

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PROTECTED AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR GRAND KRU – RIVER GEE PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA

LIBERIA FOREST SECTOR PROJECT

PROJECT ID: P154114

GRANT ID: TFA2427

(REFERENCE NO: LR-FDA-37141-CS-CQS)

Re-advertised

1. This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. WB452-01/17 of January 31, 2017.

The Republic of Liberia has received a grant from the Government of Norway in the amount of US\$36.7 million equivalent through the World Bank towards the cost of the Liberia Forest Sector Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to eligible payments for the provision of consulting services for **Protected Area Feasibility Study, including Biodiversity Baseline Survey and Socio Economic Study of Grand Kru-River Gee Proposed Protected Area.**

The Grand Kru-River Gee PPA is located in Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties, southeastern Liberia and it hosts endangered plant and animal species. It is one of Liberia's remaining forests with rich biodiversity. The Grand Kru-River Gee PPA serves as host for wildlife transiting from the Sapo National Park. The significance of establishing this area as protected area is not only for its strategic location but also due to growing human pressure on the forest and mineral for resources.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

The objective of this consultancy is to assess whether it would be feasible to establish a new protected area in the Grand Kru-River Gee area of Grand Kru, River-Gee, Maryland and Sinoe Counties, southeastern Liberia, and, if so, what should be an appropriate management category and approximate boundaries for that protected area.

The specific objectives of the consultancy are (i) to carry out a Biological Baseline Survey (BBS) of the PPA and (ii) to carry out a Socio-Economic Study (SES) of the local communities. This will involve surveying the biological diversity, conducting socio-economic studies, and making recommendations for the most appropriate feasible protected area management category and protected area boundaries, consistent with effective natural resources management and efforts to improve local social and economic conditions.

The consultant will work in collaboration with the Conservation Department and other relevant technical departments of the FDA and partners while undertaking this task. The consultant is expected to closely engage at least two Conservation Department field staff in the conduct of the study to build their capacity and increase their understanding of, among other things, the key biological and socio-economic attributes of the PPA.

For the BBS, the consultant firm will investigate the biological and biodiversity resource components of the Grand Kru-River Gee PPA and map out threats and possible conservation attributes to the biodiversity and natural resources management.

For the SES, the consultant will gather social-economic information of the PPA and verify the location of communities in and outside of the protected area boundaries using GPS technologies.

This assignment is expected to be implemented in six (6) months.

Note: The full terms of reference can be found as an attachment (Attachment 1) to this request for expressions of interest.

3. The Forestry Development Authority now invites eligible consultancy firms to indicate their interest in providing the required Services for the Liberia Forest Sector Project. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). See qualification and experience criteria below:

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Must be based in Liberia with at least 5 years of experience working in the Forestry sector;
- Proven experience in working on international donor funded projects, especially with respect to the conservation of forest biodiversity;
- Availability of Competent Staff with relevant qualification and experience to undertake the assignment.

*Note: In addition to other relevant information to be submitted, Consultants (firms) are advised to present **all** assignments of similar nature undertaken in the following format:*

Duration	Assignment name/& brief description of main deliverables/outputs	Name of Client & Country of Assignment	Approx. Contract value (in US\$ equivalent)/ Amount paid to your firm	Role on the Assignment
{e.g., Jan.2009–Apr.2010}	{e.g., “Improvement quality of.....”: designed master plan for rationalization of; }	{e.g., Ministry of, country}	{e.g., US\$1 mill/US\$0.5 mill}	{e.g., Lead partner in a JV A&B&C}

4. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants \[under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants\] by World Bank Borrowers](#) Conflict of Interest, January 2011 revised July 2014 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.
5. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a *joint venture or a sub-consultancy agreement* to enhance their qualifications.
6. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on the Consultants’ Qualifications method (CQS). For reference, please see paragraph 3.7 of the World Bank’s Guidelines on Selection and Employment of Consultants, January 2011 revised July 2014, by following the link below:
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/894361459190142673/ProcurementConsultantHiringGuidelinesEngJuly2014.pdf>
7. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours.
8. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail or by e-mail) by **16:00 GMT on January 2, 2019**. **Envelopes or subject of emails must be marked “Ref: Feasibility Study of Grand Kru-River Gee Proposed Protected Area”.**

Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Mount Barclay
P. O. Box 3010
Montserrado County
Monrovia, Liberia
Attention: National REDD+ Project Coordinator
Tel: +231(0)886567224
Email: redliberiaprogram@gmail.com

Attachment No. 1: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for Consultancy to Conduct Protected Area Feasibility Study, including Biodiversity Baseline Survey and Socio Economic Survey of Grand Kru-River Gee Proposed Protected Area

Project Description

The Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) supports the Government of Liberia to contribute to the conservation of Liberia's globally significant biodiversity, providing better representation of ecosystems within Liberia's current protected area network, and enabling active conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with local communities. Its output includes improved capacity within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) for conservation management and engagement with local communities.

