



# **Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in Western Cameroon – SUFACHAC**

## **Terms of Reference**

**To draft a Ministerial decision “Arrêté” and guidelines on best practices on the treatment (in ESiAs and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), High Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects**  
**(Activity 2.1.2.1)**

### **1. Context and justifications**

**The Project Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon (SUFACHAC)** is a biodiversity conservation and Development project of the Republic of Cameroon funded by United Nation’s Environmental Programme (UNEP) and executed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection & Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in partnership with Environment and Rural Development Foundation and CHEDE Cooperative Union.

SUFACHAC is implemented in the South West Region - a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened. This set of characteristics have made the South West the subject long-term investment in conservation and development efforts by several national and international actors but the Ministry of Environment has been largely absent from this process. The result is that the quality of Environment and Social Impact Assessments for nearby development projects has been weak, and non-existent for management of Protected Areas, even though both require ESiAs/ESMP according to the Cameroonian legal framework.

Similarly, the history of conservation initiatives within SUFACHAC Area has been typified by a series of short term projects that have come and gone, often closing before achieving their stated objectives (such as securing the gazettement and long-term management of proposed PAs), and not leaving behind improved livelihood initiatives that will be sustained in the absence of a continued subsidy.

### **Justification:**

Governments, the private sector, and environmental interests all have needs related to defining where various activities should be located. Decisions about infrastructure development, agricultural production, water use, timber harvesting, wildlife management, and environmental protection can all be informed by an improved understanding of the distribution and configuration of certain key resources.



The methods for the quantitative and/or qualitative assessment of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests, High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests, and socioeconomic impacts are not clear. Even the criteria and thresholds for determining certain impacts are unacceptable, and it makes the work of decision-makers to determine when certain proposed projects should be redesigned, relocated or not approved. Where project impacts are below defined thresholds and deemed acceptable, proposed possible ‘offset’ if any residual negative impacts of authorized developments after impacts have been minimized.

A study recently conducted to check on such shortcomings of ESIA and ESMPs exist and will serve as a supportive document. Such lessons learned needs to be harness to a regulatory framework and preparing guidelines for future ESIA and ESMPs since no clear national definition of HCV, HCS and FPIC. Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and COMIFAC are initiating programs to define HCV at national and regional level respectively. While the Cameroon Government has embarked on developing a REDD+ strategy.

In this light, the SUFACHAC project wishes to recruit a consultant(s) to draft Ministerial decision “Arrêté” and guidelines on best practice for the treatment (in ESIA and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), High Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects. Hence, the contribution will have to clarify how project developers will respect the obligation to solicit the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of communities affected by both development and conservation projects, REDD+ initiatives in Cameroon.

## **2. Responsibilities of the consultant (s):**

The assignment is to draft and validate a Ministerial decision “Arrêté” and guidelines on best practice for the treatment (in ESIA and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), High Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects.

Specifically, the assignment will include:

- Review and update the Best Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) practices on the treatment of development projects in Protected Areas (PA) gazettement processes and Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development projects
- Present lessons on how the legally prescribed ESIA (led by MINEPDED) can best complement the Management Plan preparation process (led by MINFOF), in a practical and constructive manner.
- Prepare a draft ministerial decision outlining specific requirements of ESIA and ESMPs that must be prepared during a) the design phase of development projects that have impacts on biodiversity, and b) the preparation of management plans for Protected Areas. Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development, all-inclusive.
- Prepare draft guidelines outlining specific requirements of ESIA and ESMPs that must be prepared during a) the design phase of development projects that have impacts on biodiversity, and b) the preparation of management plans for Protected Areas.



Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development, all-inclusive.

- Develop guidelines on the design and monitoring of adequate mitigating measures for various types of impacts:
  - The impact of various types of development projects (roads, agro-industrial plantations, mines, forest concessions) on biodiversity and on socioeconomic wellbeing of adjacent communities;
  - The impact of PA management on the socio-economic wellbeing of specific groups of people negatively impacted by conservation measures, such as but not limited to the restriction of access rights (hunting, NTFP collection, timber cutting, etc.), restrictions on cultural practices and the limitation on farm expansion; and
  - The impact of development projects on High Carbon Stock Forests
  - Identify clear methods for the quantitative and/or qualitative assessment of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests or corridor, High Carbon Stock (HCV) forests, and socioeconomic impacts to be included in the ministerial Decision and its guidelines.
- Define criteria and thresholds for determining when such impacts are unacceptable, to determine when certain proposed projects should be redesigned, relocated or not approved
- Outline appropriate mitigating measures that must be implemented by the project developer to ‘offset’ any residual negative impacts of authorized developments after impacts have been minimized
- Restitution of findings on specific requirements of ESIA and ESMPs, refinement and validation of draft decision and guidelines by stakeholders in preparation for submission to Minister MINEPDED

