Procurement Reference No. AZE/IC-14

Activity 3.3

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recommendations on incorporation of High Conservation Value (HCV) concept into national forest policy

a) Initial Project Information

The European Union (EU) funded “European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II Program” (the “Program”) is aimed to support the participating countries strengthen forest governance through enhancing their forest policy, legislation and institutional arrangements, and implementing sustainable forest management models on a pilot basis. The Program will be implemented in seven countries of the EU’s European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation. The Program builds on initiatives undertaken under the first EU funded FLEG Program. It will be carried out over a four-year period, with end disbursement date of June 30, 2017. The Program is supported by the European Commission contributing to a single-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Implementation of the Program is led by the WB, working in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Program has three Development Objectives:

1) To make progress implementing the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration in the participating countries and support the participating countries commit to a time-bound action plan to ensure its implementation and follow-up activities (regional level).

2) To review or revise (or establish a time-bound action plan to review or revise) forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance (including the impact of related EU regulations) in the participating countries (national level).

3) To test and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and the feasibility of improved forest governance practices at the field-level on a pilot basis in all participating countries (sub-national level).
Main Program activities to be conducted by WWF in Azerbaijan will involve the evaluation of the forest biodiversity and ecosystem functions (scoping study level), exploration of the forest certification potential in the country, promoting sustainable forest management planning and awareness raising of the stakeholders about the importance of sustainable forest management and the roles of the FLEG2 program in this respect.

Conduct policy, institutional and legislative analysis of the forestry sector of Azerbaijan and prepare recommendations on the key principles and provisions to be incorporated into national forest policy and legislation is one of the important components of the FLEG II Program. By conducting this activity, WWF-Azerbaijan will contribute to the implementation of the FLEG2 Program Development Objective “Review or revise (or establish a time-bound action plan to review or revise) forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance (including the impact of related EU regulations) in the participating countries (national level)”.

FSC forest management standards and the concept of forest with High Conservation Value (HCV) are internationally renowned tools used for achieving sustainable forest management. Forests of Azerbaijan have reach biodiversity, provide habitat and ecosystem services. People especially who are living in mountain areas depend on forest for livelihood needs. HCV concept can be used to identify areas for protection and where special management practices will be needed. A study is to be prepared based on the FSC principles and criteria, the result of the document “Analysis of the Voluntary Forest Certification Potential within Forestry Sector of Azerbaijan” and HCV resource network ¹ (Common guidelines to the identification of HCVs) can be used.

b) Objectives

A Consultant will be selected to prepare the study, which aims to provide concrete recommendations to extend the legal framework in the forestry field to incorporate FSC forest management standards and HCV concept into national forestry policy and legislation. The specific objectives of the study are:

- To identify current forest policy and legislation in the Azerbaijan, as well normative documents that regulate forest functions and their management;

¹: https://www.hcvnetwork.org/about-hcvf/the-six-high-conservation-values
• To consider the results of studies related to the FSC principles and criteria (especially HCV concept) in light of compliance of forest types in Azerbaijan to HCV forest types;
• Concrete recommendations on incorporation of FSC forest management standards and HCV concept into the Azerbaijan legislation and policy.

c) Scope of Services
The study (which is foreseen to involve desk work only) should include: (section 1) briefly description of current forest policy and legislation in the Republic of Azerbaijan; (section 2) compliance of Azerbaijan legislation and policy to FSC forest management standards and HCV concept; (section 3) concrete recommendations on incorporation of FSC forest management standards and HCV concept to the Azerbaijan legislation and policy.
Individual consultant will be hired to conduct the study. The consultant should collect relevant data from various sources (both electronic and hardcopies) – publications, personal meetings at the ministries, NGOs and private sector companies.
The total duration of the assignment is approximately 30 working days within the period of one and a half calendar months. Work will start in January 2016.

d) Deliverables and Approval Procedures
The consultant should send first initial document to WWF-Azerbaijan within approximately one calendar month from the beginning of the assignment. This initial document should provide concrete recommendations to extend the legal framework in the forestry field to incorporate FSC forest management standards and HCV concept; and include the relevant text. The Final study should be sent within approximately one and a half calendar months from the beginning of the assignment. All above mentioned documents should be sent to Konul Ahmadova, Project Coordinator from WWF Azerbaijan (kahmadova@wwfcaucasus.org) in Azerbaijan language (executive summary in English) in MS Word.
Feedback will be provided to the consultant within five working days after receiving each document. If no response is received by the consultant after the expiration of this period, the document will be deemed as accepted, unless a written request is sent to the consultant to allow for a few more days for the revision. The comments and requests for further information/corrections should be addressed by the consultant in a timely manner. After the satisfaction of WWF-Azerbaijan with the quality of the document (clearly expressed in a written form), the consultant may complete the remaining parts of the study. Only after the formal acceptance of the Final study-document (Recommendations on incorporation of HCV concept into national forest policy) by WWF-Azerbaijan (by signing the acceptance form by both parties) the contract can be considered as completed.
e) **WWF’s Input**

WWF-Azerbaijan will provide all information available at their office, which might be useful for the completion of this assignment, free of charge.

**Institutional Arrangements**

WWF Azerbaijan (represented by Konul Ahmadova, Project Coordinator) will be responsible for coordinating the consultant’s work. The consultant is directly accountable to WWF Azerbaijan and should send all applicable documents to the latter. WWF Azerbaijan is authorized to evaluate the consultant’s work and either accept them or require further updates.

f) **Qualification Requirements for the Consultant**

- University degree or equivalent in law/environmental law or a related field
- Extent of working experience in the field of environmental law, particularly in Azerbaijan
- Practical experience related to Azerbaijan environmental policy and drafting and/or reviewing environmental legislation;
- Knowledge of the Azerbaijan forestry sector would be an asset
- Good communication skills
- Working knowledge of Azerbaijan; ability to communicate in English would be an asset.