



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR
THE CONDUCT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE 15 PROJECT DISTRICTS
OF INTERVENTION IN NIMBA AND LOFA
COUNTIES



Reference Number:

Country	Liberia
Project	Tree Crop Extension Project (TCEP)
Assignment Title	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment in 15 Project Districts of Nimba and Lofa Counties

Country Context:

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is implementing the Tree Crop Extension Project (TCEP) with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the adaptation for Smallholders Agriculture Program (ASAP). The project is designed to reach 11,000 beneficiaries including 8,000 smallholder cocoa producers who are members of kuu groups and Farmers Field Schools (FFS); 2,400 farmers who will benefit from access to roads, input supply and market linkages and 600 farmers who will benefit as a result of job creation along the value chain.

The objective of the project is to improve income and climate change resilience of smallholder cocoa producers, particularly women-headed households, youths and Farmers Based Organization (FBOs). The project is composed of four components; *Component 1- Revitalization of cocoa plantation; component 2 Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing farm-to-market Roads; component 3, Capacity building for service provision; and component 4-project management and coordination.* Under Component 1 an Environmental Impact Assessment is to be conducted to assess and report environmental issues that may arise from the assessment.

Whereas, following a careful review of the Environmental Laws of Liberia to ensure environmental and social safeguards compliance as well as the development of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), the project is seeking the services of an individual consultant who will conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the projects in line with the ESIA guidelines prescribed by EPA. The consultant is also requested to complement the EPA guidelines by other sector specific policies and legislations that prescribe the conduct for environment and natural resources management and come out with a report that will be used by the project and EPA to monitor TCEP activities in the counties.

Objectives of tasks to be performed by the consultants

The primary objective of the task is to ensure that the TCEP-IFAD is environmentally Compliant and monitored ensuring that the following associated issues are in compliance with Liberia's Environmental Management and Protection Laws as well as IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP), namely:

- a) Biodiversity management
- b) Use of agro-chemicals and pesticides
- c) Soil quality
- d) Physical cultural heritage
- e) Community Rights
- f) Land Acquisition
- g) Forest resources
- h) Physical and economic resettlement
- i) Community health

Scope of tasks to be performed:

- ▶ To conduct a comprehensive and participatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for each of the 15 project districts in Nimba and Lofa counties;
- ▶ Based on the findings of the assessment, develop an ESMP for each site to mitigate identified negative impacts and enhance positive impacts;
- ▶ Develop procedural guidelines for safeguarding health, safety, society and the environment from TCEP contest;
- ▶ Identify thresholds where the various procedures are required to kick in such as ESMP, ESIA, IPP, RAP, ESMF, FPIC Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) and climate risk assessments amongst others;
- ▶ Raise awareness of stakeholders on issues related to safeguarding, safety, society and the environment law and practices in Liberia;
- ▶ Develop an environmental checklist of procedures (**land acquisition, physical cultural resources, description of geographic, physical biological, geological, hydrographic, and socio-economic**) to be followed at all stages of the project cycle beginning with the identification and recruitment of project beneficiaries;
- ▶ Conduct environmental safeguard measure training for key stakeholder in the project communities as well as for lead farmers to understand basic environmental impacts and their mitigation measures that will support the implementation of the Environmental Management Plans.

Qualification and experience of the Consultant

The consultant shall prove through documentary evidence that he/she is competent to perform the tasks. He/she must have a minimum of Master degree in anthropology, geography and environmental science; with over 5 years of relevant professional experience as an environmentalist and a proven experience in donor-funded projects preferably related to the environmental sector in Liberia; excellent written and oral communication skills, fluency in English required; strong computer skills including Microsoft word, excel, and power point; and working knowledge with development partners in general and the Africa Development Bank, IFAD and World Bank in particular is a distinguished value added preference.

Reporting Requirements and Time Schedule for Deliverables

Inception Report: The inception report shall be submitted within one (1) week from the effective commencement date of the MOU, which may include:

- i. Structure of the inception report and schedule of **regular** update meetings;
- ii. A comprehensive social impact assessment report;
- iii. Social impact enhancement, mitigation and management recommendations.

Schedule of Deliverables

- i. A draft final ESMP and EIA report within four (4) weeks of contract signing;
- ii. A final report within one (1) week of receiving review comments on the draft report from IFAD and various stakeholders at a validation workshop to be held in the project counties.

Duration of the Assignment

The assignment will be conducted over a 45 days period and shall be conducted at all of the project intervention sites in the 15 Districts of Nimba and Lofa Counties.

Payment to the Consultant

- ▶ Inception report.....30%
- ▶ Draft field report.....30%
- ▶ Final Field Report.....40%

Facilities to be provided by the Client

The Client is expected to provide office facility to the consultant for the duration of the assignment. The Client will also provide the Consultant with the relevant information/reports relevant to the assignment to assist him carry out his duties and responsibilities. A hired vehicle for the duration of the assignment. The Consultant shall provide his own computer and facilitate and arrange accommodation in the field.

Note: The assignment may require a degree of flexibility and modification following new information, with additional tasks as agreed with the Project Coordinator and Country Program Manager (CPM). In case additional days may be required, these should be agreed with the CPM in advance, following discussion of workload management.

Please send a soft copy of your expression of interest by **31 of December 2019 by 4.00 p.m.** to:

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The subject line should read: **EOI for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment**

Only pre-selected consultants will be contacted.