The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Cameroon is recruiting a Consultant to carry out inventory work on the exploitation of forest resources in three five-year blocks of 1000 ha each in three community forests located in the southern periphery of Nki National Park, Moloundou Arrondissement, East Region.

Want to make a positive difference to the future of people and our one shared home the Earth? Working with WWF could be the opportunity of a lifetime:

All around the world, people are waking up to the deepening crisis of nature loss. A growing realization that nature is our life-support system. Nobody will be spared from the impacts of its loss. Here at WWF, we are helping to tackle this enormous global challenge.

Our people come from hugely diverse backgrounds and with a variety of expertise, ranging from HR and finance to advocacy and conservation science. We welcome applications from anyone who believes they can help us create a better future for people and wildlife.

What we do:
We are an independent conservation organization, striving to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife. From individuals and communities to businesses and government, we are part of a growing coalition calling on world leaders to set nature on the path to recovery by 2030. Together, we seek to protect and restore natural habitats, stop the mass extinction of wildlife, and make the way we produce and consume sustainably.

We are looking for a Consultant to carry out inventory work on the exploitation of forest resources in three five-year blocks of 1000 ha each in three community forests located in the southern periphery of Nki National Park, Moloundou Arrondissement, East Region.

1. Context and justification
The main objective of forestry law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 and its implementing decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 is to protect environment and conserve natural resources.
Community management of forest resources is rooted in the second objective of this forestry policy: "To improve the participation of local people in the conservation and management of forest resources, so that these resources contribute to raising their standard of living". This policy also highlights government strategies aimed at strengthening the forestry sector's contribution to socio-economic development, through the involvement of non-governmental organisations, economic agents and local communities and indigenous peoples.
A community forest is a portion of the rural forest estate allocated to a village community for the purpose of carrying out activities or undertaking dynamic processes for the sustainable management of natural resources based on a simplified management plan. According to MINFOF, in 2022 Cameroon had 693 community forests covering a surface area of around 2.4 million hectares.
All allocated community forests are subject to a management agreement signed between the
forestry administration and the village community concerned. This agreement is accompanied by a simple management plan approved by the forestry administration. The simple management plan and the definitive management agreement have the same duration, i.e. 25 years. However, when drawing up the simple management plan, the village community places particular emphasis on the exploitation inventory with a vision of resource management in a five-year block corresponding to one-fifth of the total area of the community forest. The aim is to work with local communities, indigenous peoples and the local forestry administration to identify tree species with high economic and socio-cultural value, and also to collect evidence of the presence of wildlife and non-timber forest products.

With a view to drawing up simple management plans for three community forests located in the southern periphery of the Nki National Park, logging inventories have been planned in five-year blocks. They will provide baseline data and information on flora, fauna, non-timber forest products and land use.

As part of the implementation of the project entitled: Inclusive Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems by Local Communities (CIBEL), WWF therefore proposes to engage the services of a Consultant to conduct logging inventory work in three five-year blocks contributing to the results and objectives described in the table below.

| Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems by Local Communities (CIBEL) |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | To preserve and restore natural forest heritage in the intervention zones through technical and scientific measures. |
| Outcome 1.1 | The integrity of forest ecosystems is guaranteed by including local communities in the management and protection of natural resources. |
| Activity 1.1.2 | Carrying out logging inventories in accordance with national standards in three five-year blocks of three community forests. |
| Localization | Southern perimeter of Nki National Park, Moloundou district, Eastern Region. |

2. Summary and scope of the inventory

A forest inventory is an assessment of forest resources with a view to planning management. The community forests concerned by this inventory work are: Association pour le Développement Intégré de Legoué et Mindourou (ADILEM), Association pour la Conservation et le Développement de Legoué-MINGOMBE-TEMBE RIVIERE (ACODELEMIT), Association pour la Conservation et le Développement de Ndongo (ACODENDO). Each covers an area of 5,000 hectares.

In accordance with article 38 of decree 94/436/PM of 23 August 1994 laying down the terms of application of the forestry regime, the consultant will carry out logging inventories in accordance with the national logging inventory standard, while collecting evidence of wildlife and non-timber forest products along the main forest paths in three five-year blocks of 1,000 ha each, and carrying out surveys of local communities and indigenous peoples.
These inventories will be carried out in collaboration with local communities, indigenous peoples, the local forestry administration official and the WWF forest programme manager. The first five-year inventory block will be selected after consultation with the beneficiary communities on the basis of a stratified map prepared by the Consultant. Before the work begins, the contractor will also identify and train at least 10 members of the beneficiary community, including women and the indigenous population, in the basic techniques of a logging inventory and in collecting data on wildlife and non-timber forest products.

