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**Terms of Reference**

**Scoping Study on Urban Forestry: Assessing the Status and Opportunities to Engage in Tanzania**

1. **Introduction and justification to the scoping study**

Africa has the fastest urban growth in the world, with an estimated 567 million people living in cities (OECD, 2020; UN Habitat, 2020; World Bank, 2021).[[1]](#footnote-2) But such growth is characterised by poverty, limited capacity to manage waste, storm water management, overcrowding, congestion among others.[[2]](#footnote-3) These limitations are further exacerbated by projected threats of climate change such as frequency of floods, heat waves, and sea level rise. In Tanzania, for example, coastal cities are put at high risk of effects of climate change due to [urbanisation](http://41.73.194.134/bitstream/handle/123456789/189/economics%2520of%2520CC%2520in%2520tanzania.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

While there are many i[nterventions](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%2520Republic%2520of%2520Tanzania%2520First%2520NDC/The%2520United%2520Republic%2520of%2520Tanzania%2520First%2520NDC.pdf) that Tanzania has defined, urban forestry and its management have the potential to enable country’s [response to climate change](https://news.mongabay.com/2019/11/how-cities-can-lead-the-fight-against-climate-change-using-urban-forestry-and-trees-commentary/) mitigation whilst providing health benefits to urban populations. Given rapid urbanisation and population growth across coastal cities, urban forests can provide green space and mechanisms to mitigate storm water and floods. Urban forestry can also play a potential role as a cooling system for the increased temperatures as a result of global warming. However, little is known on the status of urban forests and the potential on people and climate across major cities in Tanzania. There is a growing appetite and need to understand urban forestry in detail and its role towards climate change and health - how it is defined across groups; and embedded in policy, action planning, implementation in municipal and city councils.

Urban forests consist of diverse floristic and physiognomic plant communities, including trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and mosses (Morgenroth and Östberg, 2017). In Tanzania, urban forests exists in form of trees around buildings, in streets, city gardens, cemeteries, schools, institutions compounds and open spaces (Bushesha, 2020). Urban populations have been practicing urban forestry through tree planting, botanical gardens, green spaces, and home gardens. Unfortunately, in Tanzania, urban forestry’s understanding, potential and enabling systems are undermined in number of ways:

* + Urban forests are not yet prioritised at both national and local level despite their role as mitigation mechanisms to climate change, habitat for urban-based wildlife, and as cooling system for urban dwellers. The Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) process for Tanzania, for example, does not qualify the cities as areas which have all restoration opportunities.
	+ Lack of clarity on ownership and management capacity across authorities (ministry, urban/city councils/ authorities over urban trees.
	+ Forestry is not considered during urban planning and trees are planted/removed by individual land owners without any guidelines on tree management
	+ Limited public awareness and knowledge on the role urban forestry could play to boost health and wellbeing e.g. [mental health](https://www.wwf.org.uk/5-ways-connect-nature-help-our-wellbeing)
	+ Due to lack of ecologically cantered city planning, urban areas wetlands systems have faced increasing siltation, conversion into other land uses risking the ability of cities to cope with floods and other effects of climate change.
	+ Lack of management of urban trees has led to increased risks posed by unhealthy or damaged trees endangering lives especially during rains and strong winds. Some introduced trees have caused destruction of the infrastructure such as roads and house compounds, thus emphasising the need for management and increasing knowledge on the right trees for urban forestry.
	+ Limited support and understanding of nature and operations of urban-based nurseries: Urban tree nurseries are important economic activities but are done using unimproved tree seed sources thus affecting quality of tree products. There is a need to support urban tree nurseries operators to access improved germplasm/seed sources.

These limitations signal the need and opportunity for WWF and partners to understand and initiate processes to plan and manage urban forests across policies and practices within cities and municipalities in Tanzania. This need fits well with consistent [urban population growth](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=TZ) . It is against this backdrop that WWF seeks a consultant (s) to carry out a scoping study of urban forestry in Tanzania with focus on Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Dodoma and Zanzibar.[[3]](#footnote-4)

**2. Scope**

This scoping study is meant to provide:

* The status and potential of urban forestry and forests in city and municipal councils along the coastline of Tanzania.
* An entry point for WWF, city/municipal councils, the Government (through TFS) on potential interventions to support urban forestry in Tanzania.
* Actions at city level and those that will be critical at national scale (e.g. policies) to enable urban forestry in Tanzania.

This assessment will be carried out in Dar-es-Salaam, Mtwara, Dodoma and Zanzibar cities. These cities have been chosen given their current and projected changes in terms of population, urbanisation, and infrastructure development.

**3. Objectives**

The **overall objective** of this assignment is to undertake an urban forestry scoping study to define urban forestry in local context, assess the status and opportunities to engage for the selected places of urban centres of Dar Es Salaam city, Mtwara, Dodoma and Zanzibar.