### 3. Expected Deliverables

- Guidelines on best practice for the treatment (in ESIA and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects
- Ministerial decision (draft) delineation specific requirements for the treatment (in ESIA and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects
- Guidelines on the design and monitoring of adequate mitigating measures for various types of impacts
- Produce MS PowerPoint of presentations of the deliverables.



- Consolidated but final version reports and related annexes to the consultancy

#### 4. Methodology:

The implementation of this assignment will involve a series of sub-activities including:

- **Inception meeting with SUFACHAC:** After a consultant(s) has been engaged, he/she/they will prior to work, meet with SUFACHAC team for briefing and draft detailed operational work plan and sketch a table of content for the period of consultancy. A Diagnostic report containing the methodological approach of the consultants or consultancy firm/bureau.
- **Desktop research and field observations:** The consultant(s) will be expected to use some literature provided by SUFACHAC project, the MINEPDED CIDE, MINFOF and other sources identified.
- **Presentation of the draft and final documentation:** Following the detailed work plan, the consultant(s) will meet with SUFACHAC team and some key resource persons etc. (through workshops) to present the 1<sup>st</sup> (draft of the deliverables) and penultimate drafts document and subsequently with the “SUFACHAC Ad Hoc Technical Working Group” extended for exams and enrichment and will be expected to make an adjustment to the document if the need arise and before penultimate /ultimately submission of the final reports and related documents of the consultancy.

#### 5. Profile of Consultants (firm)

Consultants or Consulting firm (Expert in environmental law, environmental expert, Forestry science engineer)

##### **Consultants/firm Profile:**

A recognized consultants/firm in the domain of Environmental Assessment with proven expertise of at least five (05) specialized in Environmental Assessment and Environmental Law. With Chef de mission an expert in EA.

##### **Expert Profile in Environmental Assessment**

- Diplomas: postgraduate in Environmental Science with a specialization in Environmental Assessment.
- Experience: at least five (05) years and have already completed at least one (01) similar work

Profile of the Legal Expert with a specialization in Environmental Law

- Diplomas: postgraduate in Law
- Professional experience: Have at least 5 years of experience in the writing of legal texts.



### **Forestry expert**

Diploma: Forestry Engineer (GCE +5)

Professional Experience: At least 5 years' experience in protected area management and related conservation issues.

The consultants or the firm's experts must:

- Being able to work in a team
- Being able to work under pressure
- Master the current problems of protected areas
- Be proficient in French and English languages
- Have a good knowledge of the computer tool
- To be available during all the period of the contract
- Strong drafting/writing, presentation and reporting skills

### **Composition of file:**

- Signed cover letter indicating interest and availability during the period to take up this assignment.
- Curriculum vitae (CVs) and photocopies of diploma obtained alongside related certificates or contracts if any of all interested consultants or those from the firm.
- A technical proposal or first situation analyses which should express the consultant understanding of the task alongside the methodology and work plan for the consultancy.
- A financial offer indicating the unit price.

**6. Duration of the individual consultancy: 50 days.** The consultant must be based in in Cameroon for the duration of the assignment.

**How to apply:** Interested persons can obtain further information and or drop file every working day from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm local time at the address below:

Hard copy (one original and three photocopies)

**National Direction of the SUFACHAC project**

**Located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Ministerial Building No. 2, Door 619.**

**Or At the SUFACHAC Project Management Unit**

**Divisional Delegate of MINEPDED Fako, Limbe**



While soft copy should be sent with the subject **“SUFACHAC ESIAs/ESMPs Guidelines”**  
to: [earrah.sufachac@gef-cameroon.org](mailto:earrah.sufachac@gef-cameroon.org) and copied [mpciel2000@yahoo.fr](mailto:mpciel2000@yahoo.fr)