



Terms of Reference

AFF – Tree germplasm expert

Consultancy no.01-361. Facilitate the provision of quality germplasm appropriate for use in different contexts **(three experts, one each for Eastern, Southern, and West & Central Africa).**

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 equitable and 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 (all minority and gender groups) 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 plans to conduct studies to identify and analyze issues related to the key elements of improving tree performance and productivity for diverse products in order to promote the identification of more productive strains of fast growing trees as an integral farming system practice and for commercial forest plantations that will ensure both economic and environmental benefits from the use of better adapted and high quality tree germplasm among smallholder farmers and the private sector. To form the basis that would facilitate the provision of quality germplasm, there is need to appreciate the actors and factors that characterize the livelihood options of different farmer groups and gender categories while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources that respond to their unique circumstances. This activity would involve undertaking an inventory of seeds sources for tree improvement on the 10-15 most important plantation species in selected countries.

The African Forest Forum is recruiting three experts (one each for Southern, Eastern and West & Central Africa) to undertake these studies.

Purpose of the work

To analyze the extent of use of appropriate tree germplasm for facilitating the provision of quality germplasm appropriate for use in different context.

Specific tasks

- Review the current situation in Africa of tree germplasm improvement, production, supply and demand;
- Undertake an inventory of seed sources and tree improvement research for/on the 10-15 most important plantation species;
- Analyse institutional – personnel, technical and infrastructure/facility - needs and make recommendations for improvements;
- Analyse the institutional and technical needs to ensure sustainable production and supply of improved tree germplasm;
- Assess and make an inventory of seeds sources for and tree improvement research on

the selected countries;

- Document and compare tree seed handling procedures of priority species;
- Assess the extent and the challenges/opportunities that can be employed to advance the up scaling of quality germplasm appropriate for different context and accessible by all stakeholders;
- Develop Regional protocols for the tree seed handling for possible adoption by the International Seed Testing Association;
- Develop curricula for training activities (two short refresher courses for technical staff);
- 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.

Minimum qualifications and skills

- Be an expert with proven knowledge and experience in natural resources management in Africa;
- Have broad knowledge and experience in plant breeding, forest genetics, silviculture, tree seed technology, and forest management;
- 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 in this TOR are estimated to be the equivalent to 1 (one) person-month of work load, commencing on 15 July, 2014 and spread over a period of three months. The consultant can work from his/her 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: “Consultancy no: 01-361: AFF – Tree germplasm 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.