



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Professional consultancy services for Economic Valuation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Angolan Highlands ecosystem

For the

Enhanced Water Security and Community Resilience in the Adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene Transboundary River Basins (CUVKUN) Project

Financing Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

GEF Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP Executing Agency: Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA)

Location: The Cuvelai and Kunene River Basins in Northern Namibia and Southern Angola

Duty station: Remote, – with fieldwork to the project sites

Duration: 60 days over a 4-month period

1. BACKGROUND

The Cuvelai Watercourse Commission (CUVECOM) was established on 16 September 2014 to manage the shared transboundary waters of the Cuvelai Watercourse. The secretariat is currently based in Oshakati, Namibia. Adjacent to the Cuvelai River Basin is the Kunene River Basin, which manages transboundary cooperation for the Kunene Watercourse through a Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTTC) that was established in 1990. Both the Cuvelai and Kunene Watercourses are shared between the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Namibia.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1996 to support countries in their efforts to implement more equitable and sustainable management of their water resources. The network spans 13 regions with 2,400 institutional Partners in 158 countries. The global secretariat is in Stockholm, Sweden. The GWP Africa Coordination Unit is based at GWP Southern Africa in Pretoria, South Africa and coordinates GWP programmes across Africa. GWPSA also hosts the GWP global theme on Climate resilience and is charged with providing global strategic leadership and coordination of the implementation of the GWP strategy on climate resilience.

2. ENHANCED WATER SECURITY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE ADJACENT CUVELAI AND KUNENE TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS (CUVKUN PROJECT)

The CUVKUN project aims to improve the management of water resources of the transboundary Kunene and Cuvelai basins shared by Angola and Namibia. There is increasing water scarcity and hydrological variability, exacerbated by climate change within the region, even though both basins are stark in contrast. The need for the comprehensive monitoring of climate and water resources and the sharing of information has never been greater, as also the need to improve systems that can provide early warning of climate-related disasters.

The USD 11 million project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the GEF Implementing Agency. The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) is the Executing Agency, while the Cuvelai Commission (CUVECOM) and Kunene Permanent Joint Technical Committee (PJTC) are the focal custodians of the project implementation.

The project will undertake a suite of activities designed to strengthen joint management and planning capacity and practices at the transboundary basin level. These activities will be implemented under six (6) project components:

- **Component 1:** Strengthening the transboundary and conjunctive water resources management in the Cuvelai River Basin;
- **Component 2:** Strengthening the transboundary water resources management with future development scenario analysis in the Kunene River Basin;
- **Component 3:** Strengthening the governance of the Cuvelai and Kunene River Basins to foster joint management by the two countries in the most cost-effective manner;
- **Component 4:** Strengthening institutional, technical and operational capacity in Angola to sustainably develop and manage the sub-region's water tower located in southern Angola;
- **Component 5:** Enhancing the community participation in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to build resilience in their livelihoods;
- **Component 6:** Supporting outreach and Knowledge Management for replication, upscaling, and stakeholder engagement.

Meanwhile, it is in the context of this project that a call for expressions of interest is made for the economic evaluation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Angolan Highlands ecosystem both in the Cuvelai and Kunene transboundary River basins

3. CONSULTANCY BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The Angolan Highlands, spanning the provinces of Huambo, Huíla, and Cunene, comprise a dynamic ecosystem of interdependent plant, animal, and microbial communities shaped by unique soil and climatic conditions. These highlands are vital to the ecological integrity and livelihoods of the Cuvelai and Kunene transboundary river basins. The Kunene and Cuvelai rivers, along with numerous springs originating in the region, perform essential ecological functions that extend beyond water provision contributing to climate regulation, biodiversity preservation, and overall ecosystem resilience. These ecosystems supply critical goods and services which are essential for the socio-economic development of downstream communities. However, they are increasingly threatened by climate change, land use alterations, and unsustainable resource exploitation.

Recognising the pivotal role of these ecosystems, this consultancy aims to conduct an economic valuation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Angolan Highlands in the Cuvelai and Kunene River basins. The assessment will quantify their economic contributions, identify key pressures, and generate policy-relevant recommendations to guide sustainable management and conservation. Ultimately, the valuation will provide a

robust framework for recognising the economic significance of natural capital, supporting evidence-based policymaking, enhancing regional development planning, and promoting climate resilience.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant(s) will be expected to conduct a holistic and multidisciplinary assessment, incorporating both ecological and socio-economic dimensions. While the exact methodologies are to be proposed by the consultant(s), the scope of work should include the following elements:

