



Call for proposals

Analysis of donor funding for forest communities' tenure and guardianship in African dryland countries

May 2025

About Tree Aid

Tree Aid is an international NGO founded in 1987, headquartered in Bristol, UK, and operating across six countries in the drylands of Africa (Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Ethiopia). Our vision is thriving, sustainable communities across the drylands of Africa. We believe that tackling poverty and protecting the environment are inseparable.

We work together with local people to grow trees and restore land, to fight poverty and the effects of the climate crisis. Our work is led by local people with local knowledge and expertise. We equip people with the tools and skills they need to grow trees, protect their land, and start viable businesses. This provides food and an income, tackling poverty today. It also pushes for long-term change, improving the environment for tomorrow. We learn what works and share it – locally, nationally, and internationally. Together with local communities, we influence policy and push for change that protects trees, people, and our planet. Learn more about Tree Aid [here](#).

I. Context

Tree Aid's current five-year strategy invests significantly in the development of its advocacy work, both at the international level and within its countries of intervention.

Tree Aid's advocacy strategy aims to create enabling systems to scale up and accelerate community-led landscape restoration in African drylands. Within this, Tree Aid advocates for more secure access and control rights for local communities over their forests, and for the scale up and localising of climate, carbon and development finance towards community-led forest restoration.

Tree Aid is committed to unlocking finance to best support local communities in securing their access and control rights over dryland forests. We believe this is the [most cost-effective and sustainable way](#) to achieve and scale optimal and long-term landscape restoration across the African drylands, supporting the intertwined climate, land restoration, biodiversity and sustainable development goals.

To advocate for this, we need to better understand the current state of international donor funding and priorities in relation to local forest communities' tenure and guardianship across African dryland countries. This will allow us to identify gaps and opportunities in the funding landscape for Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) tenure and forest governance in our region of operation.

The present terms of reference contribute to improving Tree Aid's evidence base on this key issue. It will inform and support advocacy strategies and external engagement.

II. Objectives

The consultancy will assess donor funding for local forest communities' tenure and governance in African drylands to answer the following questions:

- How has funding for IPLC tenure rights and forest governance evolved over time and in recent year across African drylands?
- How has funding for IPLC tenure rights and forest management evolved over time and in recent year across countries?
- How does this current state of funding compare to the needs/opportunity for collective IPLC forest tenure and management rights recognition?
- What donors and sectors are leading/lagging behind?
- What are gaps and challenges this analysis reveals on improving the state of funding for LC tenure and forest management?
- What recommendations can support donors address these gaps and challenges?

III. Expected outputs

The analysis will be delivered in the form of:

- A findings report for external use, including country profiles for our six countries of operation (Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, and Niger)
- A brief summarising findings and recommendations.

IV. Scope and methodology

Scope

Funding sources: international donor funding for climate and development in the defined region.

Time period: To be defined by the consultant's methodology based on available data. This should allow demonstration of trends over time and focus on latest developments since 2020.

Geographical scope: The consultant is invited to offer a range of three options for the analysis with corresponding costs:

- Tree Aid's six countries of operation
- Great Green Wall 11 countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Tchad, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti) plus Ghana
- Great Green Wall countries (GGW) plus Ghana, Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda.

Methodology

The research will make use of publicly available data sources and databases including donor-reported microdata, grant databases, and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATA), the Path the Scale Dashboard and the Great Green Wall Observatory along with other relevant databases (e.g. OECD DAC, World Bank, GEF SGP, GCF, Amazon Fund, bilateral donor reports).

Analysis of the funding should draw on the [methodology](#) developed by Rights & Resources and the Norway Rainforest Foundation for the Path to Scale Dashboard, further explained in the [State of Funding for Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship](#) (2023). However, the consultant will tailor the methodology, to ensure it is fit for purpose for the context of African drylands, in consultation with Tree Aid staff.

Primary research is also expected to plug the possible gaps in available data, drawing on Tree Aid's expertise and other GW practitioners.

V. Duration

Duration of this study will vary depending on the geographical scope proposed and selected, with a minimum of 15-20 days of work. We expect this study to be completed by the last week of September. Flexibility can be applied.

VI. Consultant profile

The consultant should have the following profile:

- Hold a higher education degree in either economics, international development, public policy, or a similar field
- Have a portfolio of demonstrable experience in financial and institutional analysis relating to development and/or climate finance, preferably in relation to land restoration, forestry, agriculture, nature-based solutions, with a link to Africa.
- Fluency in French is desirable.

VII. Applications

The consultant must submit a technical bid and a financial bid.

The technical bid shall include:

- Comments and critical analysis of the proposal demonstrating understanding of the terms of reference (context, objectives, expected results)
- The methodological approach to be used to provide the service, as well as the methods and tools to be used for the studies
- Detailed timetable for intervention, breakdown of days per task and days per consultant for each of the geographical scopes proposed

- Summary of the most relevant experience in relation to the mandate, with references and justifications (in the case of a consultancy firm, the technical offer should include experience records in relation to the mandate)
- A list of the consultant(s) assigned to the assignment and their precise role in the project
- The curriculum vitae (CV) of the consultant(s) assigned to the project.

The financial bid must include:

- Details of fees (unit, number, unit cost, total cost per budget line and total amount of the proposal) for each of the geographical scopes proposed
- Details of other expenses (transport and travel, accommodation, etc.). For each of these items, the consultant should provide as much detail as possible to help us understand you better.

VIII. **Application and selection process**

- Bidders remain bound by their technical and financial bids for a period of 90 days from the deadline for submission of bids
- Tree Aid reserves the right not to proceed with all or part of this invitation to tender, or to extend the deadline for submission
- All documents submitted in response to this call for tenders remain the property of Tree Aid and may not be returned to the bidder under any circumstances.
- Bids will be evaluated according to criteria based on quality and cost. The best bid will be selected to carry out the study.
- Only the successful candidate will be contacted.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email annie.schultz@treeaid.org.

IX. **Application submission**

To apply, please submit your application (technical and financial), CV and a cover letter explaining why you are the best candidate for this assignment to recruitment@treeaid.org with the subject line 'African dryland LC tenure funding analysis'.

Submission deadline: **12pm BST, Monday 23 June 2025**