



CALL FOR TENDERS
Deadline for proposals: 17th May 2019

CONSULTANCY

End of project evaluation of the DFID funded “*Improving Livelihoods and Land Use in Congo Basin Forests*” project, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Duration of the contract: 10 weeks (3rd June 2019 to 9th August 2019)

Managed by: DRC Community Forests Coordinator

1. The Rainforest Foundation UK

The mission of the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforest to:

- Secure and control the natural resources necessary for their long-term wellbeing and to manage these resources in ways which do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future.
- Develop means to protect their individual and collective rights and to obtain, shape and control basic services from the state.

RFUK considers that an essential first step to protect and manage the tropical forests and to reduce poverty in tropical forest countries is to realise the rights of the traditional and indigenous communities who live in those forests. With secure rights to land and livelihoods, forest peoples can effectively manage forest resources and direct and manage their own development. Founded in 1989, RFUK has over the past 27 years built a solid body of work based on this rights-based approach to development and protection of the rainforest. Although our work is focused on the Congo Basin, where RFUK has worked since 1996, we also work in the Peruvian Amazon.

RFUK tackles the underlying causes of deforestation, linked to the problems of disenfranchisement of indigenous forest peoples globally and locally. From the field to the international policy arena, RFUK reinforces the active participation of forest peoples in the decisions that affect them. We work with over 15 partner organisations in tropical forest countries and our programme work is split into the following thematic areas:

- Community-based forest management, land-use planning and tenure reform;
- Community mapping and forest monitoring;
- Threats to forests from the extractive industries, infrastructure development and agro-industrial expansion;

- Conservation effectiveness and monitoring of initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD);
- Indigenous peoples' rights.

2. Context of Community Forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Since the adoption of the Community Forests (CF) Decree in 2014, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been in the process of finalising the legal framework for community forestry in what is arguably the most significant piece of legislation related to tropical forests of recent years, impacting as many as 40 million forest-dependent people and with tens of millions of hectares potentially available to develop pro-poor, community models of forest management. A new landmark regulation, Arrêté 025, has been adopted by the government on February 9th 2016 and is now regulating the allocation and the management of community forests in DRC. This new legislation could enable thousands of communities to apply to use an area of land of up to 50,000 hectares each as a community forest and potentially help lift them out of poverty.

Whilst this is an enormous opportunity to establish pro-poor forestry at scale, there are also significant challenges. In the absence of a strong administration at national, provincial and local levels, and lack of legal and technical capacity, provisions in the law and implementation measures could be misused, opening the door to widespread corruption and environmental damage. There is also a significant risk that large-scale forest allocation to industrial and agricultural use could further inhibit the roll-out of community forests, including muted plans to lift the long-standing moratorium on the allocation of industrial logging concessions.

There is an urgent need to build consensus on the way forward for community forestry in DRC, wider support for lesson-learning and phased approach to the development of community forestry by testing the experimental legislation and implementation options, and building the necessary institutions. The adoption of a National Strategy for Community Forests in 2018 is a crucial step in this direction. But in order to keep momentum, there is continued need for legal and institutional support at the national, provincial, and local levels to finalise legal developments and to manage the implementation of community forests more generally.

The development of community forestry in DRC needs to go beyond establishing isolated examples towards a more participatory, devolved and integrated form of land use planning, which has so far been entirely lacking in DRC and the wider Congo Basin region.

There is strong support for community forestry amongst civil society NGOs in DRC. For example, such NGOs were vocal in advocating for the signature of the decree on community forestry by the Prime Minister in August 2014. Stronger, sustained capacity are also required to contribute to policy processes (such as on land use planning and REDD+) which will potentially have a major impact on community forests.

3. The project

The UK Department for International Development (DfID) has granted funds to the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK), under the Improving Livelihoods and Land Use in Congo Basin Forests fund (ILLUCBF), to implement a 3.5 years community forests (CF) project (1st April 2016 – 30th September 2019).

