

‘Participative Integrated Ecosystems Service Management Plan for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystems “PINESMAP-BPCE”

Terms of Reference to Elaborate in a participatory manner indicators on socio-economic impacts and environmental conditions to support implementation of the Bakassi IESMP, for example showing changes in land cover, conservation of aquatic biodiversity, etc.

Context and Justification

Cameroon is amongst the few countries in the world with mangrove covering more than 200,000ha (30%) of its total surface area. The mangroves in Cameroon are constituted in 3 different blocks (Rio Ntem, Douala Estuary and the Rio-Del-Rey blocks) stretching over a total of 590km along Cameroon’s coastline. The Rio-Del-Rey Block (Bakassi Peninsular) constitutes 50% (100,000ha) of Cameroon’s mangrove. This region is a unique refuge of rich aquatic wildlife species which are highly threatened from degradation, habitat loss and unsustainable natural exploitation activities especially for economic gains (plantation agriculture, exploration and exploitation of hydro-carbon, urban expansion, artisanal logging, artisanal and industrial fishing). The area is considered a biodiversity hotspot of global significance due to its biological diversity of plants and animal species. The Rio del Rey is recognized to be one of the richest site with 23,353 (80%) birds in 29 species in cameroon. The region’s mangrove ecosystem is recognised to be an important reproduction area, the hiding environment for both migratory and resident birds. 70 species of birds visit the Rio del Rey mangroves and coastal zone.

The area has a total population of between 150,000-300,000 inhabitants, 38 villages and 5 councils. Over 80% of fishing is semi-industrial dominated by over 90% foreign fishermen from neighbouring countries especially Nigeria. The primary productive sectors of the local economy are essentially agriculture (commercial and subsistence farming), collection of NTFPs, hunting, fishing, livestock rearing and forestry. Over 90% of the population of the area rely on these activities for livelihood, with farming predominating as the key source of food security and household income, followed by NTFP collection. Most local farming systems are characterised by low productivity and profitability due to poor road infrastructure. Hunting is becoming increasingly less important due to dwindling wildlife population. Farming is done primarily in close proximity to the villages. Most men engage in fishing while women concentrate on farming and NTFP harvesting.

Because of the high fragility and sensitivity of this ecosystem not only in terms of species diversity but also in terms of its ecosystem functions (climate change), the government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) developed with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) the project *No GFL/11207-14C0003-SB006681 “Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plans for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystem –PINESMAP-BPCE.”* With objective to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and improved management of Bakassi ecosystems

through an ecosystem management plan including ecosystem valuation . The project is focused on developing an Integrated Ecosystem Service Management Plan (IESMP) with the ultimate aim of conserving and/or encouraging the wise and sustainable use of the mangrove and associated coastal ecosystems and the services they provide to the local inhabitants

The existence of the mangrove ecosystems (its biological resources and ecosystems function), makes this ecosystems a biodiversity hot spot whose appropriate management will yield not only local but global environmental benefits. Unfortunately, periodic information on the health and condition of coastal mangrove ecosystems and their value for socio-economic development is difficult to obtain. For example, research institutes, NGOs and private sector organizations have some information but are neither able nor authorized to pass it on. The lack of reliable information is not only a hindrance to effective dialogue and exchange, but also a real obstacle to building trust among stakeholders and building partnerships. This task will provide the framework for setting up an ecological monitoring system for mangroves and ecosystems associated with the Rio Del Rey Block of Cameroon.

Objectives:

The overall objective is to provide stakeholders with the information and tools needed to monitor and assess biodiversity and ecosystem health in mangrove ecosystems. Regularly collect detailed information on the current situation of mangrove ecosystems with the Rio Del Rey Block of Cameroon and disseminate them to users to influence the conservation of biodiversity.

Most specifically, the consultant is expected to :

- To identify and characterize, in a participatory manner, the monitoring indicators according to the existing conceptual framework notably DPSIR including the monitoring of risks and natural disasters on coastal ecosystems and biodiversity;
- To set the mechanisms for collecting, storing, consolidating, processing and analyzing data;
- To define the pattern of information dissemination;
- To define the mechanism for implementing the M & E system;
- To define financial sustainability and financing mechanisms

Expected Outputs:

- A consultant is recruited to facilitate the process
- A workshop on participative identification of ecological and socio-economic monitoring indicators of mangroves is organized
- A document on the ecological monitoring of mangroves of Rio Del Rey mangroves Cameroon is produced;
- The document is validated by the stakeholders.

- Consultants final report.

Profile of Consultant:

Required qualification and experience:

- Consultant should hold at least a Master's degree in Botany, Social Sciences, or any related discipline
- At least 6 years experience working in the domain of mangrove conservation with a proven track record
- Have a good mastery of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) principles as well as legal, policy and institutional framework relating to M&E, environment, conservation and community development.
- Proficient in English.

Deliverables

- Identification of key socio-economic indicators of IESMP in a participatory manner.
- Data collected for key indicators of IESMP in a participatory manner.
- Consultants end of task report
- Prepare a MS PowerPoint of the consultancy

Composition of file:

- A cover letter indicating interest to take up this assignment
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- A technical proposal consisting of a methodology and operational workplan.
- A financial offer indicating the unit price

Duration of Consultancy: 30days

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 PINESMAP-BPCE project

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