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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP ECOTOURISM GUIDELINES AND TRAINING STAFF HOW TO IMPLIMENT THEM

1. Introduction

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is seeking the services of a consultant to develop ecotourism guidelines and to train NFA staff how to implement them to guide developments and other activities in Central Forest Reserves (CFRS).

NFA uses Ecotourism as a strategy to protect and conserve the forest reserves sustainably. Most of the central forest reserves are rich with high biodiversity value that needs protection, in that if not managed sustainably now, could lead to loss, misuse, degradation and disrespect of nature.

NFA is a semi-autonomous government organization established under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003) to sustainably manage Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) in Uganda.

The Constitution of Uganda under article 237 (2) provide for sound management of forest resources in Uganda and vest ownership of forest reserves in Government.

Forest-based Tourism is one of the activities that the Authority views as a key contributor to its revenue generation as well as building and enhancing partnerships with the private sector, Non-Government Organisations and local communities.

2. Overall Purpose

The overall purpose of the project is to enhance sustainable eco-tourism activities across all central forest reserves in Uganda.

- Guide the protection of biodiversity in all central forest reserve
- Guide the development and diversification of tourism activities in;
- Guide community benefits, livelihood and involvement in the management of forest reserve;
- Strengthen institutional capacity in eco-tourism management.

3. Objectives for the assignment

The consultancy will cover the above identified components of the project and will address the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Develop the eco-tourism guidelines for all central forest reserves
- Objective 2: Train the NFA staff using the developed guideline

4. Scope of Work

NFA, with support from USAID, is planning to engage a consultant to develop the eco-tourism. Guidelines and also train staff in implementing the guidelines. The consultant will also have to elaborate the guidelines for management of biodiversity, local community culture, tourist educative learning process as well as incoming generating activities across all the central forest reserves of Uganda.

It entails review of the current situation and project environment in terms of institutional, environmental and social issues across the central forest reserves for consideration. The consultant will also be tasked to identify any areas of missing information in the course of the project.

The consultant's work is expected to address already experienced and predicted challenges to enhance growth in tourism income, learning and preservation of culture for biodiversity conservation. The consultant is expected to train the staff of NFA with eco-tourism guideline developed.

5. Outputs

- a) Simple, Clear and precise ecotourism Guidelines to guide NFA staff, Ecotourism Promoters and all Ugandans about how to operate in a central Forest Reserve.
- b) Training work plan and schedule for staff

6. Qualifications

Team Leader (Msc or PhD Tourism, Conservation and development)

7. Required consultant firm;

- A firm with proven experience of 5 years in conservation, tourism and development-attach certificates of accomplishment.
- Experience in cultural aspects of local communities and tourism
- At least one or two assignments on development any tourism guidelines in a developing country like Uganda
- A reasonable understanding of natural resource management and forestry, and equally of the environment in which public institutions in Uganda operate.
- Excellent interpersonal, listening and communication skills, as well as analytical and report writing skills.
- They must be able to demonstrate a track record of having carried out consulting assignments in a timely manner and to a high standard.

