

IMPROVING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BY IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY DRIVEN REFORESTATION INITIATIVES

1. Background and context

The Republic of Haiti, with the population of more than 10.5 million people and land area of 27,750 square kilometres, is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In 2018, the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Haiti 168 out of 189 countries surveyed. 59% of Haitians live below the national poverty rate and 24.7% are estimated to live in extreme poverty.

The socioeconomic challenges facing the country are further aggravated by Haiti's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Its geographical location exposes the island to frequent natural disasters, such as tropical storms, hurricanes and earthquakes. The Climate Change Vulnerability Index ranks Haiti as seventh on the list of 170 countries at extreme risk. Over 93% of Haiti's surface and 96% of its population are at risk of exposure to two or more hazards. Moreover, Haiti highly depends on agriculture as its source of revenue with 80% of households involved in farming, which is one of the industries most vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. Since early 2000s, the sector has performed poorly, contracting on average by 0.6% annually due to repeated adverse climatic shocks – a series of droughts, heavy rains and hurricanes.

Widespread deforestation in the country further aggravates the consequences of these events. The level of deforestation is currently estimated at 98% (UNDP, 2012). The depleted tree cover increases the chances of flooding, soil erosion and results in reduced agricultural productivity. The main driver of deforestation in Haiti is the level of dependency on charcoal and firewood as the main source of energy, which is estimated at 92% among the Haitian households (UN in Haiti Report, 2017). It is the most accessible source of energy as it requires the lowest-cost equipment, with the prices of an ordinary stove starting at 30 gourdes, while kerosene or gas burners can cost between 300 to 1,500 gourdes (ESMAP, 2007). Collecting and selling firewood generates on average 16% of the rural income.

By exacerbating the negative impact of natural disasters, the ongoing deforestation jeopardises the country's food security, infrastructure and the safety of its population. The government of Haiti has made progress in terms of planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation by introducing the National Climate Change Policy (PNCC) in 2017, expressing the country's aspirations to implementing effective measures. This project is aligned with the Strategic Development Plan of Haiti 2010-2030, which focuses on four main areas of reforms: territorial, economic, social and institutional. The first sector, territorial, concentrates on environment protection and infrastructure development, including reforestation initiatives and protection of three national parks (Forêt des Pins, le Pic Macaya and le Parc de la Visite), which are considered the main areas of intervention for Reforestation Grant Funds Call for Proposals.

In response to the above Haven has designed this project to promote reforestation initiatives in the buffer zone of Parc Macaya in the Sud Department. It seeks to find alternatives to cutting down trees for charcoal. The project aimed to target 300 families (approximately 1,500 individuals). The beneficiaries will receive a variety of tree seedlings to plant on their farms or land together with training on tree cultivation, climate change preparedness, soil amendment and biochar. At least 50% of participants will be female to promote gender equality and inclusion.

Haven will be supported by two local partners in project implementation: Bac A agriculture group South and Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (ORE). BAC will support the project implementation by providing an agronomist and a technician with vast experience in the agriculture and

environment conservation in Haiti to carry out parts of the training for the beneficiaries. ORE will support the project by providing training in nursery production, grafting of fruit trees and maintaining orchards under the agroforestry element of the programme. They will also be one of the suppliers of seeds and seedlings for the establishment of a nursery.

2. Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the negative effects of the deforestation in Haiti by increasing the tree cover and introducing a number of measures aimed at reducing soil erosion and improving water regulation. The project will also provide necessary training and ongoing support to local farmers to equip them with necessary skills to take ownership of the project and its results.

1. Increased tree coverage by planting 120,000 trees through the three elements of the programme: agroforestry, hill-side tree planting and fast-growing trees for charcoal planting.
2. Improved knowledge of best agricultural practices by providing training to local farmers.
3. Improved soil quality management by planting trees within the agroforestry element as well as training and promotion in the use of soil amendment techniques and biochar.
4. Reduced necessity to illegal felling of long-growing trees for charcoal through the continuous production of fast-growing trees for conversion into charcoal.
5. Improved capacity of grassroots management to allow the community to take ownership of the project

3. Purpose and Scope of the Evaluation

Haven is seeking a consultant(s) to carry out a final evaluation of the project. The objective of the final evaluation is to make an overall independent assessment of the project performance, paying particularly attention to the impact of the project actions against its objectives outlined in section 2. It is also to identify key lessons and to propose practical recommendations for follow-up and future similar actions.