3. Objective of inventory work

To provide WWF Cameroon with reliable information and data on forest resources in three five-year blocks of 1000 ha each in three community forests (ADILEM, ACODELIMIT and ACOENDO). The aim is to draw up simple management plans.

4. Expected results and use of data

The aim of the general forest inventory is to obtain the following information on forest resources and human activities:

- The distribution of the different forest formations;
- The structure of the forest, in particular the distribution of species, diameters and density;
- Exploitable floristic potential;
- Lists of wildlife species and non-timber forest products available in the forest.
- Human occupation and conservation zones;

More specifically, the results of the inventory in the three five-year blocks will enable WWF Cameroon to:

- Have stratification maps, five-year block maps and maps of annual felling plots in the five-year block inventoried for each of the three community forests;
- Determine the real potential of commercial species;
- Know the location of the stems;
- Provide the basis for five-year revenue forecasts;
- Plan harvesting and silvicultural activities;
- Carry out a critical analysis of the areas to be covered by logging and the areas to be protected;
- Facilitate control of harvesting by knowing the limits and numbers of trees to be cut;
- Obtain an estimate of the abundance of non-timber forest products and wildlife in community forests.
5. **Deliverables**

At the end of its work, the Consultant is expected to produce the following deliverables:

- **Deliverable 1:** A report on the consultation of local communities and indigenous people on the choice of the first five-year block;
- **Deliverable 2:** A report on the training of community members in basic inventory techniques and the collection of evidence on wildlife and NTFPs in the community forest.
- **Deliverable 3:** A stratification map of each of the three community forests at a scale of 1:50,000;
- **Deliverable 4:** A map of the five-year blocks of each of the three community forests at a scale of 1:50000;
- **Deliverable 5:** A logging inventory map of the five-year block inventoried, including a proposal for annual cutting plots for each of the three community forests at a scale of 1:50000;
- **Deliverable 6:** A harvesting inventory report for each of the five-year blocks inventoried in each of the three community forests. The said report should be composed of the following:
  - Introduction;
  - Description of the boundaries of the block inventoried and those of the proposed annual plots;
  - Inventory methodology;
  - Results obtained (stand and stock table of main species, table of presence of wildlife species, table of non-timber forest products, inventory maps...);
- **Deliverable 7:** A financial report with supporting documents that meet WWF Cameroon accounting standards.

6. **Duration of the consultation**

The time allowed for this consultation is six (06) months from the date of signature of the contract by the consultation.

7. **Consultant profile**

Following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals received from potential consultants:

- Holder of a logging inventory licence;
- Professional experience in logging inventory work;
- Composition of the inventory team. The team leader must have an engineering degree or a master's degree in forestry with extensive professional experience in forest inventory;
- Good knowledge of the area in which the said community forests are located.

**How to apply**

Interested candidates should send their complete applications by e-mail to recruit-cam@wwfcam.org. Please indicate in the subject line « Consultation inventaire d'exploitation ». 
Application deadline: **17 March 2024.**

The application file (in PDF format) must be submitted in French or English and will include:

- **a.** A technical offer including:
  - A duly signed letter of submission addressed to the National Director of WWF Cameroon;
  - A note of understanding of the terms of reference;
  - A methodological proposal; - A timetable of activities;
  - A presentation and references of the Consultant;
  - CV(s) of the inventory team members; - A completed and signed declaration of integrity to be obtained from WWF Cameroon.

- **b.** A detailed financial offer including the cost per hectare including all taxes.

**Offers evaluation criteria:**

| Eligible proposals will be evaluated on the basis of full and open competition, in strict competition, in strict compliance with the combined score method, where the proposed technical proposal will be weighted at 60%, and combined with the price offer, which will be weighted at 40%. |
|---|---|
| **Technical proposal** | 60 % |
| Cover letter | 10 marks |
| Experience | 10 marks |
| Description of the method for carrying out the service | 20 marks |
| Timetable for completion of the service | 10 marks |
| Monitoring plan | 10 marks |
| **Financial proposal** | 40 % |
| Budget | 40 marks |

In the case of selection, the disbursement plan to be considered will give priority to costs relating to field equipment, transport and costs of casual staff involved in the field work to be justified.

Thank you in advance for your interest in this position. Only candidates meeting the required criteria will be contacted.