



Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food  
Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation  
Agência Regional da Agricultura e Alimentação



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

**Project to build the institutional capacity of the ECOWAS Commission and member states to access climate finance to support implementation of the agricultural sector priorities of the Regional Climate Strategy.**

**Selection of a national consultant for the evaluation of the national budget sensitive to climate change in Sierra Leone.**

**Reference :** ARAA/FVC/2025/SCI/011B

**Publication date :** August 20, 2025

**Response deadline :** **August 31, 2025 at 17:00 GMT**

## 1- BACKGROUND

The member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) all submitted their NDCs as part of the 1<sup>er</sup> ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement, and updated them in 2021. Although these revised NDCs highlight the great vulnerability of the agricultural sector, the nature of the commitments and the wording of the targets nevertheless vary widely from one country to another. Most member states have presented conditional emission reduction targets, subject to the mobilization of international climate financing. Climate change is a priority issue for West Africa. "Acting together" within the framework of regional solidarity is an absolute necessity to enable the West African region to reduce its vulnerability and collectively face up to the risks induced by the impacts of climate change.

With this in mind, at the 88<sup>ème</sup> ordinary session of the Council of Ministers in June 2022, ECOWAS adopted its first [Regional Climate Strategy](#) (RCS) and its 2022-2030 action plan. The aim is to help member states meet the challenge of combating climate change, in particular by supporting them in meeting their commitments under the Paris Agreement. The cost of implementing the action plan is \$95,320,000, including \$13,620,000 for the agricultural sector. Implementing the SRC requires the ECOWAS Commission, its specialized institutions and member states to mobilize financial resources, set up operational mechanisms and acquire technical capacities in order to achieve the objectives set out in the strategy.

The ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (ARAA) therefore applied for and obtained funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an implementing partner for member states under the preparatory support program. Thus, on March 28, 2023, the GCF approved the regional program for funding of 1.4 million USD for eleven (11) member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo) for an implementation period of 20 months for "Strengthening the institutional capacity of ECOWAS and its member states to access climate finance to support the implementation of the RSC's agricultural sector priorities".

One of the challenges remains the allocation of budget to the agricultural sector, taking into account the challenges of climate change. This regional readiness program will support a pilot study to assess public investment budgets in the climate-sensitive agricultural sector in six (6) member states (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo), which could lead to advocacy tools to propose concrete recommendations for reorientation towards climate-compatible investments in line with the spirit of the CRS results.

## 2- MISSION OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the assignment is to review Sierra Leone's national public budget for the period 2019 to 2023 in order to assess its climate sensitivity and propose a list of recommendations for reorienting climate-compatible investments. The specific subject matter is :

- carry out a review of climate-sensitive public finances to better inform investment, spending and procurement decisions;

- analyze financial system players who take into account financial climate risks, in terms of regulation, supervision and investment choices, and who contribute to the low-carbon trajectory.
- propose recommendations for climate-friendly public investments.

### **3- EXPECTED RESULTS :**

The following results are expected:

- **Climate-sensitive budget:** budget analysis to assess and communicate the impact of public spending on the climate,
- **Sustainable public investment:** public investment projects are assessed, selected and prioritized on the basis of their climate impact,
- **Sustainable public procurement:** sustainable public procurement is a way of aligning public purchasing decisions with minimizing environmental impact,
- **Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV):** an MRV system to help manage the low-carbon trajectory.

### **4- MISSIONS AND MANDATES**

Taking into account the period from 2019 to 2023, the national consultant for Sierra Leone will:

- carry out a documentary analysis of each year's public budget to assess the state's efforts to invest in climate action,
- analyze the national public budget to assess its climate sensitivity and propose a list of concrete recommendations for redirecting climate-friendly investments,
- assess budget variances without and with climate change integration,
- identify public spending on climate change,
- propose an approach for tracking public spending on climate change,
- determine the extent of the State's commitment to combating climate change,
- run a workshop to validate and present the report,
- support the international consultant in producing the summary note on the climate-sensitive budget.

### **5- EXPECTED DELIVERABLES**

The deliverables for this assignment are as follows:

- A scoping note describing in detail the methodology for carrying out the assignment, five (05) days after the award of the tender;
- A draft national review report of the climate-sensitive public budget with a focus on the agriculture sector and recommendations for reorienting climate-compatible investments;
- A final national climate-sensitive public budget review report with a focus on the agriculture sector and recommendations for redirecting climate-compatible investments.

## 6- CONSULTANT PROFILE

The national consultant must have the following references:

- Hold a degree (minimum Bac +5) in Environmental Economics, Economics, Public Finance, Development Planning or another degree deemed equivalent;
- At least **five (05) years'** professional experience in public policy analysis, budget planning and public finance management.
- At least **three (03) years'** experience in analyzing **Sierra Leone's** climate policies and the principles of financing projects and programs related to climate change, with particular emphasis on green budget transition issues
- Completed at least **one (01) assignment to develop** a climate change-sensitive budget or any other assignment related to the evaluation of public spending on environmental and social issues.
- Have at least **one (01) experience** in the implementation of a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system related to climate action monitoring in the context of **Sierra Leone**.

## 7- LANGUAGES

Excellent writing, oral and written communication skills in English. Working knowledge of a second language would be an additional asset.

## 8- DURATION

The duration of the service is **thirty (30) calendar days**.

## 9- ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

The ECOWAS Commission, through the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (ARAA) hereby invites individuals to express their interest in providing the required services by providing information demonstrating that they possess the required qualifications and relevant experience to carry out the assignment.

The attention of interested individual consultants is particularly drawn to Article 117 of the revised ECOWAS Public Procurement Code ("Offences committed by candidates, tenderers and successful tenderers"), which provides information on corrupt or fraudulent practices in the competition or execution of a contract. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflicts of interest related to this assignment in accordance with article 118 of the revised ECOWAS Public Procurement Code.

## 10- APPLICATION FORM

The application file consists of :

- A letter of expression of interest, including a deadline for availability;
- A recent curriculum vitae clearly presenting the assignments carried out (purpose, period, customer, key result);
- Three professional references (first and last names, current position, position at time of collaboration, email and telephone contacts);

**NB: Incomplete applications will be rejected.**

### **11- SUBMISSION OF FILES**

Deadline for receipt of applications: **August 31, 2025 at 17:00 GMT.**

Submission links: applications should be submitted by download to the following address:  
<https://bit.ly/4kHKDK1>

**Application format: the application must be in the form of a single PDF file.**

ARAA reserves the right not to consider applications that do not comply with the above submission requirements.

### **12- SELECTION METHOD**

The selection method is "selection based on the consultant's qualifications" as described in the ECOWAS procurement code.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The RAAA reserves the right not to proceed with this expression of interest.

### **13- REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Interested consultants may obtain further information by writing to the following e-mail addresses: [procurement@araa.org](mailto:procurement@araa.org) cc: [ctienon@araa.org](mailto:ctienon@araa.org) , [lbarnabo@araa.org](mailto:lbarnabo@araa.org), [plambonikolani@araa.org](mailto:plambonikolani@araa.org) and [bkpessiglo@araa.org](mailto:bkpessiglo@araa.org) with " **SCI011B - FVC - Evaluation Budget climat Sierra Leone**" in the subject line.