1 Project Background
Motivated by the fact that 208 million citizens of West Africa and Sahel region have no access to electricity, about 70 percent of them live in rural areas and due to the strategic importance of energy in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction, ECREEE has designed a regional renewable energy off-grid project called the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP) whose objective is to increase access to sustainable electricity services in the ECOWAS and Sahel region for household, productive uses of energy businesses and public health and education facilities. The project covers the 15 ECOWAS and 4 other countries namely Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania and Central African Republic. The project is funded by the World Bank, with co-financing from Clean Technology Fund (CTF). It is framed in the ECOWAS Program on Access to Sustainable Electricity Services (EPASES), directly contributing to the goals of the ECOWAS Regional Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) with a target to provide universal access to electricity to the region by 2030.

The project has two main components with subs:

Component 1: Develop a Regional Market - Technical Assistance activities to develop a regional market. ECREEE will implement this component in partnership with national governments of 19 project countries. ECREEE will follow a consultative process with its focal persons in the Ministry of Energy of all project countries and other ROGEP stakeholders to implement this component. ECREEE will undertake project launch workshops in all the 19 countries, during the preparatory and implementation phase to ensure participation of national, regional and international stakeholders in each project country. This will also involve providing grants to the private sector to support their growth and entry into new markets in the sub region.

Component 2: Access to Finance - This component will facilitate access to debt financing in support of the stand-alone solar systems market. This component will support (a) solar equipment distributors supplying stand-alone solar products to households and productive end users, (b) households and productive end users of solar equipment, and (c) energy service companies electrifying public institutions, such as schools and health centers. This will be implemented by a Regional Development Bank. Women entrepreneurs will have an equal level of access to financing. The key constraint for implementation of such programs has been identified as access to finance; consequently, this component will establish a line of credit facility for eligible private sector solar enterprises access and use to develop the market for off-grid electricity products and services in the project countries. The line of credit facility takes into account the existing challenges in the market related to access to finance such as lack of liquidity, lack of access to foreign exchange, and lender requirements such as collateral.
ECREEE started preparing ROGEP on April 28, 2017 and the project was approved by the World Bank on April 17, 2019. The project will be implemented by two agencies: ECREEE and West African Development Bank (BOAD). The two implementing agencies are now working to get the project effective and start implementation activities. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been set up and hosted at ECREEE in Praia, Cabo Verde.

This assignment is FULL TIME and located at the ECREEE Secretariat in Praia, Cabo Verde. The Consultant will report to the Coordinator in accordance with the Project Operation Manual (POM). The support to enterprises may often present complex issues that require significant insight and sector experience to address.

2 Objectives
The objectives of the consultant are to Support the Project Implementation Unit mainly in areas of implementing the Environment and Social Risk Management Strategy (ESRMS), the Off Grid ESRM Guidelines for Commercial Financial Institutions and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

3 The Role of the Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist
The Consultant will be in charge of all activities aimed at ensuring the efficient implementation of the Environment, Health and Job Safety issues among stakeholders of the project.

The specific tasks of the Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist are as identified below:

i. In accordance to ROGEP policies and procedures, assess the potential environmental and social (E&S) risks and/or impacts of assigned projects and associated activities, where ROGEP provides support is being considered, against the requirements of the Environmental and Social Risk Management documents, as listed above, developed to support this aspect of project implementation, and prepare a written summary of the project and potential environmental and health risks and impacts for public disclosure on ECREEE’s website.


iii. Based on these assessments, work with potential ROGEP grants recipients and Commercial Financial Institutions to ensure plans are developed and steps taken to ensure that projects will comply with ROGEP’s safeguard systems.

iv. Work with BOAD to ensure that all the requisite safeguards are taken into consideration in assessing financial institutions and same apply to enterprises accessing loans.

v. Articulate (verbally and in writing) key environmental and health risks and impacts to the PIU.

