



TERMS OF REFERENCE

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE SEFED PROGRAMME "SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCE OF SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE ENERGY DOMESTIC SECTOR"

CONTEXT

The **Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity** (GERES) is an international non-profit organization headquartered in France and active in Southeast Asia for the last 20 years.

Environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, reducing energy poverty, and improving livelihood of the poor are the main focus areas for GERES. The GERES team is particularly involved in the implementation of engineering solutions for development and providing specific technical expertise. Activities include conducting energy efficiency programs, providing decentralized energy services for local economic development, supporting and developing renewable energies and promoting waste management. These activities are always implemented in partnership with local stakeholders and communities based on collaborative experience sharing.

Reducing biomass consumption through ICS (Improved Cookstoves) is one of the widely recognized measures taken to strengthen economies at the household scale. In particular, it contributes to the livelihoods of women and children by reducing negative impacts on health, providing cleaner kitchens, saving time and money spent on collecting cooking fuel, and freeing time for income generation and livelihood activities. Improved cookstoves also have positive impacts on the environment, namely mitigating climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions from the inefficient use of non-renewable biomass and reducing pressure on forest resources.

Support to the Improved Cookstove value chain in Cambodia

Since 1997, GERES has worked alongside players in the domestic cookstove supply chain to promote a more sustainable use of biomass energy by introducing more efficient cookstove models. Between 2003 and 2013, during the 10 years of carbon finance that allowed the scaling up of this national program for the distribution of ICS, more than 3 million of ICS were sold using with wood and coal for combustible which allowed the industry to reach a production of more than 35,000 units per month at cruising speed. In 2004, GERES supported the registration of the Cambodian Association of Producers and Distributors of ICS (ICoProDAC), but this step remained

more symbolic than operational in the history of the sector. Since 2012, GERES has initiated a dialogue with ICoProDAC members to define the conditions for their operational and financial empowerment. A survey of the members was conducted in 2014 to identify the services expected and to assess the willingness and ability of the different member groups to contribute to the resources of the association, including by introducing the concept of membership fee. In 2016, ICoProDAC represented some 300 members, including some 100 producers and nearly 200 wholesalers and mobile distributors. For these micro and small entrepreneurs, most of them in the informal economy, the challenges lie in the sustainability and development of their business in a very dynamic context where new players and models of imported cookstoves are coming onto the market. It is therefore time for the association to fully fulfill its inter-professional role, in particular by deploying a set of services to its members to support the competitiveness of the latter and to help generate its own revenues.

Support to the sustainable wood charcoal value chain

Since 2008, GERES has also been working on the creation of Sustainable Biomass Fuels supply chains, in order to replace, at least in part, the traditional sectors which constitute an increasing factor of forest degradation, by alternative solutions for users: development of new sources of solid biomass (bamboo, various residues), improvement of carbonization processes and promotion of community practices for sustainable forest management, the residues of which can be recycled into charcoal.

The level of structuring of the sector, the maturity of the technical solutions and the current number of actors are just nascent. A number of obstacles hinder the development of a sustainable wood charcoal sector. It is therefore to provide a concerted response to these issues that GERES proposes to bring together all the stakeholders of value chain around a coordination "platform" able to structure a sustainable charcoal supply chain and redirect revenues generated by the sector to community forests so that they can invest in plantation and forest restoration activities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SEFED project proposed to support the emergence and empowerment of local "sustainable energy" sectors involved in the production and distribution of improved cookstoves and sustainable biomass fuels in Cambodia. The approach was threefold: increase the internal resources and capacities of these local actors, stimulate market demand and change the regulatory framework, to support the dissemination of sustainable energy solutions and sustain the biomass energy sector for domestic cooking.

The overall objective of the project is to create the conditions for sustaining the development of these sectors, their actors, and governance structures, and thus contribute to reducing the impact of forest degradation on the climate.

More specifically the project aims to:

- Strengthen the capacities of 2 "sustainable energy" sectors, by working on their governance, their economic model and their material and technical resources.
- Support market demand for energy efficient, ecologically sustainable and socially responsible energy solutions through household awareness and promotion of proposed solutions.
- Contribute to the development of an attractive regulatory and fiscal framework to stimulate public and private investment in the biomass energy and forest ecosystems sectors.

Over the course of the project, ICoProDAC was transformed into CESPAC (Cambodian Efficient Stove Promoters Association) with new status and governance structure to better fit the strategic direction desired by the members. The project provided capacity building support to the board of

CESPA to ease into their new responsibilities, develop the strategic vision and plan of the organization, and identify and roll-out income generating activities.

After identifying a number of market barriers along the sustainable wood charcoal value chain the SEFED project adopted a market-oriented approach and envisioned a “missing actor” whose mission would be threefold: structure the actors along the value chain, ensure the quality control of the product and guarantee access to the market. A pilot social enterprise was created to test the validity and of this new value chain and the viability of the financial model. The project allowed to also engage new stakeholders until now excluded from the sustainable value chain: community forests that supply legal and sustainable wood, and traditional charcoal producers that now have access to legal source of wood and improved practices.

Location of activities

The project’s activities took place in Kampong Chhnang to support directly the board of CESPA and in Pursat, kampong Chhnang and Phnom Penh when implementing the proof of concept for the sustainable wood charcoal value chain.

