

## Terms of Reference

### Green Growth Indicator Specialist

Description: Individual Consultant

Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Period of Assignment: November 2015 – May 2016

#### I. Project Description

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) has been providing technical assistance to the Government of Mongolia since 2012 in the form of research, project development, capacity building, and knowledge exchange in the areas of transportation, energy, water, green growth planning, and green indicators. In 2014, Mongolia adopted the National Green Development Policy (NGDP), which provides the strong legal framework for the transition to low carbon, sustainable, and socially-inclusive development path through the realization of six strategic objectives. GGGI has provided inputs to this landmark policy and is continuing its efforts to enhance statistical analysis for Mongolia based on green growth indicators.

In collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT), GGGI will support further the harmonization and streamlining of the preliminary set of green growth indicators to ensure its practicality and alignment with the objectives of the NGDP, its Implementation Plan, and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, GGGI will work together with the Government of Mongolia to develop a Background Study that examines the current state of green indicators in terms of comprehensiveness, data availability, coherence, representativeness, consistency, and other relevant criteria in order to propose a set of indicators that could effectively reflect the NGDP results framework endorsed by the local stakeholders.

#### II. Scope of Work

The NGDP of Mongolia serves as the country's blueprint for achieving green growth, laying out the six strategic objectives upon the principles of resource use efficiency, consistency with sectorial policies and plans, and synergy between economic growth, social inclusiveness, and environmental sustainability. Each of the six objectives is further divided into specific implementation proposals, with a total of **14 outcome-level indicators** to measure the results of the policy's first (2014-2020) and second (2021-2030) phases. These key indicators include the share of expenditure for green development in total GDP, share of green public procurement, reduction of building heat loss, and others.

Based on GGGI's initial review of the 14 outcome-level indicators, several gaps have been identified in terms of structure, consistency, comprehensiveness, representativeness, validity, and measurement. Most importantly, not all of these indicators can be tracked using the official data that is currently made available by relevant government organizations. The Mongolian government seeks to strengthen its efforts in data collection and enhance the comprehensiveness of its national statistics. However, the government's limited resources to track some of the current 14 outcome-level indicators make it difficult to effectively measure the progress of the first phase of implementation of the NGDP. **In the absence of measurable outcome-level targets, the NGDP and its forthcoming Mid-Term Implementation Plan are likely to face significant challenges in bringing about transformative changes and attracting necessary investment.**

This assignment will also build upon the high-level forum, technical analysis, and stakeholder consultations that the government has undertaken on green economy indicators under the United Nations Partnership for Action on Green Economy (UN-PAGE) Initiative. More specifically, the UN-PAGE has identified a preliminary list of 108 output-level indicators to measure the proposed actions given in the NGDP Mid-Term Implementation Plan. Although perhaps comprehensive, the government's ability to collect and analyze the proposed indicators remains unclear.

Coinciding with these milestones is the introduction of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global agenda for 193 countries – including Mongolia – from 2016-2030. Building on the successes and gaps of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs, also known as Agenda 2030, covers 17 goals, 169 proposed targets, and 304 proposed indicators (as of August 2015) to tackle a broad range of sustainable development issues such as poverty and hunger, health and education, sustainability of cities, and climate change. While Mongolia's national green growth objectives may not completely cover the whole range of the proposed goals and targets of the new SDGs, implementation of the NGDP can contribute significantly to achieving many shared targets with the SDGs.

Against this backdrop, the multiplicity and complexity of the current set of available indicators highlight the need for simplification, integration, and coherence. **Moreover, since the first phase of the NGDP is already underway, the Government of Mongolia faces the urgent need to develop an outcome-based and practical set of indicators to begin measuring the actual progress of the first-phase implementation.** Indeed, there is an apparent need for an integrated set of indicators to monitor and track performance under the NGDP, its Implementation Plan, and the new SDGs.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Green Growth Indicator Specialist will deliver a Background Study on the current status of green development indicators in Mongolia, carrying out the following key tasks:

- (1) Identify the broad menu of indicators being tracked by NSO and relevant

government bodies;

(2) Review the NGDP and its Mid-Term Implementation Plan and assess the linkages between its outcome-level indicators and the new SDGs;

(3) Examine the full list of 108 output-level indicators proposed by NSO in coordination with UN-PAGE in the context of the Implementation Plan of the NGDP;

(4) Identify points of convergence in relation to 1, 2 and 3;

(5) Propose a set of outcome-level indicators to be used in tracking the progress of the first phase of implementation (2014-2020) of the NGDP.

