



## **Call for Proposals**

### **Sustainability Study: ForestLink community based Real Time Monitoring System**

**January 2020**

**Reporting to:** Real Time Monitoring Senior Project Coordinator

#### **1. Context**

##### **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 managing 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.

RFUK tackles the underlying causes of deforestation linked to the problems of disenfranchisement of 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:

- Threats to forests from the extractive industries, infrastructure development and agro industrial expansion;
- Conservation effectiveness and monitoring of initiatives to reduce deforestation and degradation (REDD);
- Community-based forest management, land-use planning and tenure reform;
- Community mapping and forest monitoring;
- Indigenous peoples' rights.

## ForestLink Real Time Monitoring (RTM)

In 2015, the Rainforest Foundation UK successfully developed and launched **ForestLink community based Real Time Monitoring (RTM)** system. RFUK's ground-breaking ForestLink technology enables forest communities anywhere in the world to collect and transmit accurately geo-referenced reports of forest illegalities to a central database in real-time, even from areas where there is no mobile phone or internet connectivity. From 2015 to 2018, under a DFID funded project, RFUK and local civil society organisations partners trialled community-based real-time monitoring of forest activities in Ghana, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to test the opportunities to integrate such systems into governmental forest enforcement mechanisms, as a means of containing illegal logging and contributing to the implementation of FLEGT VPAs.

RFUK's ForestLink Real Time Monitoring system comprises a set of software and methodologies which are used to collect and transmit alerts about forest illegalities in real time. It has been built in house at RFUK and is comprised of four main components: Collectaur (data collection app); Monitaur (platform); Centaur (routing) and the Community Hub.

Seeking to consolidate the achievements of the 2015-2018 RTM project, RFUK has partnered with four local Civil Society Organisations: Civic Response in Ghana, FODER in Cameroon, GASHE in DRC, and CJJ in the Republic of Congo (RoC) to further deploy and use the ForestLink community-based real-time forest monitoring (RTM) system in order to reduce forest illegalities for the benefit of local communities. The current phase of the project (2018-2021) aims specifically to capitalise on the previous phase's results and lessons learnt, and to **sustain the system** in each implementing country by:

- Further supporting FLEGT VPA processes in implementing countries;
- Promoting governance reforms to institutionalise the ForestLink RTM system within national forest monitoring, control and law enforcement systems;
- Improving and adapting the system to upscale its implementation and dissemination in new countries (e.g. RoC) and in connection with a wider range of forest illegalities and other sectors of the extractive industry;
- Enhancing law enforcement and forest peoples' rights;
- Ensuring that improved forest governance directly benefits forest communities;
- Promote sustainability, notably by ensuring that improved forest governance directly benefits forest communities.

## 2. Objective of the Study

In order to sustain and institutionalise the ForestLink RTM system within national forest monitoring, control and law enforcement systems, it is crucial to:

1. Develop a sustainability strategy and action plan for each implementing country (Ghana, Cameroon, DRC, and RoC);
2. Secure sustainable incentive and funding mechanisms for local users to sustain and manage the system.

The objectives of this study are to:

- **Analyse** implementation costs and strategies, key results, lessons learnt, and opportunities for the ForestLink RTM **to inform ForestLink RTM community of best practice and future developments** in each country;

- **Determine country-specific benefit sharing mechanisms** amongst relevant in-country state agencies (to support forest control and actual law enforcement and justice) as well as with communities participating to forest monitoring;
- **Identify opportunities for local users to sustainably maintain the system**, and develop **concrete and sustainable strategic action and funding plans**.

### 3. Deliverables :

- **Map of strategic allies and possible institutional donors** (to be drafted with RFUK and implementing partners, and through consultation of and facilitation of dialogue among those parties) for each implementing country;
- **In country consultation meetings and workshops** with implementing partners and identified relevant stakeholders;
- **A 2-4 page briefing note for each implementing country** which presents the analysis of tangible opportunities to sustain the ForestLink RTM system and cover its running costs in each implementing country ;
- **An updated version of country specific strategies** integrating:
  - key findings;
  - funding plan;
  - advocacy plan.
- **35-page written report** presenting key results, lessons learnt, updated strategies and new perspectives for each implementing country (to be published by RFUK);
- **PowerPoint Summary of the report** (to be presented at next RTM Africa lesson sharing workshop).

### 4. Methodology :

The consultant(s) are expected to develop a detailed methodology, which will be reviewed and further developed in coordination with the RFUK RTM team and local implementing partners. The study is expected to include:

- Desk based research including a review of project documents, relevant in-country legal or procedural reforms and relevant sustainable frameworks and mechanisms;
- A review of each country's implementation strategy and legal framework;
- A visit to each project country (Ghana, Cameroon, DRC, RoC) for consultation with key stakeholders and mapping of strategic allies and possible institutional donors. Discussions may be face-to-face or remote and likely to include self-evaluation, focus groups and semi-structured interviews;
- Development of specific action plans for sustainable frameworks and mechanisms,
- Presentation of key findings.

### 5. Timeline

The study is expected to be completed in full, and all outputs submitted to RFUK by mid-November 2020. The consultancy is expected to begin in April 2020 with field visits of approx. one week per country. The consultant(s) should include a proposed timeline/workplan in their proposal.

## 6. Skills and Experience

- Qualifications and experience in international development, political science, land or forest management, forestry, anthropology, or a related relevant field;
- Deep understanding of forest governance challenges and implementation context of civil society led monitoring in the Congo Basin / Western Africa, and related strategic stakes;
- Significant experience of external project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, particularly looking at sustainability;
- Significant experience in similar consultancy work including strategic advisory, policy and institutional fundraising;
- Extensive experience in working with local NGOs (especially in forest monitoring and communities rights) in Ghana, Cameroon, DRC, or RoC;
- Experience in providing organisational analysis and strategic advice and support to local Civil Society Organisations;
- A track record of working to tight deadlines to produce high-quality outputs;
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills;
- Fluency in both English and French, written and spoken.

## 7. Application process

Consultant(s) should submit an application in writing to [elodieb@rainforestuk.org](mailto:elodieb@rainforestuk.org), with: *RTM sustainability study - your/your organisation's name* in the reference field of the email.

This must include:

- Presentation of the organisation or consultant(s) profile and relevant CVs;
- A technical proposal including a detailed timetable and indicative methodology (to be further developed at the start of the consultancy);
- A financial proposal detailing consultant fees (travel costs will also be covered by RFUK);
- Details of previous relevant missions or consultancies carried out during the last five years;

Closing Date for Proposals: **March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 at midnight (UTC/GMT)**

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