RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK
SECURING LANDS, SUSTAINING LIVES

Appendix 1: Clarifications and Additional Information for Applicants related to Consultancy for a feasibility assessment of a Couloir Vert certification scheme

The following clarifications have been provided in response to questions from prospective applicants. These clarifications form part of the Terms of Reference and should be considered when preparing proposals. **Please also check the updated Terms of Reference which includes some additional changes.**

1. Evidence of Previous Experience

Applicants are not required to submit physical samples or full copies of previously developed audit manuals, certification frameworks, or related materials as part of their proposal.

A narrative summary of relevant experience within the technical proposal will be sufficient. However, applicants are welcome to provide references, examples, links, or brief excerpts from previous assignments where these help demonstrate relevant expertise and experience.

2. Budget and Level of Effort

No indicative budget ceiling has been established for this assignment.

While the Terms of Reference estimate a maximum input of approximately 30 consultancy days, this figure should be treated as indicative. Applicants may propose a different level of effort where justified by their proposed methodology and approach.

3. Consortium and Team Arrangements

RFUK welcomes proposals submitted by a lead consultancy working in partnership with named independent specialists or subcontractors.

Where a consortium or team-based approach is proposed, the qualifications, experience, and expertise of all proposed team members will be assessed collectively against the requirements of the assignment.

4. Language Requirements

Stakeholder consultations, interviews, and evidence-gathering activities may be conducted in French where appropriate.

Final reports and deliverables should be submitted in French and English, unless otherwise agreed during implementation.

5. Travel and Stakeholder Engagement

Applicants should assume that a predominantly remote methodology will be acceptable for this assignment.

Participation in the proposed inception meeting in Kinshasa in January or February will be covered by RFUK but is not mandatory. Beyond this, applicants may propose remote consultation and engagement approaches, including the use of established stakeholder networks and local contacts, where these are sufficient to meet the objectives of the assignment.

6. Economic Assessment Expertise

The assignment does not necessarily require the inclusion of a dedicated environmental economist within the consultancy team.

However, applicants should demonstrate relevant expertise and experience in economic analysis, feasibility assessment, cost-benefit analysis, market assessment, or related disciplines sufficient to undertake the tasks described in the Terms of Reference.

7. Scope of the Feasibility Assessment

Applicants have highlighted the potentially broad range of economic sectors that could fall within the scope of a future certification scheme, including forestry, agriculture, carbon, mining, hydrocarbons, tourism, and other sectors operating within the Green Corridor landscape.

RFUK and the Independent Committee recognise that each sector is subject to distinct regulatory frameworks, market conditions, certification systems, and implementation challenges. The assessment should therefore consider the feasibility of certification on a sector-by-sector basis rather than assuming a single model would be appropriate across all sectors.

Applicants should note that the study may conclude that certification may be feasible for certain sectors while being impractical, inappropriate, or inadvisable for others.

Draft eligibility criteria and a potential exclusion list is currently being developed, and this may inform future decision-making regarding any certification scheme.

8. Purpose of the Assignment

Applicants should note that this consultancy is intended to provide an independent assessment of the feasibility, potential design options, opportunities, risks, costs, and implementation considerations associated with a potential certification scheme for the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor.

The study is exploratory in nature and should not assume that a certification scheme will necessarily be established. Rather, the assignment should provide the Independent Committee with an evidence-based assessment to inform future decision-making.