



RECRUITMENT OF AN EXPERT

FOR

A STUDY ON BIOFUELS IN WEST AFRICA AND SAHEL

Background

The African Forestry Forum (AFF) is a pan-African non-governmental organization with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is an association of individuals who share the quest for and commitment to the sustainable management, use and conservation of the forest and tree resources of Africa for the socio-economic wellbeing of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

The purpose of AFF is to provide a platform and create an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant policy and technical issues pertaining to achieving sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources as part of efforts to reduce poverty and promote economic and social development.

The African Forest Forum has secured funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to implement of a project of the title "Africa forests, people and climate change" that seeks to further develop the forest/climate change nexus that is considered key for Africa's future development. The project is part of an emerging Climate Change Programme for AFF (AFF-CCP).

The purpose of the AFF-CCP is to better understand how forests and trees, and the people who depend on them in the various African landscapes, respond to climate change and variability. The AFF-CCP focuses on three working areas (i) Policy and advocacy; (ii) Capacity building and skills development; and (iii) Learning, knowledge generation and information management. Three specific objectives have been formulated for these working areas, and are to:

- (1) Foster awareness on forests and climate change issues and promote appropriate changes in policies and practices. (Working area 1);
- (2) Build and improve capacity to address forest related climate change issues.

(Working area 2);

(3) Ensure that production, adaptation, mitigation and policy processes involving forests and trees are backed by sound information (Working area 3).

The emphasis of the programme is on the development of the forest/climate change nexus in semi-arid areas (Sahel belt), the woodlands of West, East and Southern Africa, and in the moist forests in Central and West Africa. As an overall strategy, the three working areas of policy and advocacy, capacity building and skills development and learning and knowledge management are closely interlinked. Transversal themes, in particular the topic of gender, are integrated throughout the three working areas. AFF has a specific gender policy that favors the participation of women, youth, and disadvantaged groups and individuals both within its structure and in the project implementation.

For its annual work plan in 2013, AFF plans to conduct a study on the assessment of the extent of production and use of different biofuels in sub-Saharan Africa and the extent of their complementarity with and/or substitution for fossil fuels and other substitutes in the different use categories. This study will be conducted in West Africa and Sahel. The African Forest Forum is recruiting **one** expert to undertake this study.

Purpose of the work

To analyze and document the implications of the production of biofuel, food and fibre on potential of forests for carbon sequestration and production of other forest products.

Specific tasks for the expert

- Assess the extent of production and use of different biofuels in selected West African countries and the extent of their complementarity with and/or substitution for fossil fuels and other substitutes in the different use categories;
- Assess the potential and conditions for increased biofuel production in the West African countries;
- Assess the relationship between biofuel production and reduction of greenhouse gases and how this relationship is likely to evolve in future;
- Assess the present and potential future relationship between biofuel production, food production and primary forest production in the selected countries;
- Prepare a consultancy report of 40 – 50 pages;
- Draft a policy brief, a fact sheet and a journal article, all to be finalised together with the staff at Secretariat who will get involved in this.

The expert should, in collaboration with relevant staff at the AFF Secretariat, select 4 countries in this region to conduct the study.

Minimum qualifications and skills

- Be a scientist with proven knowledge and experience in natural resources management in Africa;
- Have broad knowledge and experience in energy issues, climate change, agricultural production and forest management;
- Have good writing skills and have at least written a book chapter and published peer reviewed journal papers;
- Have a master's degree in natural resources management, forestry, agricultural economics, environment management or any related area;
- A PhD will be an added advantage;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in French. Working knowledge of English will be an added advantage

Submission of an expression of interest

Interested candidates are requested to submit:

- (a) an expression of interest, stating their relevant experience and capacity to undertake this task;
- (b) a methodology to carry out the task including a table of contents of the report.

The curriculum vitae of the person (s) who will carry out the work should be attached.

All submissions should be made electronically to m.larwanou@cgiar.org and copied to g.kowero@cgiar.org.

Deadline for receiving applications is July 21, 2013. Only the selected expert will be informed of the outcome of this process.

Selection criteria

The expert will be selected based on the relevant experience and demonstrated capability.

Duration

The work is expected to be carried out in one month spread over a period of two months.