Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management Project

- **Activity 1.3**: Identify and Set Up Farm Learning / Production Plots to Support and Strengthen Various Tree Components in Existing Agricultural Systems
- **Activity 1.11**: Review and produce legal documents for the classification of forest rehabilitation areas of the project with agro forestry measures.
- **Activity 1.13**: Provide technical assistance and in situ monitoring over the life of the project to ensure sustainability of results.

**Terms of reference for the recruitment of national experts or consultants to set up learning / production plots, review and produce legal documents to classify forest rehabilitation areas of the project with agroforestry measures and provide a technical assistance and in situ monitoring over the life of the project to ensure sustainability of results.**

3. **Project Background and justification**

The Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project, funded by the GEF, is being implemented in four member countries of the Mano River Union. This project aims to combat the various anthropogenic and climatic threats contributing to the degradation of forest landscapes in Upper Guinea. These threats include logging, expansion of agriculture with unsustainable technologies, mining, firewood and charcoal production, game hunting and wildlife trade, human intrusion into protected areas and bushfires.

The project has two components, one on sustainable forest management and the other on the management of international waters shared by the member countries of the Union. In forest ecosystem management, forest landscape restoration aims at restoring the functionality of degraded forest landscapes, promoting forest-friendly agriculture, generating various products and services from restored land and forests, as well as to conserve and protect habitats. These activities will build on various forms of restoration to address various issues related to landscape degradation.

**Activities of Assignment**

**1.3**: Identify and establish on-farm learning/production plots to support and strengthen diverse trees components in existing agricultural systems; Engage 1 international and 4 national experts for a short term mission at each site, identify four farmers at each site on free basis for conducting experimental tree-crops production systems [cocoa, cashew nut, oil palm, other indigenous trees based on local choice.] , Support demarcation of the plots, purchase support for plantlets [seedlings, grafts, buds, cuttings, hybrids, or other local choices] collection and running a nursery. This activity complements the previous one. This activity intends to perform on-farm assessment of the possibility of including (and keeping) of indigenous fruit/medicinal trees in existing tree-crop (cocoa, cashew nut, oil palm) plantation system. The objective is to identify tree species whose presence will be accepted into the fields by farmers.

**1.11**: Revise and produce legal documents gazetting the project relevant forest rehabilitation areas with agroforestry measures; Engage relevant consultancy team as needed composed of 1 international and 4 national experts, purchase local and regional transport, and organize a workshop associating technical staff
from IUCN and MRU Secretariat, distribute legal documents with updated maps at each site. For policymakers to make good decisions, official documents must reflect the reality on the ground. This activity should allow better alignment between the legal documents with the reality on the ground.

1.13: Deliver in situ technical assistance and monitoring over the project lifespan to ensure sustainability of the results; Engage national consultants at each site four times every year, procure local transport, support signatures of conservation agreements and MoU with farmers, purchase field equipment/material at each site every year, support agroforestry farmers on a performance based appraisal, extend the technical assistance on plantation and farming improvement systems gradually up to 88,400 ha in the buffer zones of national parks at all 4 sites in the form of community forests, and up to another 93,400 ha improved agroforestry systems in the buffer.

Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management – Project Document Zones (5km buffer) of the forest reserves at all 4 sites, support farmers managed natural regeneration and farmers managed nurseries. The presence of the stakeholders at local level is sporadic. The present activity shall support the extension services of the public organizations to endorse and actually implement their mandate. This shall stimulate the empowerment of local stakeholders and strengthen their interventions on site.

The activities will address the following key aspects:

- Installation of learning / production plots
- Revise the statutes of the rehabilitated areas;
- Develop and sign conservation agreements with farmers;
- Organize follow-up with local consultative committees established by the project

2. Intervention sites

The following sites have been identified for these activities:

| 1. The whole Mount Nimba Natural Reserve and the East Nimba Nature Reserve (Liberia) |
| 2. Site 2 National Forests of Wonegisi (Liberia); |
| 3. Site 3) Gola Forest National Park (Liberia) |
| 4. Site 4: Sapo National Park (Liberia), Grebo National Forest (Liberia) |

3. Specific Objectives

The objectives of these activities 1.3, 1.11, 1.13 are to set up learning / production plots, to revise, to elaborate the status of rehabilitated areas, to establish conservation agreements with farmers. Then arrange follow-up by local advisory committees.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Identify and set up the Learning / Production Plots;
- Train local farmers in pilot plot management techniques;
- Collect seeds to nurseries and support in managing them;
- Buy and supply seedlings to local farmers;
- Evaluate the possibility of introducing new local plants;
✓ Develop a guide on the agricultural system;
✓ Identify areas to be rehabilitated or use existing areas identified by ROAM
✓ Revise and establish the status of rehabilitated areas;
✓ Organize a workshop to validate/distribute legal documents and maps;
✓ Purchase equipment, field equipment and means of transport to local farmers;
✓ Develop and sign conservation agreements with local farmers;
✓ Evaluate the yield of existing plantations;
✓ Extend technical assistance to plantation improvement systems and agricultural practices in buffer zones;
✓ Organize monitoring by local consultative committees within each of the landscapes