vi. Monitor the compliance with ROGEP ESRMS and Off-grid guidelines, sector specific guidelines, other relevant policies, and contract specific
conditions. When there are compliance issues, work with the Financial Intermediary and Fund Manager to implement remedial measures or undertake other actions to resolve them.

vii. Provide training on Environmental, Health & Safety issues to ROGEP Stakeholders, internal staff and other Specialists.

viii. Contribute to corporate knowledge base by analyzing and disseminating lessons learned and best practice from specific ROGEP activities.

ix. Work together with the BOAD’s Environmental and Social team and the Gender and Social Development Expert in ROGEP.

x. Represent ROGEP at technical meetings, industry events and environmental and Health and/or Safety fora.

xi. Assist in the further development and application of ROGEP and ECREEE’s Environmental and Social policies and procedures.

xii. Undertake any other duties incidental to the above as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator from time to time.

4 Deliverables
The consultant will provide the following deliverables:

- Inception report;
- The Consultant shall submit monthly progress reports that will include a brief summary of work undertaken within the reported period. Report should be submitted on the 10th of each month;
- Quarterly update of stores and inventory report;
- Prepare a Final Report, which summarizes his/her work and sets out details of the future work schedules two weeks to the end of the contract.
- Mission Back-to-office reports, where required;
- Other relevant documents;

5 Qualifications and experience
The consultant must possess a Post-graduate degree (Masters required) in a relevant discipline including Environment, Social Science, Engineering, or equivalent professional qualification.

i. Minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience in environment and/or social management and assessment directly related to private sector business activities.

ii. Track record in working with private sector firms across industry sectors to identify environmental and/or Health & safety issues and develop mitigation measures to ensure compliance with good international industry practice.

iii. Strong analytical skills, ability to think strategically, analyze and synthesize diverse environmentally-related data and information.

iv. Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

v. International experience required; experience in developing countries preferred. Ability to travel frequently to developing countries.

vi. Sound knowledge of World Bank and/or IFC Environmental and Social policies or Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability or similar standards would be an advantage.
vii. Ability to work well with a range of stakeholders, including project-affected peoples, government officials, NGO’s / civil society, as well as project investors and their staff.

viii. Ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently, articulate issues and recommend solutions.

ix. Excellent verbal and written English language skills are essential and French language is highly desirable. Knowledge of other languages will be advantageous.

x. Good team player who can work as a member of a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team, motivate and lead group efforts and network effectively across boundaries.

Other required skills and competencies include:

- Be knowledgeable in modern Office systems and must be a computer literate;
- Be familiar with efficient working environment where targets must be met timely, and there may need to work long hours;
- Good communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to plan, organize solve problems, implement, monitor and evaluate tasks and to deliver outputs to meet required deadlines;
- Ability to relate well with a multiplicity of stakeholders;
- Ability to work with minimal supervision;
- Excellent drafting, report writing and communication skills;
- Strong ability to organize and prioritize workloads, meet deadlines and targets;
- Proven integrity and confidentiality in handling public resources and in executing duties;
- Strong planning, organization and time management skills and ability to manage multiple tasks;
- Capacity to be a member of a multi-disciplinary team, to provide advice and recommend actions;
- Prior experience of work in an international environment and regional organization would be an advantage;

Citizens of an ECOWAS member state and project countries are particularly encouraged to apply for this consultancy.

6 Resources and Facilities

The Environmental and Health and Safety Specialist will work closely with all PIU staff in performing the foregoing tasks. In this respect, the candidate should exhibit strong communication skills equipped with a high level of public relations skills.
7 Duration of services

- The consultant will be initially engaged for two (2) years.
- At the expiration of contract, based on her/his performance, the consultant may be engaged for additional years based on availability of funding;
- Extension of the duration of services shall be subject to mutual agreement between the parties.
- Travels inside and outside the country will be required and ECREEE shall be responsible for providing the Consultant with return air tickets and per diem for any field mission undertaken during her/his assignment in line with ECREEE’s travel policy.