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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy to undertake assessments of the status of selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors to establish baseline data and restoration opportunity maps (ROAM) and to identify relevant and potential indigenous plant species for restoration in selected sites of the project area.

Background of the project.

The East Usambara Restoration Project (EURP), a new five-year initiative (2022-2026) sponsored by WWF-Switzerland (WWF-CH), aims to restore and protect East Usambara sub-montane, lowland, and coastal forests for the local community's livelihoods and wildlife. The project's principal objective is for forests, wetlands, and their essential species in the East Usambara sub-montane, lowland, and coastal forests to be sustainably protected and contribute to increased ecological services and peoples' livelihoods by 2030. This objective will be accomplished using a variety of tactics, including 1) awareness raising/mobilization and capacity building of Local Governments, Communities, Village CBOs, and CSOs on Natural resources policies and advocacy, 2) Forest Restoration to ensure wildlife habitat connectivity, 3) promoting sustainable energy technologies, 4) spatial planning, and 5) promoting sustainable Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

Introduction.

One of the four landscapes/seascapes developed in the new CSP (2021–2025), which incorporates the shift from a programming approach to a landscape approach, is the relatively new Water Towers Landscape (WTL). East Usambara sub-montane, lowland and coastal forests are of small size but biologically one of the richest. These mountains comprise a steeply scarred plateau on which the main ridges run from north to south, separated from the much larger West Usambara mountains to the north-west, by the wide Lwengera river valley, which flows south to join the Pangani river. The sub-montane forest exists at lower altitudes in the East Usambara than any other comparable mountain block in Tanzania. These forests have long been known for their diversity of plant species, the harbour at least 1,500 endemic plant species like the Usambara eagle owl (*Bubo vosseleri*), the Sokoke scops owl (*Otus ireneae*), the critically-endangered long-billed tailorbird (*Orthotomus moreaui*), the vulnerable dapple-throat (*Arcanator orostruthus*), the vulnerable Swynnerton's robin (*Swynnertonia swynnertoni*), the endangered Usambara weaver (*Ploceus nicolli*), and the endangered Usambara hyliota (*Hyliota usambara*).

Animals move across different habitat areas by using terrestrial wildlife corridors. In Tanzania, many protected areas are rapidly becoming isolated due to many reasons including a growing human population and concomitant land use shifts towards agriculture, infrastructure, and settlements in previously unpopulated areas. Yet at the same time, people depend increasingly on protected areas for the ecosystem services such as clean and abundant water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use, hydroelectricity, rituals, herbal medicines, wild fruits, nuts, leaf vegetables, fuelwood and income accrued directly from tourism and selling of handcrafts and souvenir. Excessive and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources in the Usambara

Mountains has led to disturbance of the hydrological balance. Increased siltation, human population and over-abstraction of water from the streams for irrigation of horticultural crops planted at the riverbanks and livestock incursion into rivers are some of major threats to freshwater resources. Other factors threatening water resources in the mountains include prolonged drought periods related to climate change and loss in forest cover.

WWF under the East Usambara Restoration project (EURP), seeks to recruit an expert to assess the status of selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors to establish baseline data and restoration opportunities and to identify relevant and potential indigenous plant species for restoration in the selected villages in the East Usambara mountains. This information will be a benchmark to monitor wildlife populations, human-wildlife conflicts and the restoration of corridors that are still existing.

The objective of the consultancy.

The main objective of this consultancy is to assess the status of selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors to establish baseline data and restoration opportunities and to identify relevant and potential indigenous plant species for restoration in selected sites of the project area.

Specific objectives

1. Assess and document the status of the selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors in the selected sites of the project area.
2. Establish baseline data and restoration opportunity maps for the selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors in the 10 villages in the East Usambara sub-montane, lowland and coastal forest sub-landscape.
3. Assess and document relevant and potential indigenous plant species for restoration in selected sites of the project area.
4. Assess community capacity to conserve and manage the selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors and develop a capacity-building plan.
5. Support and facilitate two capacity-building workshops for 5 CSOs, 10 village-based CBOs and private sector partners on developing assessment and monitoring plans for the key selected forests, rivers, wildlife corridors and potential indigenous plant species for restoration.

Scope of the assignment.

The main geographical area of focus will be the East Usambara-lowland and Coastal Forests sub-landscape. Particularly the study will be carried out in 10 selected villages in Korogwe and Mkinga districts, Tanga Region. The scope will include assess the status of selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors that still exists to establish baseline data and restoration

opportunities and to identify relevant and potential indigenous plant species for restoration in selected sites of the project area.

Methodology

This consultancy should employ acceptable data collection and analysis tools. The selected tools for data collection should lead to the findings of the correct data for the forest plant species, river line vegetation and population of the species in the selected sites including their distribution and habitat condition. Generally, the methodology must be acceptable for biodiversity measurement surveys.

Expected output.

- Current status of the selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors.
- Baseline data of the selected forests, rivers and wildlife corridors the selected sites of the project area.
- A shortlist of the most relevant and feasible restoration intervention types across the assessment area with their quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type.
- Identified priority areas for restoration.

Key deliverables.

- An Inception Report with clear methodology, team composition and work plan and budget.
- Draft ROAM report
- Final ROAM report
- Training manual and report
- Final Consultancy Report.

Required profile of the consultancy:

Required Qualifications

We are seeking for an expert who is passionate about conducting research, has in-depth knowledge of the forest and wildlife sectors, and who employs best practices and quality standards in the management of natural resources. The ideal consultant/s should have substantial experience researching the East Usambara Coastal forests, their biological values, and the persistent natural resources linkage. Also, the expert should have,

Required Skills

- Excellent understanding of forest, wildlife, water resources assessment and general knowledge in natural resource Management.
- Capacity to research and develop accurate data that meets the requirements of the assignment.
- Pprevious experience in undertaking a similar assignment.

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Contract duration

This assignment will last for one month (30 days). Please, submit your full proposal to procurement@wwftz.org. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Deadline for submission:

Applications should be a concise full combined technical and financial proposal fully signed, highlighting the company profile, concrete evidence of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, the financial proposal should clearly specify the time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications no later than 10:00 am Wednesday, 21st June, 2023.

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid.