

Terms of Reference

International Consultant:

Socio-Economic-Environment Community Assessment Specialist

” Support to the Consolidation of a Protected Area System in Guinea-Bissau’s Forest Belt”

I. Project and Activity Background

The “Support to the Consolidation of a Protected Area System in Guinea-Bissau’s Forest Belt” is a full-sized UNDP/GEF project implemented by UNDP Guinea-Bissau and executed by the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

The project aims to strengthen the current National System of Protected Areas (NSPA) through the creation and management of five new protected areas (two national parks and three wildlife corridors) in the continental interior of Guinea-Bissau. Collectively the area is called the DBT (Dulombi-Boe-Tchetche) complex. In addition to the conservation of a set of representative ecosystems of the continental interior of Guinea-Bissau, this project also aims to improve the institutional capacity of IBAP for the management of protected areas (PAs) and establish a governance framework for the expansion and adoption of the NSPA participatory approach to the DBT. It should be noted that the management of the DBT Complex will be carried out through two management units: The first unit will manage the Boé Park and the Corridor of Tche-tche the second the remaining units, Dulombi Park, Corridor of Salifo-Xitole and de Corridor of Cuntabane-Quebo.

Integrated in the GEF Strategic Programme for West Africa, this project is part of the goal of improving the processes of biodiversity conservation in the region, and at the same time capitalizes on the economic benefits through sustainable activities that promote growth and poverty reduction. The program has the following three main pillars as priority areas: poverty reduction within communities living in protected areas; mainstreaming biodiversity in productive landscapes and sectors; and strengthening the system of Protected Areas.

Despite the ecological abundance, this region faces enormous environmental conservation challenges that are exacerbated by global and regional climate changes and the advance of desertification. All of these have resulted in a progressive degradation, fragmentation, and loss of habitats thus threatening the existence of many wildlife species. Anthropogenic factors include but are not limited to slash and burn agricultural techniques, charcoal production, wildlife hunting, existence of small villages (“tabancas”) in wildlife corridors, and the prolific conversion of highly productive native habitats to mono-culture cashew plantations.

Another major challenge for the project is to positively influence proposed mining operations near the future parks, with the aim of ensuring the adoption of internationally accepted best mining practices, and financial compensation mechanisms that will sustainably strengthen the financial capacity of IBAP to

conserve these areas for future generations.

The benefits and administrative costs of conservation are well documented as are the advantages of biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, clean air, ecotourism and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage for future generations. The potentially adverse social consequences of the creation protected areas however are less well known and worthy of careful investigation.

One of the three outcomes of the Project is the implementation of participatory conservation management approaches in the DBT Complex. To achieve a major output is to conduct in cooperation and coordination with CAIA (the Environmental Impact Assessment Cell of the GoGB) a comprehensive socio-economic-environment assessment of the impacts of the five proposed PAs.

Unlike other countries (e.g., Senegal, Guinea-Conakry) in West Africa, IBAP and the GoGB do not maintain a policy (by law) of relocating local peoples from existing or newly proposed PAs. In contrast the people are considered a critical component of the park.

The concept of “protected areas” has been in existence for centuries, however within the past three years a new model is emerging to reflect the exigencies of the times. In this model the PAs are considered a critical component of a life support system and anticipated to do more in regards to their ecological, social, and economic contributions to their areas and not only as habitats and refugia for species (charismatic or not). They are also expected to enable humans and wildlife to adapt to the impacts of global and regional changes in the climate by securing the ecosystem services upon which humanity depends, and by mitigating climate change through the storage and sequestration of carbon. Socially they are expected to not only sustain communities within or in the park boundaries, but also contributing to MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) up until 2015 and beyond that with the post 2015 MDG agenda by buffering humanity from the impacts of climate change. Lastly they are now called upon to do more economically than merely generating revenue to sustain their operations, but equally important bolster local and national economies through tourism (preferably eco-tourism), supplying NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products), fish and other resources, and the provision of critical ecosystem services (e.g., watershed management).

The Socio-Economic-Environment Assessment being proposed needs to embrace this emerging model of protected areas as it applies to the unique field conditions in SE Guinea-Bissau.

II. Objective

Similar to EIAs (Environmental Impact Assessments) Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIA) are a useful tool to help understand the potential range of impacts of creating protected areas (e.g., national parks and wildlife corridors), and the likely responses of those impacted if the changes occur.

The key objectives of the assessment are to:

1. Document the ecological and socioeconomic baseline conditions of the protected areas and the affected communities;
2. Inform and obtain input from stakeholders, (e.g., regional and national governmental authorities, the public, NGOs, etc.) and capture their relevant issues and concerns;
3. Assess in detail the environmental, social, and economic impacts that would result from the creation of PAs;
4. Identify economic, environmental and social mitigation measures to address the impacts identified;
5. Develop economic, social, and environmental management plans based on the mitigation measures

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developed in the assessment;

6. Meet the requirements or recommendations of the applicable national and international regulations and standards;
7. Be guided by the policies, guidelines, and procedures of the relevant international treaties and agreements; and
8. Be consistent with the policies and visions of the Govt. of Guinea-Bissau and specifically IBAP.

The approach to the assessment will comprise the following five phases: Scoping, Studies, Impact Assessment, Disclosure, and Implementation. Stakeholder consultation forms a continuous and critical component of the assessment process and occurs in each of these five phases.

The Project is hereby seeking to retain an international expert in SEIAs and EIAs to: (i) Conduct an exercise to Scope the nature and boundaries of the assessment; (ii) Profile current impacts of the protected areas, including the historical context or current status to establish a baseline level and rate of change for relevant variables; (iii) Formulate alternatives, in which alternative 'impact' scenarios are developed; and (iv) Project and estimate effects of different impact scenarios, and (v) Organize and conduct Public consultation and relevant trainings to appropriate IBAP project staff as well as regional authorities in the project intervention zone in order to monitor and follow the process of implementing the mitigating measures and proposed alternatives.

III. Description of the Required Services

Key Responsibilities of Assignment

1. Evaluate the TERMS OF REFERENCE and recommend possible changes.
2. Lead the Assessment team (composed of the IC and NC) to conduct the Assessment;
3. Provide guidance on the consultancy schedule (including field visits to representative DBT communities in and near the PAs) and methodology to the team and PMU;
4. Develop the methodology to conduct the Assessment and have this approved by the PMU and UNDP Environment Cluster Leader;
5. Conduct review, field visits, interviews, consultation workshops, etc. and present preliminary findings to the State Secretariat for Environment and Tourism, IBAP, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), National Project Coordinator and other relevant Project Staff, and the UNDP CO Environment Programme (National Climate Change Policy Advisor and Chief Technical Advisor).
6. Prepare draft and final assessment reports for the Project and UNDP with sufficient details (including delivery schedule) and requirements as agreed with the PMU (especially National Project Coordinator).
7. Organize and conduct relevant trainings mentioned above.

The following specific tasks are foreseen:

1. Review similar assessments for other areas of Guinea-Bissau and West Africa as well as relevant documents from the Govt. of Guinea-Bissau (e.g., State Secretariat for Environment and Tourism, IBAP, MARD, etc.), Project, and UNDP CO Environment Programme documents and other UN agencies (**two working days**);
2. Design methodologies and approaches for the Assessment. The methodologies include process for country participation, tools and indicators (**one working day**);
3. Provide technical and methodological guidance to the national consultant and other members of the assessment team in collecting and analyzing necessary data, information and in working with relevant stakeholders for the Assessment according to the methodologies above (**one working day**);
4. Field visits to the five protected areas to conduct interviews, working meetings and public

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- consultations in representative communities of the __ DBT communities (**14 working days**).
5. Based on the results obtained, develop the draft Assessment (**five working days**).
 6. Present the results at one-day regional workshops for each of Boe NP and Dulombi NP and a national workshop for IBAP, Govt. of Guinea-Bissau Representatives, and the UNDP CO Environment Cluster (**five working days**);
 7. Finalize the Assessment incorporating the feedbacks from the workshops [task (6) above) (**five working days**).
 8. Prepare and implement the agreed upon trainings (national and regional) on social-economic-environmental community assessments within an approved schedule and before the end of the consultancy (**10 working days**).

IV. Outputs

1. Detailed socio-economic-environmental information including socio-economic status, existing livelihood sources, etc. for local communities in the DBT Complex.
2. Recommendations from local DBT communities for engaging in PA co-management and in sustainable land management activities in areas within and adjacent to PAs
3. Finalized Socio-Economic-Environmental Assessment for local DBT communities and groups (NGOs, CBOs, CSOs) to enable meaningful participation in PA co-management and adoption of improved SLM practices.
4. Final Assessment incorporating all stakeholder comments.
5. A minimum of two trainings (one national and one regional) for IBAP personal and partner on Social-Economic-Environmental Assessments.

V. Duration and Timing

The assignment is expected to require of 43 – 45 working days over an approximately two-month period. Indicative timeframes are outlined in section three above.
 Actual work: 43 Days Weeks Months

VI. Fees and Terms of payment Lump Sum By Phase

Payment will be made according to the following schedule:

- Upon delivery of Draft Assessment by end _____ of 2013 – 30% of total fee
- Upon delivery of Final Assessment by _____ – 30% of total fee
- Upon successful delivery of all workshops and trainings by _____ 2013 – 40% of total fee

VII. Competencies

- Professionalism:
- Solid understanding of community development processes
 - Demonstrated in-depth technical knowledge and proven analytical skills in sustainable

development issues and community development assessments in protected areas

Communication:

- An excellent level of written skills in Portuguese and English in order to be able to present, negotiate and summarize work sessions
- Ability to produce high quality reports, summaries, training materials, etc. within the specified deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in Portuguese (with translations in the field into Fula) with all stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels.
- Ability to engage and work with community agencies and programmes.

VIII. Qualifications

Education:

- Minimum of a Master's degree in social work, sociology, environment, development, natural resource management, or relevant fields.
- Background in people-centered approaches to biodiversity conservation as well as education is an added plus;

Work experience:

- Minimum of five years experience in community development including community mapping and needs assessment or related field at the international level; preferably previous experience in Guinea-Bissau or West Africa.
- Previous experience in strong technical report writing, data acquisition and analysis skills
- Proven experience in undertaking socio-economic-environmental assessments for protected areas (especially in Africa) and in developing and delivering high quality training programmes and modules at national and local levels;
- Good skills for efficient facilitation during meetings between various stakeholders (government, NGOs, CBOs, international community and communal levels).
- Previous experience with UNDP and/or GEF projects is an added plus, but not mandatory

Languages:

- Excellent writing and speaking skills in Portuguese and French, and a good working knowledge of English is an added plus.