**Specific objectives** of this assessment are as follow:

1. Assess the existing and gaps on enabling environment for urban forestry - planning in city/municipal councils, policy and legal framework, knowledge towards the topic
2. Document a/ on the status and what could be done on ecological functionality of urban forests- riverine, recharge systems (e.g. water), hotspot areas, ecological infrastructure (flood control); b/ the perceived benefits on urban forestry/forests from a sample of urban populations and their institutions (city councils) across the target areas, and c/ advocacy and awareness at community and local government levels, d/ Urban forests management plans (if any) for the selected cities developed
3. Stakeholders and partners - Map out, assess key players and their role in urban forestry, what is missing in implementing and financing (or funding part) to enable urban forestry. The stakeholders here should include government, private sector, religious groups, private sector (e.g. banks), civil society organizations, and international NGOs
4. Lessons from ongoing initiatives, in particular the existing gaps from Tanzania Urban Resilience Program, World Bank urban resilience portfolio, Pollinators Conservation program by the National Museum of Tanzania, and WWF collaborative programs with the Vodacom Foundation and CRDB Bank
5. The data needs - what data and monitoring systems exist within Tanzania and elsewhere that WWF and partners could build on. On this, the emphasis should be on monitoring trees existence, extensiveness of trees and green spaces, health of the urban trees/green spaces, carbon sequestration potential, and as habitats for urban based wildlife
6. Existing practices and lesson on financing mechanism (or related monetary value or incentive schemes) on urban forests beyond carbon finance.

4. **Research questions to guide scoping exercise**

* How is urban forestry defined across various institutions with responsibility on urban areas? What interventions define urban forestry?
* What’s missing in urban forestry work in these cities and in Africa at large?
* What is the policy/legislation status of urban forestry (as defined locally) in the country and in these cities?
* What is the role (and status) of urban forestry in responding to the four objectives - ecological functionality, one health, climate change and an engaged society
* What are the current initiatives related to urban forestry and what is the role of the city/municipal council? Is the city owning the process and including urban forestry activities in their budget?
* Knowledge and best practices: what knowledge/best practices exist that could offer an in-depth understanding on urban forestry in these areas?
* What data and monitoring systems are needed (or already in place) to inform our understanding and niche?
* What should be the added value of WWF and partners to engage and support interventions in urban forestry?
* Which pilot (or immediate) activities could be carried out to initiate/scale-up urban forestry concept in your city/town?
* Do the cities have urban forestry mainstreamed into their development plans?

**5. Specific tasks**

The tasks for this assignment are defined by both the objectives and the scope as spelled out in this ToR. Additionally, the consultant will do the following:

* Undertake a literature review to gather information necessary for the assessment
* Engage in thorough discussions with WWF and partners to further understand the requirements of the ToR. This assignment will involve consulting relevant stakeholders: Relevant Ministries (MNRT (DoFB), Local Government and Regional Administration, Lands and Settlements), local banks/branches, Water Authorities, Forest Authorities, City/Municipal Councils, Road Agencies, Faith Based Organizations, individuals, research and academic institutions and private Sector.
* Carry out field visits to all cities, including relevant stakeholders, to collect data as per the scope of this assignment
* Address the main objectives of the study as stated above
* Present the report to the WWF and cities for feedback

**6. Outputs/deliverables and timelines for the assignment**

This assignment will last for 60 days from the date of contract signing, and guided as follows:

* **Inception report: The report** defining approaches and tools, timeline and work plan and budget to be used in conducting the assessment. The report is due one week after the winning consultant being notified of the offer..
* **Draft assessment report:** The report should respond to the needs spelled out in this ToR. The draft report is due 30 days from the date of signing the contract.
* **Final assessment report** is due 15 days after receiving reviewed draft from WWF (taking approx. 15 days) and it should take on board suggestions, recommendations and comments raised during stakeholder engagement process and other involved stakeholders

**7. Qualifications and expertise required**

This is an assignment that requires skills and knowledge in urban forestry, urban/city planning, urban resilience assessment. The individual consultant(s) should have the following:

* An advanced university degree (MSc or higher) in urban forestry, urban/city planning, urban resilience assessment.
* Experience in conducting similar assessments at local, national and International space.
* Good experience and understanding urban planning, role of urban forestry, and urban resilience in the face of climate change.

**8. Proposal Submission**

Please, submit your full proposal to: procurement@wwftz.org

**9. Submission of application**

Applications should include a brief, complete, combined technical and financial proposal that is fully signed and includes the consultant profile, specific evidences of experience with similar work, the proposed approach and methods, and the work plan and schedule for the process. The consultant’s CV should also be included. In addition to the one page cover letter, the financial proposal should also include clear details of direct and reimbursable time and other costs; this includes unit costs for professional fees and reimbursable taxes. Only successful applicant will be contacted.

Consultancy proposals will be evaluated based on WWF procurement guidelines and WWF Tanzania is not obligated to accept the lowest or highest bid.

1. See, United Nations Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision and the Climate Conversations run by Carleton University [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The impetus to this ToR is also enriched by the Climate Conversations with an African Focus webinar series facilitated by Carleton University at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54I5no-V8HE [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For Zanzibar, this assessment will focus on Unguja urban district, West district A and B, North A [↑](#footnote-ref-4)