The intended impact of the project is to improve livelihoods of forest dependent communities and reduce deforestation in DRC through piloting and demonstrating scalable models of community forest management which respond to the differing needs of local communities and marginalised groups, and that is integrated into DRC's land use planning. In this sense, it practically tests community forestry, provides access to learnings from approaches pioneered in Africa and forested regions globally, and contributes to the

development of DRC's legal, policy and institutional environment, engaging with all relevant stakeholders (central government, provincial administration, DRC civil society organisations).

Specifically, the Project is intended to achieve the following objectives and outputs:

- OUTPUT 1 Pilots contribute to community forests being formally recognised as viable models of pro-poor, sustainable community forest management at scale through the establishment of up to 5 pilot community forest sites.
- OUTPUT 2 The capacities of the national DRC government, *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* (MEDD), and pilot-based local authorities are sufficiently developed to administer, support and monitor community forests and to improve the legal and policy framework for community-based forest management.
- OUTPUT 3 National civil society partner organisations increased organisational and technical capacity to advocate in favour of pro-poor community forests as well as on documented large-scale threats to its development, and is able to participate meaningfully as a stakeholder to promote the development of community forestry and related processes.
- OUTPUT 4 Pilots contribute to the functioning of a recognised national forum for community forest issues in DRC, allowing for exchange of information, building consensus and helping to ensure a controlled and rational development of the concept, and informing wider LUP and land policy processes and reform.

The project is implemented through a RFUK-led consortium of international NGOs (RFUK with Well Grounded) and a team of international consultants (InCap), in partnership with three implementing DRC civil society organisations (CAGDFT, GASHE and Réseau CREF) and a team of DRC consultants (APEM).

The consortium partners, InCap and Well Grounded, provide remote and in-person support to reinforce the capacities of the administration and the Congolese civil society.

- InCap is a team of three consultants based in France, Cameroon and Kenya. Since December 2016, InCap has been working closely with CAGDFT to provide capacity building for the DRC administration at the national, provincial and local levels, mainly through the delivery of technical trainings and the development of targeted tools for the administration and for trainers.
- Well Grounded (WG) is an international NGO working with African civil society organisations to help them realise their objectives and make a positive change to community rights and natural resource management in their home countries and globally. As part of the project, WG has provided organisational capacity building development and leadership coaching and training to CAGDFT, GASHE and Réseau CREF.

The on-the-ground implementation of CF pilot sites and advocacy activities is led by three DRC partner organisations, as well as a team of DRC consultants.

- *The Centre d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Forêts Tropicales (CAGDFT)* is an NGO based in Kinshasa whose mission is to support community rights and good governance in the forest sector. CAGDFT has sound experience in advocating for policy changes at national level. Under this project, CAGDFT have led the establishment and coordination of the national Roundtable on community forests, as well as facilitating trainings and other capacity building initiatives for the DRC administration and consortium partners.

- *Groupe d'action pour sauver l'homme et son environnement (GASHE)* is an environmental and development NGO located in Mbandaka, Equateur Province, which aims to promote sustainable development. Within the scope of this project, GASHE have supported eight communities to compile and submit requests for attribution of their community forests. They implement a wide range of activities, including sensitisation, participative mapping, Land-Use and Planning methodologies, development of Simple Management Plans, and advocacy.
- *Réseau pour la Conservation et la Réhabilitation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers (Réseau CREF)* is a coalition of around 30 local organisations based in North Kivu Province. Its overarching aim is to improve forest governance and ensure that the dignity and stability of indigenous peoples is enhanced. Through its sub-partner, *l'Association Paysanne pour la Réhabilitation et la Protection des Pygmées (PREPPYG)*, the project is supporting two communities through the process of documenting their customary lands, participatory mapping and finally leading to the compilation and submission of two requests for the attribution of community forests.
- *L'Association pour la Protection des Peuples et des Espèces Menacés (APEM)* is a group of legal and advocacy consultants based in Kinshasa. Their role is to promote CF to relevant national and local authorities and stakeholders, and to document threats to community forests, including illegalities in the CF allocation process and issues linked to conservation and illegal logging.

