EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT EAST COUNTRIES FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE II PROGRAM" (ENPI EAST COUNTRIES FLEG II PROGRAM)

Terms of Reference

UKR/C/IC/7 (activity 4.2)

1. TITLE: ENPI FLEG Consultant on the Improvement of stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes in the forest sector

2. REPORTING: IUCN ENPI FLEG Country Program Coordinator

3. LOCATION: Ukraine with intensive traveling to pilot regions

4. DURATION: 8 Months

5. STARTING: October 2015

6. BACKGROUND

The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance II Program (the “Program”) is aimed at putting in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the St. Petersburg Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Plan of Actions for the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG) process.

This Program specifically covers seven countries of the ENA Region, including six members of the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation. The Program supports selected pilot activities to be implemented with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector. Most activities will be at a country level, complemented by strategically targeted sub-regional and regional actions. The Program is supported by the European Commission and other donors contributing to a single-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Implementation of the Program is led by the World Bank, working in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (all three collectively referred to as the “Implementing Organizations” or “IO’s”) and in close coordination with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders of the participating countries.

Inhabitants of rural communities in Ukraine, according to not only national legislation in force including the “Law on Local Self-Governance” but instruments such as international conventions, have many rights but rarely, if ever, use them. At the same time, lack of clear mechanisms for public participation in decision-making in forest resource management leads in many cases to conflict situations.

The Forest Code of Ukraine provides to citizens the right to free access to State and communal forests for collecting, inter alia, berries, mushrooms, and flowers for their personal use and consumption. But protection regimes in some Protected Areas established restrictions on the rights of the local citizenry (sometimes significantly). On the other hand, over-use of resources in a region causes their exhaustions. The establishment of a sustainable compromise is possible only with involvement of stakeholders (local communities) in the development of forest management plans and informed decision-making.
Very good results from related activities implemented by IUCN in the Phase 1 and in the first years of the Phase 2 of the FLEG Program created a solid base for a quick start and good progress with this activity. Significant progress has been made to develop mechanisms for enhancing transparency in the forest sector and for including public involvement in the decision-making process. Within this activity the results will be reviewed and used to increase transparency of the forest sector, boost public awareness, and support more open discussions on forest problems by developing internet-resources relevant to the forest sector in Ukraine. The activity will provide concrete, measurable results to help decision-makers sort through the complexities created by the interaction of economics; broad ranges of social issues; and environmental management.

**The Objective**
The consultant on the Improvement of the Process of Stakeholder Involvement into Decision-Making in the Forest Sector in Ukraine will focus her/his work on increasing transparency in the forest sector, improve public awareness, and support more open discussions on forest problems through more efficient use of web-resources.

7. **TASKS**

7.1 **General**

The Consultant will be responsible for conducting an activity on the Improvement of the Process of Stakeholder Involvement into Decision-Making in the Forest Sector in Ukraine.

7.2 **Specific**

Specifically, the Consultant will focus on:

- Developing recommendations on establishing and streamlining the State Forest Resources Agency’s network web-sites within a unified system.
- Contribute to the preparation of a ToR for the development of a unified official web-portal of the SFRA
- Support the establishment of the SFRA unified official web-portal;
- Improving a pilot web-site on public monitoring of environmental problems in the section related to forest issues.

8. **IUCN’S INPUT**

To contribute to the success of Consultant’s work, the IUCN CPC will provide the consultant with data, statistics, and reports of relevant analytical activities carried out in the phase 1 of the FLEG Project in Ukraine contained namely in:

- “Analysis for guaranteeing rights of local residents and small business for the legal use of forest resources and to ensure transparency and public participation in these processes in Ukraine”.
- “Legislative bases of access to information and public participation in forest management” (updated).
- “Assessment of access to information and public participation in forestry management” (updated).
- “Assessment of efficiency of the official web-sites on forest management”

9. **REPORTING AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE**

The Consultant will prepare and present to the IUCN Country Program Coordinator for Ukraine progress reports on a monthly basis. The monthly reports will be called ‘Progress Reports’ and the last report will be termed ‘Final Report’. Each Progress Report will be submitted not later than 5 working days after the
completion of each calendar month and the Final report will be due no later than 15 working days after
the end of the calendar month.

10. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the IUCN Country Program Coordinator (CPC)
in Ukraine and, where needed, will cooperate with other FLEG programme national consultants in
Ukraine and in other 6 participating countries, responsible for conducting studies in their respective
countries. The Consultant will communicate with CPC regularly to update on progress made in
implementation.

11. OUTPUTS
The outputs will include:
- Developing recommendations on establishing and streamlining the State Forest Resources
  Agency’s network web-sites within a unified system.
- Contribute to the preparation of a ToR for the development of a unified official web-portal of the
  SFRA
- Support the establishment of the SFRA unified official web-portal;
- Improving a pilot web-site on public monitoring of environmental problems in the section related
to forest issues.

12. QUALIFICATIONS
An individual with proven research capabilities and at least 5 years of relevant professional experience is
required. The following are minimum qualifications:
- Bachelor or higher degree in public relations, internet-resources development, stakeholder
  involvement, forest and natural resource management or other related subject;
- Prior experience in conducting surveys and research on public transparency and related fields;
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of the current issues of forest management and
governance in Ukraine as well as knowledge and acquaintance with governmental structures and
other stakeholders;
- Knowledge and understanding of and working experience with IUCN regulations and guidelines
  as well as strong inter-personal skills and ability to work in different cultural contexts;
- Proven ability to prepare and write high quality reports;
- Fluency in written and spoken Ukrainian. Good working knowledge of English will be considered
  as an advantage;
- Computer literacy, including the use of MS Excel, PowerPoint, and Word or similar office
  applications, acquaintance with the principles of statistical analysis, as well as proficiency in
  performing internet research to support documents that may be required for program
  implementation.