



PART-TIME SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCY

ADVISOR: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FUNDING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITIES IN EASTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 28 February 2011
DATE OF ISSUANCE: 1 January 2010
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: RUFORUM - Kampala
CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: RUF-CON-PME-CCA 2010/1

Consultancy Period

Successful applicant is expected to start assignment from 15th March 2011 for a period not exceeding 6 months. This will be a purely part-time engagement requirement of 4 days monthly input and travel to selected universities and institutions in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

Background

Climate change and climate variability (or unpredictability) is a challenge that already faces all the countries of the world. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa are especially hard hit due to the limited adaptation capacity as well as technological endowment while the inhabitants are largely dependent on natural resources. African Universities have been slow to respond to climate change adaptation challenges despite the many emerging opportunities for capacity building and funding for climate change related initiatives. Building universities' responsiveness and responses to climate change is however clearly an essential development in building sustainable adaptation capacity.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 25 universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa established in 2004. RUFORUM is registered in Uganda as an International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It has a mandate to oversee graduate training and networks of specialization in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries. Specifically, RUFORUM recognizes the important and largely unfulfilled role that universities play in contributing to the wellbeing of small-scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region. RUFORUM visualizes a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which can produce high performing graduates and high-quality research responsive to the demands of Africa's farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development. RUFORUM's Mission is to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the maintenance of

collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions, and governments.

RUFORUM has received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to coordinate member universities to access climate change adaptation funding and training opportunities in order to develop their own internal capacities in research and training on climate change adaptation in agriculture. The project specifically aims to: (1) establish the existing levels of climate change adaptation capacity and activities (research and training) within members of RUFORUM; and (2) develop a database of current and upcoming climate change adaptation funding and training opportunities for which RUFORUM member universities would be eligible and use the RUFORUM network to facilitate RUFORUM member universities access to opportunities for climate change funding and training.

In order to facilitate RUFORUM member universities to access current and upcoming climate change adaptation funding and training opportunities, RUFORUM wishes to hire the services of a part-time consultant to provide technical support and guide the climate change resource mobilization and leveraging training opportunities at the university level and where necessary regionally.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The job will be performed in consultation with project manager and involve movement in Eastern, central and Southern Africa. The climate change advisor will provide overall strategic guidance on how universities access climate change adaptation training and funding opportunities and related activities in a timely and effective manner. Specifically, the consultant will perform the following duties:

- Provide direction and guidance in the planning, development and implementation of access to climate change research and training opportunities
- Lead the identification of global funding agencies and schemes for climate change adaptation training and research
- Recommend possible strategies for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in universities to influence research, curriculum and funding
- Plan promotion of synergies and collaboration between RUFORUM member universities to access climate change adaptation training and funding
- Provide direction and guidance in the implementation of training, capacity-building, knowledge management, networking and dissemination activities of the RUFORUM climate change strategies
- Identify potential (current and future) funding schemes and link RUFORUM member universities to these funding sources to support climate change adaptation research and training.

COMPETENCIES

- Broad and in-depth knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, approaches and practices relevant to climate change adaptation and sustainable development issues in Africa.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively design and implement a programme of engagement with universities on climate change and sustainable development.

- Proven ability in fund-raising and in forging partnerships with global climate change agencies. Ability to effectively engage with different partners and strong diplomatic/negotiation skills.
- Speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English and a good communicator sensitive to African university context
- Considers all universities and individuals to whom services are provided and able to establish and maintain productive partnerships with universities and development partners in climate change science

QUALIFICATIONS

Education

Advanced university degree (PhD degree or equivalent) in a relevant field.

Work Experience

At least 10 years progressively responsible professional experience in climate change adaptation science and funding with special focus on mainstreaming in universities. This should include at least five years of relevant working experience on climate change and development in the context of Africa and funding/investment. Demonstrable understanding of climate change global issues and donor environment is a requirement for the position. Experience with African universities is a mandatory requirement.

Languages

Fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of the other languages (especially French) is an advantage.

Other Skills

Well-developed computer skills including word processing, spreadsheet applications and use of the Internet are required. Skills in relevant analytical approaches and tools for managing the inter-linkages between climate change and universities are required.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit electronic copies of application and CV to the undersigned address on or before 28th February 2011.

Programme Manager – PME

Regional Universities Forum for capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University

P.O. Box 7062 – Kampala, Uganda

E-mail: w.ochola@ruforum.org with copies to: e.adipala@ruforum.org AND secretariat@ruforum.org