



Date: **November 8, 2018.**

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy to Conduct a Gap Analysis towards FSC certification readiness for Kibale national park in Uganda.

The Forest Stewardship Council Africa Region (FSC Africa) invites interested eligible consultants to submit Expressions of Interest for the provision of consultancy services to conduct a Gap Analysis towards FSC certification readiness for Kibale national park in Uganda. The Terms of Reference and Guidelines for the Submission of Expression of Interest for this consultancy are provided below.

Deadline for submission of expression of interest is 26 November 2018. Please send your application to: fscafrica@fsc.org.

Terms of reference (ToR)

Conduct a Gap Analysis towards FSC certification readiness for Kibale national park in Uganda.

About FSC

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a global not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. FSC sets standards by which forests are certified helps consumers and businesses identify products from well-managed forests and offers credible verification to people who are buying wood and wood products. Currently over 200 million hectares of forest and more than 30,000 businesses worldwide are certified to FSC standards. For more information visit www.fsc.org

Contracting authority

The Contracting Authority for this Consultancy is the Forest Stewardship Council.





Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), a semi-autonomous government agency that manages 10 National Parks, 12 wildlife reserves, 5 community wildlife management areas, and 13 wildlife sanctuaries¹. The institution also manages wildlife outside Protected Areas.

Background and rationale

The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of Uganda (NFSS) became effective in September 2018. With this significant milestone achieved, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has selected Kibale national park among others to manage according to the FSC International standard requirements with a goal of achieving FSC certification by end 2020.

As one of the government institutions wanting to pioneer certification in Uganda, UWA wants know to what extent it so far conforms to the FSC national standard requirements, and what areas still require improvement along its FSC certification readiness path.

The information and recommendations generated from the consultancy will be used by UWA to address the remaining gaps towards getting ready for FSC certification. FSC will use the information generated to identify and offer additional technical support to critical areas that are still lacking.

Objective

The objective of the Gap Analysis consultancy is to assess UWA's current forest management practices and systems in relation to FSC certification requirements and recommend areas for improvement towards readiness for FSC certification. The Gap Analysis shall also serve as an opportunity for UWA staff to get much deeper understanding of how FSC certification works, and thus should be conducted in a collaborative manner.

¹<http://www.ugandawildlife.org/about-uganda-master/uganda-wildlife-authority>



Scope of services

In alignment with the rationale of this consultancy, the Consultant shall follow the approach of a mock audit to;

- Undertake a thorough review of UWA's current management system and practices and compare with the requirements of the NFSS, highlighting what the gaps are and recommending interventions that would facilitate UWA's readiness for FSC certification.
- Undertake a field investigation to interrogate and evaluate to what extent UWA's current forest management activities conforms at the level of indicators to the requirements of NFSS for the Republic of Uganda, highlighting areas where UWA is doing well, and recommending interventions to the areas where UWA requires improvements. A team of UWA staff, who have been assigned to lead different components for readiness to FSC certification, will be an added source of information.
- Recommend general strategic interventions to UWA, which would facilitate their readiness for FSC certification.
- Recommend to FSC, the critical areas where UWA requires technical support to be ready for FSC certification.

Deliverables

The Consultant shall propose a timetable to deliver the following:

- Detailed workplan and travel schedule
- Preliminary report including identification of potential key issues and proposed table of contents for the final report.
- Draft report
- Final report (allowing for time for comment from UWA and FSC)

Preference will be given to bids showing an earlier rather than later completion date.

Requirements

We anticipate a two-person team, at least one of whom should be a local consultant. Between them, they should possess the following:

- Track record working in the FSC certification system (Forest Management, Chain of Custody and Auditing).
- Up to date knowledge and experience in interpreting and applying the FSC forest management standards
- Should have conducted at least one FSC forest management audit in Africa
- Strong conceptual and analytical skills.
- Ability to work independently, and deliver results timely.
- Excellent inter-personal skills to effectively liaise with key stakeholders.
- Strong oral and written communication skills with a proficiency in English.



- Thorough understanding of the Ugandan forestry and wildlife management context
- Experience of conducting collaborative reviews to develop local capacity

Travel

All envisaged travel costs will be included as part of the Contract. This will include all Duty travels to-and-from and within the designated country. FSC offers economy class tickets only and the most direct routes are preferred.

Consultancy Fees

The consultant shall quote the fees for this work in the proposal, and mode of payment will be discussed upon agreement on the fees.

Working relationship

The Consultant will work in close consultation with the FSC project Manager and UWA focal person, under the direction of the FSC Africa interim Director, to ensure that the deliverables identified under the ToR are achieved in an effective and efficient manner.

Contact

For any questions or inquiries, please contact:
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