07 February 2024

ToR FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF A RESEARCH ASSISTANT

ASSESSING CLIMATE-ATTRIBUTABLE LOSSES AND DAMAGES IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SECTORS

SPARC background

Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) is a six-year (2020-2025), research programme funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). It focuses on countries in the drylands of East, West and North Africa and the Middle East. SPARC will produce practical knowledge and recommendations to be integrated into agro-pastoralist systems, to make support programmes more effective and enable people to cope better with crises, recurring shocks, and conflict.

Project description

Countries covered by the SPARC programme are already witnessing significant losses and damages from human-induced climate change. These are resulting from slow onset events or processes, e.g. rising temperatures, sea level rise and desertification, and from extreme events like droughts, floods and heatwaves, many of which are becoming more frequent and intense across the continent as a result of climate change. Past efforts to quantify loss and damage from extreme events in many countries have tended not to consider the extent to which such extreme events are attributable to climate change. In some regards this distinction is not very important, e.g. when considering the harm of having a house damaged in a major flood can cause to a family. However, given the climate change is one, but not the only, driver of extreme events and their impacts, it is important for institutions and financing mechanisms that are governed under the UNFCCC to understand the additional effect of climate change.

Improvements in data availability and attribution science make it increasingly possible to disentangle losses and damages driven by climate change from those that would have been incurred anyway, irrespective of climate change. Nonetheless, assessments that quantify climate change attributable loss and damage are still scarce, including in SPARC countries.

This SPARC project on “assessing climate-attributable losses and damages in agriculture and livestock sectors” aims to help close the gap in knowledge around losses and damages from climate change, and to work with stakeholders in SPARC countries to ensure evidence can feed back into national strategy and international policy around finance for addressing loss and damage. Focusing on two SPARC regions, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, as well as a country focal study for each of the two regions (Burkina Faso and Somalia), the project will respond to the following questions:

1. What is the total volume of estimated current and projected future climate attributed losses and damages in SPARC countries?

2. What are the more specific current and projected future climate-related losses and damages in agriculture and livestock sectors in these countries?

07 February 2024

Responsibilities and tasks of the contractors

SPARC is looking for a Research Assistant to support data search and compilation, quantitative analysis, and qualitative literature review to support the regional assessment and country focal studies on losses and damages in agriculture and livestock sectors in Burkina Faso and Somalia with up to 25 Consultant days between March and June 2024.

Specific tasks of the Consultants will include:

- Gathering data on loss and damage from extreme events in agriculture and livestock in Burkina Faso and Somalia, in collaboration with the lead quantitative data analyst and the loss and damage expert team members focusing on both countries
- Undertaking basic data compilation to support manual matching of data on loss and damage from extreme weather events from different sources, under supervision of the lead quantitative analyst
- Cleaning data and supporting quantitative analysis for the global report and country focal studies
- Undertaking online literature search and initial review of the literature on loss and damage from slow-onset climate processes in the Sahel and Horn of Africa

Requirements

The candidate needs to have a solid understanding of loss and damage concepts and discourses, and of recent developments in finance for loss and damage. Proficiency in excel and quantitative analysis skills are also essential for this position. Past experience assessing impacts from extreme weather events and / or slow-onset climate change processes is a plus. The Consultant must be fluent in English and French.

Timeline

Activity Description	**Dates**	**Estimated number of Consultant days**
Gathering data on loss and damage from extreme events in agriculture and livestock in Burkina Faso and Somalia Undertaking basic data compilation to support manual matching of data on loss and damage from extreme weather events from different sources Cleaning data and supporting quantitative analysis for the global report and country focal studies.	04 March – 7 April 2024	10
Undertaking online literature search, compiling a reference list and library of relevant resources and initial review of the literature on loss and damage from slow-onset climate processes in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.	04 March – 21 April 2024	10
Inputs to the finalisation and revision of outputs and policy engagement as required	22 April – 19 May 2024	3
Participation in team meetings and regular activity updates to the lead quantitative analyst and project leads	04 March – 30 June 2024	2

07 February 2024

Deliverables to be provided by the Consultant for payment to be issued at the end of the contract period:

1. **Reference list and document library** by 17 March 2024
2. **Data inputs to quantitative analysis for focal study analysis** by 07 April 2024

Application

To apply for the Research Assistant position, please send your CV, expected daily fee rate, and a short description (200-300 words) explaining your relevant experience to Lena Nur (l.nur@odi.org.uk) by 29 February 2024. If you have any questions on the project or the specific position, please do not hesitate to reach out.