4. Objective of the Evaluation

A (team of) consultant(s) will be contracted by RFUK to:

- Evaluate the project from its design to its implementation in accordance with the criteria below to focus on the impact of interventions and outcomes in DRC.
- Make relevant recommendations for the RFUK and partner organisations in DRC, and inform future work as RFUK is currently seeking to expand its community forests work in DRC and the wider Congo Basin.

The evaluation will refer to the original and revised logical frameworks for the project, as well as the overall DFID ILLUBCF programme logical framework, and will relate to the following themes:

A. **Conception of the project/ Relevance:**

- Relevance and appropriateness; context of the project in relation to local and national experience of community forestry; details of the project's significance with respect to specific needs and its relevance to the priorities of the communities involved.

B. **Efficiency and project management:**

- Execution, organisation, experience of the personnel, technical expertise, administration, financial management, training, monitoring and reporting.
- Examine how far funding, personnel, regulatory, administrative, time, other resources and procedures contributed to or hindered the achievement of project results.
- Assess how the set-up (partnerships, structures, processes) of the consortium has contributed to the effectiveness of the project delivery.

C. **Effectiveness:**

- Assessment of how far the intended outputs and results were achieved in relation to targets set in the original and revised logical frameworks.

D. Impact and project outcomes:

- Describe the main changes and results, intended or unintended, and to what extent they can be attributed as a direct result of the intervention.
- Evaluation of impacts at community and local partner level as well as relating to other actors involved in the project either directly or indirectly.
- Review of the broader economic, social, legal and political consequences of the project and how it contributed to the overall objectives.

E. Participation and Empowerment:

- Extent, effectiveness, and how the project has empowered communities to take part in the decision making and policy processes.
- Assess the effectiveness of relationships with key non-consortium stakeholders and their perception of the project impact, as well as specifically in relation to the Roundtable process.

F. Equity:

- Discussion of social differentiation (with particular emphasis on women and indigenous people) and the extent to which the project has made positive impacts on the more disadvantaged within forest communities as well as on national civil society.

G. Sustainability:

- Potential for the continuation of the impact achieved and of the delivery mechanisms, beyond the project funding

H. Replicability:

- How replicable is the process that introduced the changes/had impact. Refer especially to innovative aspects which are replicable.
- How has the project been adapted or changed to take into consideration specific contexts.
- Describe any unanticipated, positive or negative, enablers or constraints that the project has encountered.

I. Risks

- To what extent has the project effectively analysed and mitigated risks and assumptions.

J. Lessons Learned:

- Key lessons learned throughout the period of the project, which can be used to guide future strategies, projects or agencies working in development (divided into project, sector and broader developmental lessons).

K. Information, Dissemination and Networking:

- Detail the mechanisms used for dissemination of project outputs and lessons learnt to external stakeholders, and their effectiveness.

L. Recommendations:

- Recommendations for improvements based on observations during the evaluation process (e.g. for sustainability, future project design and management).

5. Methodology

The evaluation will be led by an independent (consultancy team) consultant, with regional forestry and natural resources sector expertise and strong French language skills.

The evaluation is expected to require:

- Desk-based research and evaluation, drawing on key project documentation (project log-frame, project plans, quarterly and annual progress reports, methodological and training documentation, publications, statements, press coverage, summaries of key outputs etc.).
- Discussions with project partners (lead delivery organisations) and key stakeholders, including relevant actors in the DRC national, provincial and local administrations. These may be face-to-face or remote and likely to include self-evaluation and semi-structured interviews.
- An in-country visit to the project locations in DRC (Kinshasa, Equateur Province and, security context permitting, North Kivu) for semi-structured interviews and observation. Country visits will include trips to the field to meet with targeted communities.
- Initial and follow-up meetings with key RFUK staff throughout the evaluation process to assess progress and provide feedback. These may include formal presentations of progress and/or short reports at key points (for example of the proposed methodology, initial findings). Details and frequency to be agreed.

