

Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in Western Cameroon – SUFACHAC

Terms of Reference to review of the Technical Operation Units (TOUs) management experiences in Cameroon and Complementary situation analysis studies for the BBML TOU creation

Context:

The Project Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon (SUFACHAC) is a biodiversity conservation and Development project of the Republic of Cameroon funded by United Nation's Environmental Programme (UNEP) and executed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection & Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in partnership with the University of Dschang, Environment and Rural Development Foundation and Chede Cooperative Union.

SUFACHAC is implemented in the South West Region - a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened. The project area is part of the volcanic mountain chain that connects Mount Cameroon with the Adamaoua massif. The mountain chain protects a densely forested and undulating landscape that covers much of the South-West Region. This set of characteristics have made the South West the subject long-term investment in conservation and development efforts by several national and international actors but the Ministry of Environment has been largely absent from this process. The result is that the quality of Environment and Social Impact Assessments for nearby development projects has been weak, and non-existent for management of Protected Areas, even though both require ESIA's according to the Cameroonian legal framework

Similarly, the history of conservation initiatives within SUFACHAC Area has been typified by a series of short term projects that have come and gone, often closing before achieving their stated objectives (such as securing the gazettelement and long-term management of proposed PAs), and not leaving behind improved livelihood initiatives that will be sustained in the absence of a continued subsidy.

SUFACHAC makes explicit reference to the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) which requested all parties to ensure PAs contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development and to the Revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the Aichi Targets which were adopted at the 10th COP, and Decision No. UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/3 of 5 December 2012 adopted at the 11th COP on "Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets"

The overall goal of SUFACHAC is to support progress towards many Aichi targets and indicators. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society;
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; and
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, with relevance to Target.

The project has as vision that "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems through "developing policies considering biodiversity and ecosystem service in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment"

Justification:

As a recently launched biodiversity conservation and development project that is being implemented by many partners in the South West Region, it is crucial for the SUFACHAC's management to ensure effective management amongst its stakeholders. The South West Region already has several big actors implementing conservation and development initiatives such as PSMNR-SWR, WWF and WCS who have already branded themselves as key conservation and development players in the region.

Evidently there is a lack of strong institutional structure to address the necessary cross-sectoral coordination of land use planning and sustainable rural development to secure the long-term protection and Management of existing or proposed PAs. In the rest of the SW Region, MINFOF has established three out of four planned Technical Operational Units (TOUs) for Mt. Cameroon, Korup-Ndongere and Takamanda-Mone to try to improve coordination. A TOU is an institutional mechanism adopted by MINFOF to promote a landscape approach to PA conservation in a given geographical space. A Technical Operational Unit is an institutional structure that is designed to support coordination of all forestry and land use activities within the TOU's geographical boundaries. The intention is that a TOU will support management not only the PAs within its limits, but also contribute to the more sustainable management of forests within the broader surrounding rural landscape that influences those PAs. Their mission is to develop and implement a participatory forest and wildlife management strategy in view of the long-term Conservation of biodiversity within their limits, and improvement of the livelihoods of the local population in concert with other governmental and non-governmental organizations. This therefore means that though the project will work in collaboration with all key players, SUFACHAC must ensure a proper management platform amongst all the stakeholders.

Goal:

The consultant assignment is to conduct a study on a review of experiences with TOUs in Cameroon and situation analysis and state of advancement in the drafting of the technical note for the creation of the BBMLTOU creation.

Objectives:

In line with the objectives of the above-mentioned, the main tasks of the consultant shall be as follows:

1. Review experiences with TOUs management as landscape approach in Cameroon.
2. Present (lessons learned) to generate knowledge and information orientated to win-win policy construction for landscapes
3. Assess resource regimes following a legal land allocation and management plan for the BBML TOU creation.
4. Identify relevant stakeholders for the BBML TOU creation.
5. Consults stakeholders, with different land-use interests and motives to identify and design appropriate institutional for the BBML TOU.,
6. Describe key components in the landscapes which stakeholders who are controlling them.
7. Present spatial and connected interests and motives of stakeholder's following different sectoral policies at the national level.
8. Work with MINFOF and EruDeF to Update and review the draft technical note of the BBMLTOU.
9. Make recommendations for future management of BBML TOU

Outputs:

- Updated draft technical note for the BBML TOU creation
- A final report presenting the principal stages of the process, the work done, the lessons learnt as well as recommendation towards future replication of the approach
- A PowerPoint presentation to Project Coordinator on deliverables 1 – 2 below.

Methodology:

The implementation of this assignment will involve a series of sub-activities including:

- **Inception meeting with SUFACHAC and operational work plan:** After a consultant has been engaged, he or she will prior to work meet with SUFACHAC management for briefing
- **Desktop research and field observations:** The consultant will be expected to use literature provided by SUFACHAC and other sources identified by him or her to execute assignment.

- **Feedback and discussions:** Following established timeline, the consulting consultant will meet with SUFACHAC team to present draft strategy and will be expected to make adjustment to the strategy if need arise and ultimately submit the final strategy and report of consultancy.

Profile of Consultant:

Required qualification and experience:

- At least a Master's degree GIS Environmental studies , Forestry, Geography, , social sciences or any related discipline
- At least 5 years' experience working in the field of Data collection and forestry issues with a proven track record
- Have a good mastery of Land use planning as well as legal, policy and institutional framework relating to TOU, environment, conservation and community development.
- Proficient in English and Pidgin English

Main responsibilities

The following tasks should be executed by the consultant:

- Report on review of TOUs experiences in Cameroon
- Submit Consultancy report

Deliverables

- Review of TOU experience in Cameroon
- Consultancy report

Composition of file:

- A cover letter indicating interest to take up this assignment
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- A technical proposal which should consist of methodology and workplan for the assignment
- A financial offer indicating the unit price

Duration of consultancy: 20days

How to apply: Interested persons can obtain further information every working day from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm local time at the address below:

Project Head quarter in Limbe, MINEPDED FAKO Divisional Delegation or National Direction of the SUFACHAC project at the 6th floor of the Ministerial Building No. 2, Door 619.

Tel: (237) 679 26 28 72, 673 932 373

Email: sufachacproject@gef-cameroon.org with copies to:

- justin.nantchou@gef-cameroon.org
- jhmoudingo.sufachac@gef-cameroon.org
- earrah.sufachac@gef-cameroon.org
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