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TERMS OF REFERENCE

A CONSULTANCY TO REVIEW AND RE-NEGOTIATE CFM PLANS AND AGREEMENTS OF ECHUYA CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE

1. Introduction

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is seeking the services of a consultant to review and renegotiate four Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) Plans and Agreements for Echuya Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) in Uganda. In addition, the consultant will facilitate the development of an additional new CFM agreement for the reserve. NFA is a semi-autonomous government organization established under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003) to sustainably manage Central Forest Reserves in Uganda.

Collaborative Forest Management aims to establish a mutually agreed upon and beneficial relationship between an eligible local community group and the governing authority of either a Central Forest Reserve (CFR) or a Local Forest Reserve (LFR) i.e., the “responsible body”.

CFM was started in Echuya CFR in 2006 and the agreements signed in 2008. The Agreements expired in 2018 and need to be reviewed and renewed for signing. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) in the same way, following requests from stakeholders, wishes to create a CFM group specifically for the Batwa as an indigenous community group since over the past ten years they have not been fully involved in CFM activities and have been excluded and isolated by the other local ethnicities that dominate the CFM groups. As a first step, a livelihood assessment shall be conducted to determine what the local communities’ needs are and where they need to be supported better in managing the forest and improving their livelihoods.

Under the terms of a CFM agreement, the CFM group takes on specific responsibilities, for example, forest patrolling and management, in exchange for specific benefits, for example, access to forest resources and forest land for tree growing and promoting beekeeping and ecotourism. The responsible body, in turn, takes on the responsibility to support the CFM

group and respect and deliver on agreed benefits. The Uganda National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (NFTPA) of 2003 formalises and defines CFM as, “a mutually beneficial arrangement” grounded in **shared roles, responsibilities, rights and returns (benefits)** – the ‘4R’ framework.

CFM has four main components: (i) **Design and negotiation** (ii) **Implementation** (iii) **Monitoring and enforcement** and (iv) **Evaluation and learning**.

These are underpinned by the following principles:

- ‘Learning by doing’
- Meaningful participation and shared learning
- Appropriate representation and responsibilities
- Building capacity for change
- Long-term perspective and shared ownership
- Transparent communication, including with marginalised people

CFM is meant to contribute to the realisation of the following NFTPA objectives:

- Safeguarding **forest biodiversity and associated benefits** for inter-generational equity
- Promoting **improved livelihoods** through development of the forest sector
- Encouraging and facilitating **public participation** in forest management and conservation
- Raising **public awareness** of the diverse benefits of conserving and increasing forest cover
- Ensuring **sustainable supply** of forest products and services by maintaining a sufficient forest area
- Promoting **equitable sharing** of forest benefits, focusing on vulnerable groups

As a result of these objectives, CFM is expected to:

- **Reduce conflicts** between government and forest adjacent communities
- **Establish fair terms** for access rights and the distribution of benefits, responsibilities and decision-making in forests

- **Ensure fair distribution** of the costs of forest management
- **Enable sharing knowledge** and skills between responsible bodies, CFM groups and partners
- **Create a sense of ownership** and promote local people's security of tenure over forest resources

The current CFM Plans and agreements of Echuya CFR expired in 2018 yet the CFM groups are continuing to utilise and access forest resources which is against the law and guidelines of CFM. Following the recommendations of the recent National CFM Review (2020) which highlighted the need for renewing expired CFM agreements, and the Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Framework for Uganda (2020), which emphasises and recognizes the importance of involving marginalised groups in forest management, the CFM plans and agreements need to be reviewed and appropriately renewed and a new CFM agreement for the indigenous Batwa needs to be created.

Overall purpose and objectives

The overall purpose of the assignment is to ensure that the four collaborative forest management plans and agreements of Echuya CFR are reviewed and renewed considering the social safeguards of the indigenous communities, together with the development of a new agreement for the Batwa community.

Objective 1: Assess the livelihoods of the local communities to guide NFA management and other partners and stakeholders of how best they tap into the benefits and opportunities of CFM.

Objective 2: Review the four expired CFM plans and agreements for Echuya CFR considering the recommendations and findings of the National Review on CFM (2020) and the Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups Framework for Uganda (2020).

Objective 3: Develop and formulate a new CFM group for the indigenous Batwa community considering the recommendations of the Vulnerable and

Marginalised Groups Framework for Uganda (2020) and the social safeguards.

Objective 4: Provide support to the NFA Partnerships Officer in building the capacity of NFA Field staff in understanding and being able to implement the CFM plans and agreements of Echuya CFR.

2. Outputs

The consultant will provide the following outputs:

1. An inception report setting out summary background information on Echuya CFR and its adjacent communities, a short synopsis on the progress and state of CFM in the reserve, a proposed methodology for reviewing, formulating and developing the four CFM plans and one new CFM plan, and a work plan and timeline. A preliminary structure and content for the four revised CFM plans and agreements of Echuya CFR based on a review of the work done to date targeted at improving CFM Plans and agreements should be provided as an annex.
2. A report on a rapid livelihood analysis conducted as part of the assignment determining the benefits and opportunities for CFM groups, with applicable lessons learned from other protected areas (e.g. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park)
3. A newly developed and formulated CFM plan and agreement for the indigenous Batwa community including social safeguards – ready for validation and subsequent approval.
4. A draft set of four revised CFM plans and agreements – ready for validation and subsequent approval.
5. A supporting summary report documenting the process, considerations and consultations that were carried out underpinning the guidelines together with a set of recommendations for instituting a monitoring and performance framework for the implementation of the plans.

5. Qualifications and experience

The lead consultant will be expected to have the following qualifications and experience:

- A post-graduate degree in social forestry or a closely related discipline.

- A proven track record as a practitioner and provider of advisory services with at least ten years' experience of working directly with communities, NGOs and government in social/community forestry roles. This experience should include four or more consulting assignments pertaining to community-based forestry and/or related activities.
- Knowledge and experience of good working practices in supporting and engaging with indigenous peoples including practical application of FPIC is strongly desirable.
- A good understanding of Collaborative Forest Management in Uganda and equally of the environment in which Ugandan public institutions operate.
- They should be able to demonstrate that they have reliably carried out consulting assignments in a timely manner and to a high standard.
- Excellent interpersonal, listening and communication skills, as well as analytical and report writing skills.
- Demonstration of having reliably carried out consulting assignments in a timely manner and to a high standard.

Criteria for application

Interested service providers, who meet the above requirements, should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) of no more than five pages setting out (i) A narrative account of their professional work to date in community-based forestry, (ii) Their guiding principles and practices in their community-based forestry work and (iii) An account of the lessons that their work with communities has taught them (iv) A summary of the approach that they would take with this assignment. Candidates should submit this EOI together with up to a two-page financial proposal and accompanied by a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees to AWF by **Monday 28th May 2021** via email to **UGProcurement@awf.org**. Applicants are advised that failure to follow the bid guidelines as set out above will result in the disqualification of their bid, regardless of merit. All EOIs received will be acknowledged.