6. Output

The final evaluation should be presented in the form of a written report, in English. The evaluation report should include the following main sections:

- Executive summary (in English and French);
- An introduction briefly giving the background to the project, and context of the intervention (community forestry in DRC);
- An explanation of the evaluation’s objectives and methodology (including comment on the limitations);
- An evaluation of project implementation in relation to the above issues;
- An evaluation of the project outcomes beyond those identified in the project document and log frame, including identification on any salient themes e.g. gender;
- Recommendations for the RFUK and Partners based on observations made during the evaluation process ;
- Conclusions;
- Annexes.

7. Timeline

The evaluation will be completed and submitted to RFUK by 9th August 2019:

Activities	Indicative Deadlines
Submission of proposals	by 17 th May 2019
Interviews / selection	20 th May – 24 th May 2019 (1 week)
Preparations: - Contracting - Project literature / document review - Detailed development of methodology, evaluation tools and plans	3 rd -14 th June 2019 (2 weeks)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews with RFUK staff - Presentation of detailed proposed field research methodology 	
Practical evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews / meetings with DRC partners and other relevant stakeholders - Data gathering workshop in Kinshasa - Field visit(s) 	June - July (3 weeks)
Submission of final evaluation report (English, with a summary version in French)	By 9 th August 2019 (3 weeks)

8. Budget

RFUK will cover consultant(s) fees and transport, accommodation and per diems (according to the RFUK policy) for travel to and from field sites, and for the duration of the mission in the countries.

Consultants should provide an indicative budget for the works as part of the proposal. The budget will be agreed upon with the consultant(s) prior to contracting. The consultancy should not exceed £30,000 (inclusive of travel, fees and expenses). Consultants will also be responsible for arranging their own insurance.

9. Skills and Experience

- Strong background in a relevant field of Law, Environmental Science, Development Studies, Social Science, Forestry or Natural Resource Management, or other relevant field, at post-graduate level;
- Demonstrable knowledge and practical overseas experience of conducting programme M&E and/or primary research in relevant sectors of international development (community forestry, natural resource management, land tenure, rural livelihoods etc.). This should include quantitative and qualitative surveys, structured and semi-structured interviews, focus groups, etc.
- Knowledge of forestry issues in the Congo Basin region
- Proven experience and technical skills of participatory monitoring and evaluation processes and experience in evaluating similar projects involving DfID or other major donors;
- Extensive experience in working with national/provincial/local institutions in developing countries, including contexts of insecurity. Previous experience in the Congo Basin is preferred, and in DRC specifically;
- A track record of working to tight deadlines to produce high-quality outputs;
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills;
- Ability to communicate complex information in understandable and relevant terms adapted for different stakeholders;
- Demonstrable understanding of DfID's principle of VfM: expertise in applying analysis across the 3Es (efficiency, economy, effectiveness)
- Fluency in French and English is essential.

Please note the successful candidate(s) will be expected to undertake overseas field visits in DRC.

10. Consultancy proposals should include:

- Demonstration of how the proposed consultancy team meets the skills and experience requirements outlined above (in Section 9)
- Team structure, indicating roles and responsibilities for the evaluation;
- CVs of all members of the proposed consultancy team;
- References of previously conducted evaluations, relevant research publications, delivered trainings/capacity building tools conducted by the proposed team members;
- An indicative work plan according to expected outputs and provided timeframe
- An indicative methodology
- Key questions to be addressed, according to evaluation themes
- An indicative outline budget

Methodologies, workplans and budgets will be further developed in consultation with RFUK following initial discussions.

Proposals to be submitted by email to jobs@rainforestuk.org

Proposal deadline: 17th May 2019

Consultants available to travel: mid-June to mid-July 2019