- **Baseline Environmental Assessment**
Develop an initial understanding of the biophysical and hydroclimatic conditions in the Angolan Highlands using available data. This may include variables such as land cover, precipitation patterns, soil conditions, water flows, and seasonal variability.
- **Analysis of Natural Resource Use**
Examine the current use of natural resources and assess the impacts of key sectors such as agriculture, livestock grazing, forestry, and mining on ecosystem services. The analysis should explore trends in land use, resource extraction, and sustainability, while also identifying drivers of ecosystem degradation.
- **Policy and Regulatory Review**
Identify and assess existing policy and regulatory frameworks relevant to ecosystem services in the region. The consultant(s) should evaluate how these frameworks influence ecosystem health and propose potential reforms or new instruments that could promote sustainability.
- **Valuation of Ecosystem Services**
Propose and apply appropriate valuation methods to quantify the economic benefits of selected ecosystem services.
- **Socio-Economic Impact Assessment**
Evaluate how changes in ecosystem services affect local communities, particularly in terms of livelihoods, income, food security, health, and cultural heritage. The assessment should consider gender and vulnerability dimensions, as well as spatial disparities in impacts.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Validation**
Facilitate meaningful engagement with key stakeholders including government agencies, local communities, traditional leaders, and conservation groups throughout the assignment. This should include validation workshops to discuss preliminary findings and gather feedback.
- **Contribution to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis**
Integrate the valuation findings into the Cuvelai–Kunene Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), linking ecosystem services to priority transboundary issues such as water security, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. The results will strengthen the Causal Chain Analysis (CCA) and provide evidence to inform the development of Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs).
- **Knowledge management and capacity building**

Support knowledge sharing by producing user-friendly products such as policy briefs, reports, and infographics, and by facilitating training workshops with government, CUVECOM, PJTC, academia, and communities. The findings will be disseminated through regional and international platforms, including IW:LEARN and SADC networks, while ensuring gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches in capacity-building efforts.

- **Recommendations for Policy and Planning**

Based on the assessment findings, provide strategic and actionable recommendations for integrating ecosystem service values into natural resource management, land-use planning, and policy frameworks at national and transboundary levels.

5. REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

5.1. Inception report

An initial report outlining the consultant's understanding of the project, methodologies to be employed, and a detailed work plan and schedule.

5.2. Baseline assessment report

Provides a comprehensive overview of the biophysical and hydroclimatic conditions in the Angolan Highlands based on available data. The report includes:

- An assessment of current natural resource use and associated environmental pressures;
- A baseline evaluation of the economic value of selected ecosystem services; and
- A baseline assessment of the social value of ecosystem services, including their importance to local livelihoods and well-being.

5.3. Contribution to TDA Report / Input Note

- Summary of how ecosystem valuation results feed into the Cuvelai–Kunene TDA and Causal Chain Analysis (CCA).
- Recommendations for SAP and NAP integration.

5.4. Knowledge Management, Capacity-Building, and Communication Products

- Policy briefs, infographics, and knowledge notes tailored for decision-makers and stakeholders.
- Training materials and workshop reports documenting capacity-building activities.

5.5. Final Comprehensive Baseline Report

A final report incorporating all baseline findings, and recommendations from both the Valuation of Ecosystem Services.

6. DURATION OF THE CONSULTANCY

The consultancy duration is 60 days spread over four (4) months, effective from the date of the contract signature.

7. WORKPLACE

The consultant will be required to deploy to the field in Angola and spend up to 20 days carrying out the tasks. This consultancy will include field visits and consultations with stakeholder representatives in the project landscape. The consultant is therefore expected to travel to the project landscape accompanied by the Project Implementation Team.

The consultant is further expected to use digital tools and virtual communication as part of executing the duties. All costs for the performance of the activities and compliance with products indicated in these ToRs and, in general, for the full provision of the service, must be included and detailed in the economic offer delivered by the consultant.

8. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate or team should possess the following qualifications:

- 1) Master's degree or higher in environmental economics, natural resource management, ecology, or related fields.
- 2) Experience in ecosystem service valuation, environmental economics, and natural capital assessment.
- 3) Expertise in spatial analytic, statistical modelling, and socio-economic data analysis.
- 4) The candidate should have experience working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and environmental organizations. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are crucial for successful engagement and building partnerships.
- 5) Ability to succinctly compile large amounts of information into a coherent document for conservation practitioners and government officials.
- 6) The applicant must show a strong understanding of environmental science, conservation principles, sustainable land management practices, and ecosystem restoration. The applicants should be knowledgeable about the ecological dynamics of arid and semi-arid areas and have experience of working on similar projects.
- 7) Knowledge and familiarity with regional strategies, as well as national environmental strategies, will be advantageous. Understanding the policy context and the ability to align the proposed strategies with broader national and regional/basin objectives is important.
- 8) Strong analytical, report-writing, and communication skills in English and/or Portuguese.