List of Partners

The project included a wide array of partners between July 2016 and August 2019, period of implementation:

- CIRDA, Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development from July 2016 to December 2017,
- RECOFTC (not financed by AFD), from October 2017 to September 2018,
- CESPA, Cambodian Efficient Stove Promoters Association, from July 2018 to June 2019,
- KGC, Khmer Green Charcoal, from May to August 2019.

List of donors

- AFD, Agence Française du Développement,
- OFID, OPEC Fund for International Development,
- PEFC, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification,
- UNDP, United National Development Program,
- Foundation Michelham de Hellingly.

Key figures:

Duration: 3 years 2 months (July 2016 to August 2019)

Budget: 988, 713 USD

Number of Provinces covered: 3 (Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Phnom Penh)

Sustainability of the action

A grant from the Nordic Climate Facility is in process to be secured that will allow during 2 years, starting in August 2019, to continue the commercial activities of Kjuongo while exploring opportunities for scaling-up of the wood supply chain and prepare to approach impact investors.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE FINAL EVALUATION

This assignment aims at the evaluation of phase 1 of the intervention of the SEFED program as stated in the financing agreement signed with the Agence Française de Développement.

This final evaluation must allow a critical assessment of the quality of SEFED at the end of its completion and its contribution to GERES interventions on biomass energy and economic development sector. The external evaluation of the SEFED project will use the standard five evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability-replicability and impacts.

Identified evaluative questions:

1) Relevance

- Was the SEFED project relevant regarding the need of the biomass sector development?
- Were the target groups and scope/scale of action relevant to achieve the results?
- Was the methodological approach, tools, solution brought by the project relevant?
- Did they bring added-value regarding national policies on the sectors (Forestry, Biomass)?

2) Effectiveness

- Did the project reach the expected results?
- What are the key levers/barriers (internal, external) which helped/prevented the achievements of the expected results and objectives? Were there unexpected results?
- What was the effectiveness in the support to the development of private initiatives (Kjuongo), in the development of network?
- What was the effectiveness on the work with local and national authorities?

3) Efficiency

- Have the means implemented (HR, financial) been sufficient and adequate, taking into account the established objectives and expected results?
- How did it affect, positively or negatively, the achievement of planned results (empowerment, appropriation, disengagement)?

4) Sustainability and replicability

- How the adopted approaches and activities have led to the development of local capacities?
- What level of ownership and sustainability of SEFED achievements at both local and national levels?
- What innovative experiments conducted through SEFED would be replicable? In which context social, economic and political?

5) Impacts

- What were the main changes and impacts observed according to the indicators of the project?
- Has there been project-induced impacts or changes that were not planned?

METHODOLOGY AND SCHEDULE

The consultant is requested to submit its own methodology which must comprise:

- Desk review;
- Data collection (interviews, focus group) in relevant project location.
- Identification of local stakeholders as potential implementing partners and meeting if relevant.
- Data analysis, reporting, validation and restitution.

The work is expected to be completed by 23th of August 2019 at the latest. The applicant should provide a detailed planned schedule of the work to be performed, together with its technical offer.

DELIVERABLES

- Draft evaluation report including project review and recommended corrective actions;
- Final report including GERES and its partners feedbacks and comments;
- PowerPoint presentation summing up the main conclusions and recommendations.

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GERES

Data

GERES will provide access to relevant project documentation and reports, and the necessary data for the consultant to be able to evaluate the project achievements. GERES will also provide the available means of verification of the objectively verifiable indicators, upon request of the consultant.

Any other relevant data can be requested by the consultant and will be provided if existing.

Local services

GERES can provide no-cost support in the organization of the missions, such as advice and support for visa, general advice about country context, etc.

GERES will provide the following additional support:

- Facilitation for organizing interviews and meetings,
- Stationary, workspace and internet during mission within GERES' premises.

Personnel

GERES project operations and support team will be available during the consultancy, and particularly during the field missions, to provide the consultant with the necessary information to smoothly conduct the review.

BUDGET

The maximum available budget for this assignment is 15,000 USD (or equivalent in €), inclusive of all costs and all taxes.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The evaluation firm will have to present 1 or 2 experts with the following expertise:

- A solid and diversified experience in conducting review/evaluation of development & cooperation project with related references;
- Fully conversant with the principles and working methods of project cycle management;
- Experience and knowledge in support to market chains development and access to energy;
- Knowledge of Cambodian context and working experience in South-East Asia an asset;
- Experience and knowledge in biomass energy, improved Cookstove Dissemination, Forestry an asset;
- Full working knowledge of English with excellent report writing skills.

APPLICATION

Applications should comprise:

A technical offer (maximum 5 pages), made of:

- understanding of the assignment
- description of the methodology
- proposed schedule of execution

In Annex:

- references for the consultant(s) involved in the review and detailed CV

A financial offer detailing the number of man-days with unit prices and the various reimbursable costs (flight tickets, other transportation costs, per diem and lodging).

The applications will be assessed on both the technical and financial offers.

Information can be requested to Heloïse Pichot, h.pichot@geres.eu

The applications have to be submitted by email by 4th of June 2019, 5:00pm Cambodian Time to the SEFED Program Manager, Heloïse Pichot, h.pichot@geres.eu

Technical and financial offers should be in separate files, in generally accepted electronic format. Electronic submission should be less than 5 Mo (if heavier please split in several files). Files with extensions not supported by PC will not be considered.