4. Activity’s expected results
✓ The Learning parcels installed,
✓ Local farmers training in pilot plot management techniques ensured;
✓ Seeds for nurseries are collected and training of local nurserymen ensured;
✓ The supply of seedlings to local farmers ensured;
✓ The possibility of introduction of new local plants identified;
✓ The guide on the developed agricultural system elaborated;
✓ The areas to be rehabilitated are listed;
✓ The statutes of the rehabilitated areas revised and established for others;
✓ Approvals of established rehabilitated areas;
✓ The workshop for the validation/distribution of legal documents and maps is organized.

5. Team of National consultants

5.1 Key personnel
The consulting team will include:

Activity 1.3: have a Bachelor degree or above in Agronomy or Forest Engineering with broad knowledge of experience focused on agricultural and sustainable forestry activities;

Good knowledge of computer programs (MS world, Excel, power point), speak and write fluently the English languages have knowledge and familiarity of the landscapes.
Be a national of one of the countries where the activity will be conducted.
Must be able to provide all evidence of degrees, CVs and other relevant documents of all applicants and/or field staff
Documents will be verified.

Activity 1.11: Have at least a master's degree in one of the disciplines: Environmental Science, Environmental Law, Social Science and Natural Resource Management.
Have field experience in the MRU basin,
Have an experience of at least four (4) years in the field of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.
Have proven experience in drafting legal documents, conventions etc.
Ability to advocate with policy makers,

Good knowledge of computer programs (MS world, Excel, power point), speak and write fluently the English languages have knowledge and familiarity of the landscapes.
Be a national of one of the countries where the activity will be conducted.
Must be able to provide all evidence of degrees, CVs and other relevant documents of all applicants and/or field staff.
Documents will be verified.
Activity 1.13 have a Bachelor degree or above in Project Management, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry and have in-depth knowledge of negotiation, monitoring and evaluation, procurement, drafting of MoUs, and drafting policies/programs consistent with natural resource governance.

- Provide other technical assistants as needed.

Good knowledge of computer programs (MS world, Excel, power point), speak and write fluently the English languages have knowledge and familiarity of the landscapes. Be a national of one of the countries where the activity will be conducted. Must be able to provide all evidence of degrees, CVs and other relevant documents of all applicants and/or field staff.

Documents will be verified.

5.2 Role and responsibility of the team

✓ Prepare a detailed methodology of the activity in a chronological order,
✓ Prepare and conduct a study on the establishment of learning / production plots,
✓ Prepare and conduct a study on the analysis of the legal framework of the five landscapes of the project,
✓ Prepare an action plan for the revision and production of legal documents,
✓ Prepare and organize local validation workshops for legal documents,
✓ Negotiate with policy makers and relevant stakeholders,
✓ Prepare and have the legal documents approved.

5.3 Skills required

1. Good knowledge of the installation of learning / production plots;
✓ Have in-depth knowledge of the organization of training and capacity-building sessions for local communities;
✓ Good knowledge of GEF’s projects
✓ Master the database programs (MS Excel, MS Access, etc.)
✓ Ability to plan fieldwork and lead field teams, particularly in agroforestry, zoning, GIS and stakeholders engagement;
✓ Ability to write technical reports at short notice
✓ Good interpersonal communication
✓ Have a good command of the English language.

6. Duration of the study

The duration of the activities is 180 working days over a period of six (6) calendar months.

Start date: March 15, 2020 End date: September 30th 2020.

7. Application process

How to apply?

1. Candidates interested in the tasks are encouraged to apply either as a team of consultants or a firm. However, due to the synergy of the activities, if selected, consultants will be encouraged to work as a team for adequate implementation of the activities (1.3,1.11 & 1.13).
2. Applicants must submit the following documents in one file or attachment, by e-mail, indicating the subject line the activities applying for:

(i) A cover letter, explaining in sufficient detail why the candidate believes to be the appropriate candidate for the tasks / activities.

(ii) A most recent curriculum vitae showing the highest qualifications and no more than three (3) similar tasks completed in the last five (5) years.

(iii) If applicable, applicants may submit examples of previous achievements, comparable works, including project reports (to be viewed only and with permission to do so if necessary)

(iv) Evidence of degrees, CVs and other relevant documents of all applicants and/or field staff.

3. The deadline for the submission is midnight, January 22, 2020 local time of the country in question.

4. The complete application must be sent to the following email addresses:

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<td><a href="mailto:pewuwilliam@yahoo.com">pewuwilliam@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:carlonbaindu@gmail.com">carlonbaindu@gmail.com</a></td>
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Only candidates or firms who meet the requirements of the positions will be shortlisted to submit proposals. The national implementing agency (Forestry Development Authority) believes in equal opportunities for all; as such, female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.