal – FONAFIFO (Costa Rica)	15/02/2019	24
1.1	Gobernanza para la cosecha de agua de lluvia con equidad de genero e interculturalidad en el marco de la cooperación Sur-Sur	AIDER : Asociacion para la Investigacion y Desarrollo Integral (Perú)	N/A	16/03/2021	10
2	Bosques, Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Comunitario. Fortaleciendo la gestion nacional de áreas protegidas en Guatemala y Honduras	CISP : Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italia)	*Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas – CONAP (Guatemala) *Asociación de Programas de Gestión Ambiental Local – ASOPROGAL (Guatemala) *Asociación Cuerpos de Conservación de Omoa – CCO (Honduras)	29/01/2019	35
3	Comunidades, Bosques y Biodiversidad: Promoviendo el diálogo, intercambio y cadenas de valor forestal para adaptarse y mitigar el cambio climático.	ICCO : Stichting Interkerkelijke Organisatie voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Holanda)	*Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén – ACOFOP (Guatemala) *Federación de Productores Agroforestales de Honduras – FEPROAH (Honduras) *Moskitia Asla Takanka MASTA (Honduras) *Concejo Comunitario Mayor de la Organización Campesina del Alto Atrato – COCOMOPOCA (Colombia) *APRODEIN (Nicaragua) *Nación Mayangna (Nicaragua) *Asociación Comunal Lencas de Chilanga – ACOLCHI (El Salvador) *Asociación Comunal Lencas de Guatajiagua – ALCOLGUA (El Salvador) *Asociación de Reconstrucción y Desarrollo Municipal de Cinquera – ARDM (El Salvador)	30/05/2019	32
4	Manejo y restauración de bosques en entornos productivos	INTA : Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (Argentina)	*Instituto Paraguayo de Tecnología Agropecuaria – IPTA (Paraguay) Instituto de investigación *Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuaria – EMBRAPA (Brasil) Instituto de investigación *Fundación Naturaleza Tierra y Vida – NATIVA (Bolivia) Fundación	29/01/2019	32
4.1	Gestión del Bosque Chaqueño y Cambio Climático	INTA : Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (Argentina)	* Fundacion Naturaleza Tierra y Vida - NATIVA (Bolivia)	21/05/2021	10
5	Mejorando la gobernanza y gestión del uso del suelo para el abordaje de las causas de la pérdida y degradación de los bosques y la mejora de las reservas de carbono en Honduras y Perú	The Pure Project (Francia)	*Fundación Helvetas Honduras (Honduras) *Fundación Amazonia Viva – FUNDAVI (Perú) *Fundación Madera Verde (Honduras)	29/01/2019	23
6	Manejo de recursos no maderables en el bosque amazónico: una estrategia de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático desde la experiencia boliviana y peruana	ACEAA : Asociación Boliviana para la Investigación y Conservación de Ecosistemas Andino-Amazonicos (Bolivia)	*Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica – ACCA (Perú) *Universidad Amazónica de Pando – UAP (Bolivia)	29/01/2019	32
6.1	Observatorio de frutos amazónicos y cambio climático	ACEAA : Asociación Boliviana para la Investigación y Conservación de Ecosistemas Andino-Amazonicos (Bolivia)	*Universidad Amazónica de Pando – UAP (Bolivia)	16/03/2021	10,5
7	Articulando agendas globales desde lo local: la adaptación basada en ecosistemas como catalizador de acciones municipales para alcanzar metas globales	Pronatura México A.C. (México)	*Associação Nacional dos Órgãos Municipais de Meio Ambiente (Brasil)	15/02/2019	36
8	Institucionalizar los beneficios no relacionados con el carbono locales en las estrategias nacionales de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático	Bosques del Mundo (Dinamarca)	*Apoyo para el Campesino indígena del oriente Boliviano – APCOB (Bolivia) *Geodiversity (Panamá)	26/04/2019	32
9	Gobernanza Ambiental Participativa integrando los retos del cambio climático (CC) en el Gran Chaco Americano-GAPCha	Mingara - Asociación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (Paraguay)	*Fundación Plurales (Argentina) *Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas IUM (España) *Gestión Ambiental – geAm (Paraguay) *Municipalidad de Filadelfia (Paraguay)	08/06/2019	30