



Terms of Reference

AFF – Forest certification experts

Consultancy no. 01-481. Conduct an inventory of existing forest certification systems and facilitate the development of national forest management standards and other means appropriate to Africa's context to support forest certification in different forest types (**four experts, one each for Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Northern Africa, and West Africa**).

Consultancy no. 01- 491. Review current status of certification in sub-Saharan Africa, identify opportunities and challenges, analyse institutional and technical training needs and based on the review develop training modules on forest certification (**One expert, for all regions and also to coordinate experts under consultancy no. 01-481**).

Background

The African Forest 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 Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to implement a project entitled "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa" that seeks to generate and share knowledge and information through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into policy options and capacity building for improved forest management that better address poverty eradication and environmental protection in Africa.

The project has the following six **specific objectives** that have been identified as covering the highest priority areas to be delivered by this project:

1. To facilitate the emergence of a strong partnership platform through which stakeholders identify challenges related to sustainable management of forest and tree resources and co-create solutions.
2. To facilitate the collation, synthesis, provision of access to, exchange and management of critical information and knowledge demanded by stakeholders in African forestry for forestry compatible development.
3. To catalyse efforts to enhance sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to adverse effects of climate change, and upscale promising approaches that support livelihoods.
4. To facilitate the formulation and harmonization of evidence-based policies, regulations and governance mechanisms to strengthen public and private institutions to effectively support SFM and transparent trade.
5. To enhance capacity of institutions and individuals – including farmers and farmer organizations, and other private sector actors, professional organisations, and public sector organizations - to achieve forest compatible development.
6. To strengthen participation in regional and international debates and negotiations related to forestry and enhance informed country adoption and implementation of international and regional forest and related agreements.

For its annual work plan in 2014, AFF as part of its work and the need to enhance improved forest management and certification through the adoption and implementation of best practices plans to conduct studies to identify and analyze the key elements for the development of framework and policies for sustainable forest management and certification in Africa. The activity aims to promote forest use and trade policy while ensuring forest resources are used in a sustainable manner that meets the economic, ecological and cultural requirements of people who depend on them.

These studies will be conducted in selected countries in different ecoregions (Forest types covered: Sahel-parklands, woodlands, and savannah, dry forests, moist forests).

The African Forest Forum is recruiting 10 experts (one each for the different ecoregions to undertake these studies and 4 to develop the training modules for each of the ecoregions)

Purpose of the work for Consultancy 01-481

To strengthen national capacities for forest certification and facilitate the development of forest certification systems.

Specific tasks

- Assess the current situation of Forest Certification (FC) in the different countries/sub-region, including the actual and potential contribution of FC for the responsible management of the different forest types, e.g. Sahel-parklands, woodlands and savannahs, moist forests, dry forest, mangroves, etc. and plantations.
- Assess and analyze the extent and scope of engagement of the various national/regional/global FC schemes in the different countries.
- Identify the types and areas of forests certified and/or undergoing through the

processes of certification.

- Determine the types and numbers of forest certificates issued and certified forest products and/or services
- Investigate the availability, focus and scope of national/sub-regional/international FC standards.
- Investigate the availability of capacity for FC in the sub-region
- Assess and document the perceptions of stakeholders on FC and their involvement in and support to the FC processes.
- Review past and ongoing support programmes/projects for FC in the sub-region.
- Assess the availability/prospects of markets and market information systems for certified forest products/services from the sub-region.
- Document positive and negative lessons learnt, and identify gaps, challenges and/or constraints of past and ongoing efforts in FC in the sub-region.
- Analyze the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of past and ongoing efforts on FC.
- Based on the lessons learnt and outcomes of the SWOT analyses, assess and identify needs for capacity building for FC in the sub-region.
- Forward viable/feasible recommendations for promoting FC in the sub-region in general and AFF engagement in FC in particular.
- Prepare a technical report of about 40 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.

Purpose of the work for Consultancy 01-491:

Review current status of certification in SSA, that would facilitate the development of training modules for forest certification based on the review of current status and identified training needs.

Specific task

- Provide introductory overviews on various aspects of forest certification (FC)
- Document how FC works in practice.
- Assess the recognition of certified forest products and/or services by the various forest certification schemes (FCSs) in the market places and by consumers.
- Undertake an inventory of international/regional FCSs.
- Assess the potential contribution of FC in the global efforts for both REDD+ as well as adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
- Assess the need for and recommend ways of adapting/aligning FC standards to the African conditions, i.e. political, social, cultural and environmental set-ups.

- Identify countries/sub-regions in Africa that have either developed or are currently developing their FC standards, and assess and document how AFF can be engaged to facilitate/support their standards development process.
- Review past and ongoing support programmes/projects for FC in Africa, and identify potential partners/funding sources to support ongoing/future efforts of FC in Africa.
- Coordinate the activities of sub-regional experts working on FC for AFF and provide further assistance to AFF in the implementation of its sub-project on FC. This includes, assessing and recommending organizations that AFF should establish strategic partnerships with to promote FC in Africa and formulation or design for AFF a three years project to build forest certification capacity in Africa.
- Prepare a consolidated report on capacity building needs for FC in Africa based the information compiled from the sub-regions of Africa.
- Based on findings from the needs assessment on capacity building, prepare a training programme on FC and develop training modules for forest certification;
- Prepare a technical report of 30-40 pages on “Forest Certification in Africa” which will be published as a working paper series by AFF;
- Draft a policy brief, a fact sheet and a journal article, all to be finalised together with staff at the secretariat who will get well involved in this.

Minimum qualifications and skills

- Be an expert with proven knowledge and experience in forest certification in Africa;
- Proven experience with curricula and customised training package in natural resources management and forestry
- Have broad knowledge and experience in forest management, sustainable development, climate change, agricultural production;
- Have good writing skills and have at least written a book chapter and published peer reviewed journal papers;
- Have at least 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 English. Working knowledge of French will be an added advantage.

Expected Scope and Duration of Assignment

The tasks for consultancy 01-481 are estimated to be the equivalent to 1 (one) person-month per expert while the tasks for consultancy 01-491 are estimated to be the equivalent to 5 (five) person-months, commencing on 15 July, 2014 and spread over a period of three months. The experts can work from their location but in close consultation with AFF and according to agreed delivery schedule.

How to apply

Please email, quoting the consultancy number, and a proposal containing:

- Cover letter (stating how the above qualification and experience requirement are met),
- Key results area and corresponding specific activities
- Data matrix listing the information needs plotted against data source
- Draft work plan (clear deliverables plotted against work weeks for each key results)
- Annex tentative table of contents with corresponding number of pages
- Annex an updated CV

with the subject line quote the specific consultancy no (and sub-region, where applicable) and include: "Forest certification Expert" to:

All submissions should be made electronically to j.yila@cgiar.org and y.yemshaw@cgiar.org with copy to m.larwanou@cgiar.org and g.kowero@cgiar.org

Application deadline is **July 14, 2014**. Only successful applicants will be contacted. The experts will be selected based on their relevant experience and demonstrated capability.