He/She will rely on both primary and secondary sources of information to prepare the Background Study. Interviews and consultations with relevant stakeholders and authorities are necessary to validate the information or augment the possible lack of data.

Reporting directly to the Project Manager of GGGI and coordinating closely with the GGGI Country Team and government counterparts, the Green Growth Indicator Specialist will deliver a Background Study covering the areas described in detail below.

**The deliverable from the consultant will provide the critical analytical foundation for potential streamlining of indicator sets that are more realistic, measurable, outcome-based and country-specific.** The findings and recommendations from this study is envisaged to find ways to harmonize the existing sets of indicators, identify missing areas if any, and propose ways to move forward in carrying out the NGDP and its Implementation Plan as well as the new SDGs. Specific topics to be covered include (but not limited to) the following:

1. Provide a brief description of Mongolia's green growth efforts and future directions, legal and institutional framework for green growth, and the role of green development indicators in data management and policy analysis. This task involves desktop analysis of Mongolia's green growth policy, regulations and implementation planning documents and presenting a strong rationale for outcome-level indicators.
2. Conduct a rapid inventory of the existing set of official indicators that are being tracked by NSO considering its technical and human resource capacity; the analysis should look into the availability, accessibility, quality, and maintenance of data related to green growth.
3. Assess the content of the NGDP and examine the adequacy and analytical soundness of the 14 indicators to ensure that these indicators are outcome-based, satisfactorily represent the six strategic objectives, and coherent with the goals, targets, and indicators of the new SDGs.

4. Building on the output of UN PAGE, analyze the list of output-level indicators to link and reflect outcome-based indicators of the NGDP and its Implementation Plan.
5. Based on the findings of the study, propose a set of indicators at the outcome level that can effectively track the progress of the first-phase implementation of the NGDP. **The proposed indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound and country-specific.** While the focus is on a realistic set of indicators that can be monitored in the short term, it should also open the opportunity for future expansion to better reflect the outcomes of the second phase and its integration with the SDGs.

The consultant shall make a minimum of 2 visits to Mongolia, to collect relevant information, conduct consultations with government counterparts, and present the draft Background Study. The minimum number of working days in Mongolia is 5 days per visit.

### III. Qualifications

#### Required Skills and Experience

- Minimum of a Master's degree in economics, statistics, management, finance, public administration, international development, and other relevant fields
- Solid understanding of the concept of green growth and Mongolia's development context
- At least ten years of substantive experience on indicators development
- Demonstrated experience in writing technical and analytical reports, including the depth of analysis specific to the objectives and scope of this assignment
- Extensive experience in research and policy-level analysis
- Superb data mining skills, critical thinking ability, and strong writing competence
- Knowledge and experience in communicating with government offices and relevant institutions in Mongolia to obtain information

#### Language

Fluency in oral and written English is a requirement. Knowledge of the Mongolian language would be a significant advantage.

### IV. Deliverables

The following outputs are expected to be produced as a result of the assignment to be presented to GGGI and the Government of Mongolia:

- (1) Background Study on the current status of green development indicators in Mongolia covering the above-mentioned key objectives
- (2) Presentation material summarizing the findings of the study

The timeline for the submission of the deliverables is as follows:

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Target Completion Date*</i>
Submission of the Draft Background Study	Week 10
Submission of the Final Background Study	Week 20
Submission of the Presentation Material	Week 23

\*From contract signing

All reports must be in English, in accordance with GGGI's formatting requirements, and submitted in hard copy and compact disk formats along with complete sets of raw data, research materials, and interview notes, if applicable.