



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UNDERTAKING A BIODIVERSITY SURVEY IN KITECHURA, IBAMBARO, KAGOMBE, BUGOMA, MATIRI, NYAKARONGO AND THE SMALLER FOREST RESERVES EAST OF BUGOMA**

### **1. Background**

WWF-Uganda Country office is implementing The Natural Forest Restoration for Enhanced Carbon stocks in Albertine rift (FRECAR) project in the Bugoma-Kagombe landscape. The project is aimed at overall capturing atleast 1 million MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over a period of 20 years in the Central Forests of Kagombe, Kitechura, Ibambaro and Bugoma. This is to be achieved through restoration of degraded forests and protecting the remaining natural forests; establishment of woodlots and forests on private lands in order to reduce pressure on existing forest patches; and working together with NFA and other CSOs to address the governance challenges related to forests in the Central Forest Reserves. The project is to be validated and verified under the VERRA standards (Voluntary Carbon Standard and associated Climate, Community and Biodiversity label using the VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD+MF), v1.7. The project is implementing reforestation activities in farmlands.

The project works with National Forestry Authority (NFA) as the main implementation partner within CFRs, and Local Governments (LGs) and local level civil society organisations (Kitara Civil Society Organization Network, KCSON and EMLI on NDC commitments) outside the CFRs. Community groups will be strengthened and contracted to provide labour as a source of income during implementation of forest management unit (FMU) level activities in CFRs, e.g. planting and maintenance of trees, forest protection, maintenance of permanent sample plots (PSPs), boundary reopening, and forest protection, among others.

### **2. Rationale**

The VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework under VERRA requires that a biodiversity survey is undertaken and a report on 'biodiversity situation' is part of the verification documentation that is availed to VERRA. Given that this is a requirement, it is important to undertake a biodiversity assessment (specifically for the large mammals and birds) in the project areas to demonstrate how our interventions contribute to biodiversity conservation.

### **3. Objectives**

The main objective of the task is to undertake a biodiversity survey of identified taxa within Kitechura, Ibambaro, Kagombe, Bugoma, Matiri, Nyakarongo and the smaller CFRs East of Bugoma to provide a situation of the current biodiversity situation for effective management and as part of the VERRA requirements

Specifically,

- a) Mobilise requisite technical teams to undertake the survey in line with local guidelines and regulations
- b) Undertake an assessment to determine the variety and abundance of species within specified taxa within an area
- c) Identify and assess threats to continuous biodiversity conservation and propose mitigation measures that can be incorporated into the adaptive management plan.

- d) Analyse the collected dataset for ecological parameters in line with the project monitoring plan.

#### **4. Methodology**

The consultant will propose a suitable methodology to undertake the task but it is expected that this will be rigorous and in tandem with standardised methods for biodiversity assessment that have been applied and are replicable elsewhere. However, the assignment will involve (but not limited to) use of line transects and point/location counts.

#### **5. Desired skills and competences**

The consultant is expected to possess

- a) Advanced degree in either Ecology, Forestry, Natural resources and Wildlife Ecology.
- b) Demonstratable expertise in executing similar tasks in the tropical environment
- c) Experience in the use of landscape ecological monitoring methods that are replicable
- d) Expertise in the use of DISTANCE Software and R for ecological data analysis

#### **6. Deliverables**

- i. Inception report at a minimum detailing on how the task will be undertaken, targeted sources of data, and structure of the final report within 7 days after signing the contract.
- ii. Full draft report indicating amongst others the current biodiversity status of the selected CFRs and the threats to continued existence of biodiversity
- iii. A complete dataset of the taxa assessed in terms of location (that is georeferenced)
- iv. Full Final report (following integration of comments from the client) both in Portable Drive Format (PDF) and editable version.

#### **7. Period of assessment**

The biodiversity survey and/or assessment should be carried out over a period of 3 months inclusive of the actual survey and report writing.

#### **8. Cost of the Assignment**

The estimated total cost of this assignment should cover professional fees for the consultant as well as any other costs to be incurred in undertaking this assignment including transport to the field and costs of data analysis as well as validation of the findings.

#### **9. Submission Procedure**

Firms/individual consultants that wish to express their interest in undertaking the prescribed assignment are requested to email in PDF the following through.  
[procurement@wwfuganda.org](mailto:procurement@wwfuganda.org)

- a) A technical proposal that details the understanding and interpretation of the task; clearly highlighting the methods to use as well as the activity/time schedule. The proposal should also provide evidence of relevant experience and expertise/competences (as indicated in 5 above) as a bare minimum and samples of products of a similar or related assignment. Curriculum vitae and experiences of the lead personnel need to be included in the proposal.

- b) A financial proposal not exceeding 2 pages that indicates consultant's daily rates in United States Dollars (USD) as well as any other related costs for undertaking the assignment in USD.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY/11<sup>TH</sup>/2025@10:00AM**