The LFSP (Subcomponent 2.2) includes support for pre-gazettement studies of selected Proposed Protected Areas (PPAs). One type of pre-gazettement study is the Biodiversity Baseline Survey (BBS), which is intended to verify the existing conservation value of the PPA, including any specific portions of the PPA that might be particularly critical from a biodiversity conservation standpoint. Another type of pre-gazettement study is the Socio Economic Study (SES), which is intended to document existing land ownership and use rights, ongoing natural resource uses, and any proposed new investments or projects that could affect the PPA. These two types of studies are combined here in a Feasibility Study that takes into account the biodiversity as well as the socio-economic data in order to verify whether establishing a new protected area is indeed feasible (with no overriding constraints) and, if so, to recommend the most appropriate protected area management category and tentative boundaries. This Feasibility Study is also expected to provide important baseline information for the Management Plan of the future protected area, after it is gazetted.

The Grand Kru-River Gee PPA is located in Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties, southeastern Liberia and it hosts endangered plant and animal species. It is one of Liberia's remaining forests with rich biodiversity. The Grand Kru-River Gee PPA serves as host for wildlife transiting from the Sapo National Park. The significance of establishing this area as protected area is not only for its strategic location but also due to growing human pressure on the forest and mineral for resources.

Objectives of the Assignment

The objective of this consultancy is to assess whether it would be feasible to establish a new protected area in the Grand Kru-River Gee area of Grand Kru, River-Gee, Maryland and Sinoe Counties, southeastern Liberia, and, if so, what should be an appropriate management category and approximate boundaries for that protected area.

Scope of work

The specific objectives of the consultancy are (i) to carry out a Biological Baseline Survey (BBS) of the PPA and (ii) to carry out a Socio-Economic Study (SES) of the local communities. This will involve surveying the biological diversity, conducting socio-economic studies, and making recommendations for the most appropriate feasible protected area management category and protected area boundaries, consistent with effective natural resources management and efforts to improve local social and economic conditions.

The consultant will work in collaboration with the Conservation Department and other relevant technical departments of the FDA and partners while undertaking this task. The consultant is expected to closely engage at least two Conservation Department field staff in the conduct of the study to build their capacity and increase their understanding of, among other things, the key biological and socio-economic attributes of the PPA.

For the BBS, the consultant firm will investigate the biological and biodiversity resource components of the Grand Kru-River Gee PPA and map out threats and possible conservation attributes to the biodiversity and natural resources management. The main task of the consultant will be:

- To identify and record key terrestrial fauna and flora, particularly species of conservation concern or special management interest.
- To identify the vegetation types of the proposed protected area.
- To identify and map critical areas and habitats for biodiversity conservation.
- To identify forest species of significance to the establishment of a protected area.
- To provide basic information on aquatic biodiversity for protected area planning, such as the location and condition of aquatic habitats, along with aquatic species of conservation concern (known or suspected).
- To identify major sources of environmental degradation within and around the PPA.
- To identify and map up all water resources/courses for integrated water resources management within the PPA.
- To assess impact of humans on water resources and recommend watershed management practice around the PPA.
- To identify key threats associated with human use of natural resources, within and around, the proposed protected area.
- To identify major pollutants to the ecosystems of the proposed protected areas and sources of the pollutants.
- To identify any significant cultural resources within the PPA, including to identify and map all Sacred Sites (including Poro and Sande Bushes, if any) within the PPA.

For the SES, the consultant will gather social-economic information of the PPA and verify the location of communities in and outside of the protected area boundaries using GPS technologies. The main task of the consultant will be:

- To identify and map all communities within the proposed boundaries of a possible new protected area and also 3-5 kilometers (km) away from the boundaries.
- To assess and record the number of persons in a household and estimate their income level.
- To identify and map all key social infrastructure, including clinics, schools, markets and road networks.