9. SUPERVISION, REPORTING AND APPROVALS

The consultant's supervisor will be the Regional Project Coordinator. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the Technical Officers, National Governments, under the overall oversight and guidance of the CUVECOM Secretariat, which will play a key role in country coordination and ensuring alignment with basin-level priorities.

All reports should be submitted to the Regional Project Coordinator, who will coordinate the review and approval process. The reports will undergo review by CUVECOM and PJTC, with consolidated feedback provided to the consultant. The period for approval of reports will be ten (10) working days from the date of submission.

10. COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

The consultant is expected to interact with several stakeholders in the target area. Communications and data collection with various stakeholders will be coordinated by the project team.

11.EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE CONSULTANCY

The applicant is expected to submit separate Technical and Financial Proposals clearly detailing the total number of days to complete work and daily rates inclusive of all anticipated costs in United States Dollars (USD) during the period of assignment. The term “all-inclusive” implies that all costs (professional fees, communications, consumables, VAT etc.) that could be incurred by the consultant in completing the assignment are already factored into the daily fee submitted in the proposal. However, please do not include travel costs, as these will be covered directly by GWPSA.

Electronic Technical and Financial proposals should be submitted in the English Language with a subject line clearly titled: “Professional consultancy services for Economic Valuation of the ecosystem goods and services provided by the Angolan Highlands ecosystem” through email to gwp saprocurement@gwp.org with a copy to silvanus.uunona@gwpsaf.org by no later than the **21 September 2025**. *These proposals should be password protected (passwords to be shared in the body of the email).*

12.OTHER PROVISIONS

12.1. Taxes

A withholding tax of 10 or 15% shall be charged to the consultant for fees only, depending on the consultants home country, and GWPSA will avail the corresponding tax certificates. GWPSA will not be liable for any additional taxes due to tax Authority/ies in the country of origin of the Consultant.

12.2. Travel

The Consultant is expected to engage stakeholders and key role players through a number of regional workshops and field visits. The list will include, but not be limited to, relevant Departments and institutions in the Member states, and project partners as listed in the CUVKUN GEF Project Document.

13.INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDER

GWPSA will evaluate the proposals received against each other based on the criteria stated below.

The technical proposal contributes 80% of the total and final evaluation score whilst the financial proposal carries 20% of the weighted score. In addition, the Proposal that scores 75% and more in their technical score will proceed to the financial evaluation stage. This addendum provides a detailed breakdown of how the technical proposals will be evaluated and scored.

GWPSA reserves the right to negotiate any aspect of your proposal before conclusion of a Contract for the Assignment. GWPSA furthermore reserves the right to reject all proposals submitted without giving any reason. GWPSA may discontinue or suspend without responsibility or liability to any Bidder including (without limitation) any liability for any costs or expenditure incurred by, or inconvenience caused to, any Bidder. The proposal shall be prepared in the English language.

The financial proposal should be expressed in US Dollar and payment for the Services will be made in the same currency.

Criteria	Description	Max Score
1. Understanding of the Assignment	Demonstrated understanding of the ToRs, objectives, and scope of work. Clear articulation of the purpose, expected outputs, and challenges.	20
	1.2 Does the proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the objectives and expected results of the consultancy?	
	2.2 Has the consultant identified the key challenges and contextualized the importance of ecosystem valuation in the Angolan Highlands?	
2. Methodology and Approach	Relevance, clarity, and robustness of the proposed methodology for ecosystem valuation, data collection, analysis, and stakeholder engagement.	25
	2.1 Is the methodology appropriate and comprehensive for achieving the objectives outlined in the ToRs?	
	2.2. Are tools and techniques for economic valuation and spatial analysis well defined?	
	2.3 Is stakeholder engagement clearly integrated?	
3. Work Plan and Timelines	Realistic and detailed implementation plan, including key milestones, activities, and adherence to timelines.	10
	3.1 Is the work plan realistic, logical, and aligned with the proposed methodology?	
	3.2 Are deliverables well sequenced and achievable within the stipulated timeframe?	
	3.3 Does the plan demonstrate good organisation and risk mitigation strategies?	
4. Qualifications and Experience of Consultant/Team	Relevant academic background and demonstrated experience in ecosystem valuation, environmental economics, spatial and statistical analysis, and stakeholder consultation, particularly in Southern Africa.	25
	4.1 Does the consultant have relevant academic and technical qualifications?	
	4.2 Does the consultant have demonstrable experience in ecosystem service valuation, spatial analysis, and stakeholder consultation?	
	4.3 Is there a good mix of technical and field-based experience?	
	TOTAL TECHNICAL	
5. Financial Criteria (30 points)	1.2 Cost-effectiveness of the financial proposal. 2.2 Realism of budget in relation to the proposed work plan and deliverables.	20
	TOTAL FINANCIAL	