

Terms of Reference

short-term deployment sustainability management

South Africa, Mozambique and Eswatini

DGRV – the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation is the national apex organization and top-level auditing confederation of the cooperative sector in Germany. For more than 40 years, DGRV is engaged in international development cooperation, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. In more than 30 partner countries, DGRV provides consultancy and training services in order to develop and strengthen cooperative systems and structures for sustainable development.

1. Background

In its project countries, the DGRV promotes different types of cooperatives as well as their integration and organization in multi-level structures. The interventions take place at three different levels. The support and advice for cooperative structures at local level is combined with the strengthening of relevant institutions at national and regional level, to create integrated network systems and improve regulatory framework conditions.

The overall objective of our project in Southern Africa is to strengthen decentralized cooperative business cycles in rural and semi-urban regions. The focus countries are South Africa, Mozambique and Eswatini. The project is coordinated by our offices in Pretoria and Maputo.

The topic of sustainability is gaining importance not only in Europe but also in Southern Africa, most notably South Africa. The pressure on the cooperative sector to address it is steadily growing. However, for most of our partners sustainability management is a new task.

As a first step a straightforward tool, that allows DGRV and its partners to assess their operations according to criteria of ecological, social, and economic sustainability and shows them their potential for improvement is needed.

2. Purpose, Usage and Goals

The objective of the assignment is to develop a tool that

- Allows to assess the operations of apex institutions as well as primary cooperatives in different business sectors according to criteria of ecological, social, and economic sustainability.
- Identifies concrete opportunities for improvement
- Makes progress visible when it is applied repeatedly
- Is straightforward and allows easy self-assessment and independent basic sustainability management
- Is adapted to the specific conditions of the cooperative and development sector

Furthermore, the tool shall be applied to selected partners in Southern Africa as well as in our office in Pretoria. We plan to select one partner from each of our focus countries, South Africa, Mozambique and Eswatini. Most likely we will select apex institutions so they can gain experience with the tool and pass it on to their member cooperatives.

Additionally, we aim at a summary of the first experiences with the tool and of good practices that we can integrate into a comparative study of cooperative sectors in Southern Africa.

3. Tasks

- Development of a straightforward tool for sustainability assessment adapted to the specific conditions of the cooperative sector.
- Pilot the tool with three Partners selected by DGRV and the DGRV-Office in Pretoria in the form of research visits to the organisations.
- Give detailed feedback on the results of the assessment to every participating organisation
- Report to DGRV on the general first experience from the pilot testing and the good practices that have been identified.

4. Approach

- (1) Development of the tool or adaptation/combination of existing tools
- (2) Assessment visits to the selected organisations
- (3) Report writing

5. Products and Services

- The tool in form of a digital solution for structured collection and analysis of the relevant information
- Detailed Instructions for the use of the tool/the collection of the relevant information
- A PowerPoint presentation of the tool and the underlying concepts
- A template for an assessment report
- A detailed assessment report for every participating organisation
- A report on the experiences with the application of the tool and the good practices that have been identified.
- Personnel deployment sheet indicating date, content (in key words) and duration of the work carried out

All products must be delivered in English.

6. Required profile of the consultant

This call for application is addressed to individuals or consultancy firms able to offer the following competences

- Proven experience in consultancy on sustainability management or ESG risks for businesses as well as associations or other institutions.
- Good knowledge of existing tools for sustainability assessment
- Technical competence to set up a tool in Excel or as a software solution.
- At least a basic understanding of the specific conditions of the cooperative sector
- Intercultural competence
- Experience in Development cooperation is an asset.
- Very good oral and written knowledge of English
- Knowledge of Portuguese is desirable

7. Tentative Timetable

- Briefing by DGRV: 16.01.2022
- Submission of assessment tool: 03.02.2023

- Assessment visits: 13.02. - 03.03.2023
- Submission of final study results: 17.03.2023

8. Management of the Deployment

The DGRV project director in Pretoria is the responsible contact person for the conceptual development and coordination of the deployment.

9. Quantity Structure

A total of up to 31 working days can be allocated for assignment

- Up to 10 working days for the development of the tool
- Up to 16 working days for pilot assessments
- Up to 5 working days for follow-up and reporting

Have we aroused your interest?

Please send your offer including CV, fee expectations and references exclusively by E-mail to: bewerbung.international@dgrv.de

Subject: Sustainability Management Southern Africa

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Closing date: 7th December 2022

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