******CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Sustainable Management of Landscapes (SAMALA) Project Baseline Study**

Total LandCare (TLC) is a registered non-governmental organization founded in 1999. With its headquarters in Malawi, TLC is also registered and operating in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. TLC’s mission is to transform the livelihoods of rural households from subsistence to prosperity and self-reliance. Achieving this goal involves building the capacity of organized groups of farmers and cooperatives to integrate sustainable agricultural and natural resource practices with initiatives to strengthen livelihoods and value chains linked to micro-finance and markets. The ultimate aim is to increase farm productivity, diversification, profitability and resilience with lower input costs and sound management of the landscapes for current and future generations.

Total LandCare has received funding from the **Government of Flanders and the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi,** towards the implementation of the **Sustainable Management of Landscapes (SAMALA)** project in Mzimba, Kasungu, Ntchisi, and Dowa districts. The goal of the project is to contribute to the Malawi Government efforts in restoring degraded landscapes to support sustainable livelihoods. The project aims at improving catchment management with sustained land productivity, strengthening inclusive community governance structures and local institutions for sustainable management of landscapes, increasing land tenure security and community knowledge on existing regulatory frameworks, and diversifying and strengthening of livelihoods. SAMALA Project is being implemented through a consortium led by TLC which includes **Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)**, and **International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)**.

**TLC** is therefore seeking the services of a competent team of consultants to conduct a baseline study for SAMALA project.

**Purpose of the Baseline Study**

The Baseline study is intended to provide social, economic and environmental data at the beginning of the project. SAMALA Baseline study will be completed as part of project start-up activities, with local stakeholders, to measure the status of all indicators and to understand the starting point of key elements of the work and intervention against which later progress will be measured. This will enable project indicators at output and goal/outcome level to be measured and tracked, but also understand the prevailing conditions in the program environment.

**Specific Objectives of the Task**

1. Produce baseline values, benchmarking, for key programme indicators at impact, outcome and output levels in line with the SAMALA Program Results Framework.
2. Assess the current methodologies for climate resilience, agriculture, and natural resource management for the farming households in the targeted districts.
3. Assess the productivity and diversification of climate adaptive agriculture interventions adopted and used by farming households in the targeted districts.
4. Assess the profitability of cash crops through the availability and access to markets in the targeted districts.
5. Assess the improvement on gender equality in the division of production work associated with the production of different value chains, control of agriculture proceeds, and inclusion in governance of natural resource management.
6. Assess the policy and regulatory environment guiding the agriculture, climate resilience, natural resource management, and land tenure security sectors in Malawi.

**Methodology**

It is expected that the Consultant will use a mixed methods approach to utilize both qualitative and quantitative means in data collection, analysis and interpretation. The Consultant will be expected to explain the sampling methodology deployed, the sample size, and how findings of the Baseline study can be generalized and applied to the target population; develop data collection tools and a systematic methodology for data collection; and use data analytical techniques and analyse data for the baseline study. The Consultant should also recommend mechanisms for tracking progress of project implementation including sources of information and the means of verification.

**Timelines and Deliverables**

The assignment shall run for a maximum period of **35 (thirty-five)** days. At a minimum, the Consultant is expected to produce the following outputs:

## Inception Report: A comprehensive, clear and concise report, demonstrating the understanding of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and the subsequent assignment approach that sets out the methodology, strategy, proposed data collection instruments and timeline of activities.

## Preliminary Findings Presentations: A short presentation of the initial findings, including at least two (2) case studies, and tentative conclusions and recommendations. The presentation will be used to debrief the SAMALA MEL and Programming team and other relevant parties, to identify and address any misinterpretations or gaps.

## Baseline Report: At a minimum, the report shall include; table of contents, list of acronyms, executive summary, introduction, baseline context and purpose, baseline framework and methodology, findings, case studies, conclusions and recommendations.

## Baseline Report PowerPoint Presentation and Brief: PowerPoint presentation and two-page Baseline Brief to facilitate sharing of the key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The full Terms of Reference for the Consultancy services can be collected from Total LandCare offices at the physical address below, or by requesting through email to: totallandcare@tlcmw.org, or downloading from TLC website: <http://www.totallandcare.org>

**Method of Application**

Interested applicants, firms or individuals, should submit technical and financial proposals including consultants’ CVs, work plan and timelines, and a copy of a report of similar consultancy previously conducted to the address below by **2nd March, 2023.**

Applications should be clearly labeled **“SAMALA Baseline Study”** on the submission envelope**.** Late applications will automatically be disqualified, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. **Note: Applications via email will not be considered.**

**The Internal Procurement Committee**

**Total Land Care**

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