- To identify and record the local governance structure, including traditional and cultural leadership of communities, clans and districts.
- To assess and map agricultural activities (e.g. farms, plantations etc.) of communities, particularly any within the PPA boundaries.
- To identify and map mining activities (including small scale artisanal mining), particularly any within the PPA boundaries and in close proximity of the same.
- To assess and map any legally established Authorized Forest Communities (AFC), any recent Community Forest applications that have not been fully processed or accepted, and any ongoing or planned logging or other forestry activities.
- To identify which entity (Government, community, private firm, or individual) owns and/or claims all the land (and associated water area) comprising the PPA.
- To identify any concessions, leases, or other legally recognized use rights within the PPA.
- To identify and rank the main livelihood activities of communities and their major income sources.
- To assess and document communities' perceptions, relationships to the land and forest resources, and options for alternative livelihoods (if needed).
- To identify those communities where existing livelihoods could be significantly and adversely affected by the establishment of a new protected area, such that a Livelihood Restoration Plan might need to be prepared.
- Profile the history, demographics, and community leadership structures of sampled communities inside and on the fringes of the PPA.
- To make recommendation, following communities' work, on how to remedy condition(s) if any that could serve as threats to the establishment and effective management of the proposed park.
- To make note of any known existing or proposed new investments or development projects (roads, dams, mining or agricultural concessions, etc.) that could affect the viability of a future protected area and thus should be taken into account when proposing the protected area boundaries or management category.

Reporting Arrangements

The consultant will report to Deputy Managing Director for Operations of the Forestry Development Authority and will work closely with the Conservation Department and the REDD+ Implementation Unit. The contract will be based on deliverables mentioned below, and will contain provision for operational and field costs. The assignment is expected to be delivered within six months after the signing of the official contract by both parties.

The consultant firm will prepare:

- (i) The inception report within two weeks after the signing of the contract, including a detailed work plan and schedule;
- (ii) A draft report within five months from the start of the consultancy;
- (iii) A final report no later than the close of the consultancy.

The final report of the consultancy should include and address:

- Biophysical description of the PPA
- GIS map of the PPA and the buffer area, showing key and critical biodiversity areas
- List of key wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) and plant species, especially those of conservation concern and special management interest, including some key species photos if available
- Any significant source of pollution and types of pollutants that could potentially degrade the PPA
- GIS map of the PPA showing communities (villages, customary lands, and any other land claims), road networks, and community activities and sites, including sacred forests, agriculture, grazing, or other land uses.
- A section describing perceptions and concerns of local communities in relation to resource utilization and options for alternative livelihoods.
- A verification of whether the site is (still) worth protecting, in term of its conservation value (which the BBS portion of the study would address).
- A verification of whether it is feasible to establish and manage some kind of protected area at this site, given the land tenure (including claims and any concessions), existing human uses, and official development plans (which the SES would answer).
- A recommendation for the appropriate protected area management category (National Park, Nature Reserve, Multiple Use Reserve, or other).
- Draft delineation on a map of the proposed protected area boundaries (which FDA would then further adjust as appropriate, based on its public participation and stakeholder engagement process).
- Recommendations to address key social issues identified, potentially including the preparation of a Livelihood Restoration Plan for specifically affected communities.
- Careful documentation of stakeholder consultations (formal or informal), including consultation modalities, dates, and venues; who was invited and who participated; and any major concerns, grievances, or claims raised by communities or other stakeholders.

Experience and Qualification Criteria:

The applicant Non- governmental Organization (NGO) or firm must be based in Liberia and have proven experience in working on international donor funded projects, especially with respect to the conservation of forest biodiversity.

Team composition

The composition of the NGO or consultant firm should include the below listed staff and specialties:

- 1) Team leader
 - Academic background in conservation-related studies (At least a Master's degree or its equivalent in biology, zoology, botany, ecology, forestry, geography, sociology, anthropology, etc.).
 - At least 5 years' experience leading or coordinating teams;
 - Experience in working with protected areas and biodiversity conservation for more than ten years
- 2) GPS Specialist/GIS Specialist

- Experience in GPS and GIS for more than five years.
 - Academic background in GPS, GIS, geography, or map development.
- 3) Biologist/ Zoologist/Biodiversity specialist/ Botanist
- Experience in biodiversity-related studies for more than five years.
 - Academic background in Biology, Zoology, Biodiversity or Botany.
- 4) Sociologist/social specialist
- Experience in socio economic involving rural communities studies for more than five years.
 - Academic background in social science, sociology, or social statistics.