- Location: Torbeck, South department of Haiti
- Timeframe: 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

Key Evaluation Questions

The evaluation will be expected to address the following:

- Assessment of how the project was designed (does the logic make sense?) and the targeting strategies
- Implementation strategy and participation of stakeholders
- Progress towards achieving the intended results
- **Relevance:** To what extent did the project meet the needs/priorities of the targeted beneficiaries?
- **Efficiency:** Were the financial resources and other inputs used efficiently to achieve outputs? Assess projects efficiency in terms of time and resource use. Assess comparative/ cost effectiveness analysis between project components (value for money).
- **Effectiveness:** Have the planned objectives been achieved and to what extent can this plausibly be **attributed** to the project actions? What are the notable achievements, best practices and lessons learnt from the programme? Include an analysis of benefits comparing project beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, supported by case studies and assess the effectiveness of the

strategies and approaches (What was new, what worked well and what didn't? What are the key drivers of change? What are the key learning points?)

- **Impact:** What has happened among the beneficiary community as a result of the project, including both intended and unintended effects? (Triangulation/ analysis of benefits to project beneficiaries in comparison with non-beneficiaries; what were the critical success factors?)
- **Cross cutting issue:** were gender and the environment considered/addressed in the project implementation and how?

4. Approach and Methodology

The consultant is expected to employ a variety of data collection and analysis techniques for both quantitative and qualitative data to ensure a comprehensive evaluation exercise and full documentation of the development of project supported beneficiaries. This will likely include:

- Document and systems review: Review of existing documentation, including: project design documents (project proposal), reports, project log frame, monitoring and evaluation data, and baseline survey document
- Mini-surveys
- Focus Group Discussions
- Key Informant Interviews
- Field observations
- Case studies
- Data Analysis – qualitative and quantitative

5. Timing and duration

The evaluation is scheduled to commence on April 1st of 2020 and end on April 18th, 2020 (15 days) from the day the contract is signed.

6. Expected deliverables

Inception report - The consultant is required to submit Inception Report **within 5 days after signing of contact agreement** to Haven. The Inception report will help the selected consultant to undertake a document review and prepare research plan that consists of, among others: detailed work plan for the entire exercise, methodology and tools to be used, evaluation/research questions, and expected outputs. The inception report will be reviewed and approved by Haven. Based on the outcome of this review; the consultant is required to revisit the evaluation plan accordingly.

Final report - a detailed report of the overall findings of the research will be submitted for approval. The structure and content of the report should be of following format:

- Executive summary (What was researched? Why? What are the conclusions and recommendations, not more than 3 pages)
- Introduction/Background
- Description of the Research (How and why was the research approach chosen)
- Research Findings (an in-depth analysis on key project intervention, major findings, challenges etc.)
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Appendices

Submission date to be confirmed. Haven will review the report and revert back to the consultant(s) with any relevant queries and necessary changes prior to the report being finalised.

7. Evaluation team and selection criteria

The lead consultant should have demonstrated competencies in one or more of the following professional backgrounds: agriculture, agroforestry and natural resource management, with considerable experience on impact evaluation and project appraisals. More specifically, the consultant is expected to have:

- Experience in carrying out impact evaluations, with a focus on agriculture, agroforestry and natural resource management related interventions.
- Demonstrable academic and practical experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodology, evaluation design and implementation.
- Strong analytical, facilitation and communication skills
- Strong analytical and report writing skills
- Fluent spoken and written French and English
- Data collectors should be fluent in local language
- The lead consultant should possess at least a Masters degree in Agroforestry, Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Development, Rural Development, Development studies or related subject.

Consultant(s) will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Understanding of the Terms of Reference (10%)
- Proposed methodology and planning of the assignment (20%)
- Specific country experience and understanding of the country's Development context (10%)
- Experience of the team in conducting evaluations (10%)
- Overall balance and complementarity of team in respect of the desired expertise (10%)
- Experience and suitability of the Team Leader (10%)
- Cost (25%)
- *Languages – Creole, French and English (5%)*

8. Application procedure

Service providers that meet the required criteria are invited to submit an application (no more than X pages long), which includes:

- A brief statement of their understanding of the country-specific context
- A brief re-elaboration of the methodology they envisage taking cognisance of the context and their understanding of Haven's country specific programme and any other methodological information and requirements indicated in this terms of reference. The methodology should name the evaluation tools that will be used.
- A time-specific plan to implement the evaluation, within the outline timeframe indicated.
- The proposed team for the evaluation with details of the responsibilities of each team member.
- A detailed breakdown of costs with details of proposed consultancy days/costs across team members.
- Two examples of previous work
- Contact details for two referees who can be contacted by Haven

Deadline for submissions is February 14th, 2020. Submit by emailing applications to Damien.meaney@havenpartnership.com.