



Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Consultancy Services: Consultancy to Conduct a Study on Strengthening Rangeland Management for Sustainable Productivity and Ecosystem Health.

Period of the assignment: 4weeks

Reporting To: African Innovations Institute (AfrII) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

1. Introduction:

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), in partnership with Conservation International (CI) and the Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII), is preparing a proposal document for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded full-size project “Water Security and Catchment Resilience in Uganda’s Cattle Corridor”(GEF ID: 11696). The project aims to enhance sustainable and climate-resilient land and water management practices in Uganda's Cattle Corridor. Details about this project can be found [HERE](#).

2. Background

Uganda's Cattle Corridor, stretching from the southwest to the northeast of the country, is home to a significant proportion of the nation’s livestock and pastoralist communities. However, this vital region faces escalating challenges from rangeland degradation, overgrazing, invasive species, and the growing impacts of climate variability. These factors have led to declining livestock productivity, reduced soil fertility, and a deterioration of ecosystem services that underpin livelihoods in the corridor.

Conventional rangeland management practices have proven inadequate in reversing land degradation trends, while community-based efforts often struggle with limited technical support and access to modern tools. Furthermore, policy frameworks and interventions in the corridor have historically lacked integration between ecological restoration, technological innovation, and value chain development.

There is an urgent need for a transformative, ecosystem-based approach to rangeland management that combines ecological restoration techniques (such as reseedling with native grasses and rotational grazing), digital innovations for real-time monitoring, and inclusive governance models that empower local communities. Strengthening rangeland productivity while safeguarding ecosystem health is vital not only for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in the Cattle Corridor, but also for contributing to Uganda’s broader goals of agricultural modernization, sustainable economic development, and resilience in the face of climate change.

To address these challenges, there is a need to identify sustainable rangeland management practices that integrate ecological restoration, community-based approaches, and innovative technologies.



The project will promote sustainable and climate-resilient land and water management by enhancing access to safe and clean water, resilient and sustainable alternative livelihoods, fostering policy coherence and local-level climate adaptation, strengthening coordination and knowledge management, and deploying a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system. To achieve this, the project will use innovative approaches, such as: (a) aligning with GCF projects to pioneer efforts of GEF-GCF's long-term vision of establishing a coherent and complementary climate finance landscape by aligning programming to optimize resource deployment; (b) establishing demonstration centers; (c) using conservation agreements to foster adoption and sustainability of climate resilient infrastructure and alternative livelihoods; (d) incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into project implementation; (e) policy coherence; and (f) establishing public-private partnerships to generate additional resources for climate adaptation.

3. Objectives

This consultancy seeks to conduct an in-depth, multidisciplinary study aimed at identifying and promoting sustainable rangeland management practices. It will evaluate existing degradation trends and challenges, assess the efficacy of ecological restoration methods, explore the integration of community-led approaches, and examine the role of digital and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) technologies. The ultimate goal is to develop practical, scalable solutions that enhance livestock productivity and rehabilitate rangeland ecosystems while contributing to Uganda's broader green economy goals. Specifically, the consultancy will perform:

- i. Assess the current status of rangeland degradation and livestock productivity.
- ii. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing rehabilitation practices (e.g., reseed, rotational grazing, invasive species control).
- iii. Examine community-led initiatives and afforestation efforts contributing to rangeland productivity.
- iv. Identify and recommend modern tools such as digital early warning systems and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) technologies.
- v. Based on ii-iv above, propose recommendations and strategies for enhancing sustainable livestock productivity and rangeland ecosystems resilience.

4. Scope of the work

The consultant will be expected to:

- Conduct field assessments on the status of rangeland degradation and livestock productivity in selected rangeland ecosystems in Kole, Pader, Kitgum, Mityana and Rakai Districts.
- Review relevant literature, policy and institutional frameworks for rangeland and ecosystem management.



- Undertake stakeholder consultations with pastoralist and livestock-dependent communities, local authorities, and sector experts.
- Map, characterize and analyze rangeland ecosystems, ecosystem services, land use practices, degradation trends, and management practices.
- Identify scalable and context-specific rehabilitation strategies.
- Assess how digital tools and LDN technologies can be applied locally.
- Develop case studies on successful community-led initiatives.
- Propose recommendations and strategies for enhancing sustainable livestock productivity and rangeland ecosystems resilience.
- Facilitate a validation workshop with key stakeholders in Kampala to review findings, gather feedback, and ensure consensus on actionable recommendations.

Note: The scope of work outlined above serves as a guiding framework. The consultant shall submit a detailed methodology as part of their technical proposal, clearly describing how the assignment will be conducted and accomplished, including proposed tools, sampling strategies, ethical considerations, and timelines.

5. Deliverables, timelines and payment

The assignment will take a maximum of four (4) weeks beginning from July 28, 2025 up to August 20, 2025 as detailed below.

Expected output	Timeline	Format	Installation payment (%)
Inception report and data collection tools	July 28, 2025	Word doc	30
Situational analysis report on current rangeland conditions.	August 4, 2025	Word doc	20
Draft report	August 11, 2025	Word doc	30
Validation workshop (online) / stakeholder consultation report	August 15, 2025	PowerPoint + Minutes	
Final report	August 20, 2025	Word doc	20

6. Reporting

The consultant will report to Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII) through designated project manager. Regular weekly check-ins will be organized by the designated project manager to monitor progress, provide guidance, and address any challenges. The consultant shall be responsible for reporting on activities, sharing updates, and raising any issues during these sessions throughout the consultancy period



All reports shall be professionally formatted and submitted in both editable (Microsoft Word) and PDF formats. The final report shall include an executive summary, policy and legal framework, methodology, key findings, conclusions, and practical recommendations. Annexes shall include relevant tools, datasets, transcripts, and other supporting documentation, where applicable.

7. Required Qualifications and Experience

The consultant should possess:

- Advanced degree in environmental science, rangeland ecology, natural resource management, or related field.
- Proven experience in conducting similar research or consultancy assignments.
- Strong knowledge of Uganda's rangeland systems and pastoralist or livestock dependent livelihoods.
- Familiarity with GIS, remote sensing, and digital monitoring tools is an added advantage.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.

8. Submission instructions

Interested consultants or teams should submit applications both hard and soft copy of your complete, detailed bid including team CVs and two samples of relevant past work by **Monday 21st July 2025 at 11:00am (EAT)**, in a sealed envelope to the following address:

Plot 1544, Koiri Close, Off Old Kiira Road, Bukoto Tel: +256768 229 363; and as pdf by Email to:

procurement@afrii.org copy to info@afrii.org

Subject line: "Consultancy to Conduct a Study on Strengthening Rangeland Management for Sustainable Productivity and Ecosystem Health"