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Terms of reference

Consultancy for Climate Change adaptation project development and capacity building

Background

Located on the west coast of Africa, Gabon covers an area of approximately 268, 000 Km². Of this total, forests cover an estimated 220, 000 km² or nearly 80% of the total land area. Due to low human population density, much of the country remains relatively undisturbed. However, it is estimated that 80, 000 km² of forest have barely been affected by human activities¹. This, combined with its stable climate over time, has resulted in a great variety of biodiversity and natural phenomena.

The Gabonese economy is dependent mainly on the extraction of natural resources such as oil, manganese and timber products. While the timber sub-sector represents barely 3,5% of GDP and 10% of exports it is nevertheless the largest employer within the private sector².

The country is hot and humid all year, receiving 1500 mm to 4000 mm of annual precipitation. Model projections suggest that its climate will become warmer over time; temperatures are projected to increase by between 0.9 and 2.5oC by the 2060s, with warming being faster in the interior.

Projected changes in precipitation in Gabon vary across climate models, ranging from a projected decrease of 22 per cent to a projected increase of 25 per cent by the 2090s. Most models agree that an increasing proportion of the annual total rainfall will result in heavy events—up to 11 per cent (with increases for all seasons) (McSweeney et al., 2008). Projected sea level rise along Gabon coast could be between 0.13 meters and 0.56 meters, depending on the emissions scenario (McSweeney et al., 2008).

Based on current understanding of the projected changes in its climate, Gabon identified four particularly vulnerable sectors in its First National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): coastal zones, water resources, agriculture and health (MFWFEPN, 2004).

Gabon, having the highest level of development among countries in Central Africa, is not characterized as an LDC, and as such will not be preparing a National Adaptation Programme of Action. However, the Government of Gabon has made climate change a key component of its “Green Gabon” initiative, along with biodiversity, sustainable development and the fight against pollution.

More recently, the government established a Climate Council to develop national policies relating to climate change, as well as prepare a National Climate Plan. Representatives of various stakeholder groups including the government, private sector and civil society (energy, industry, agriculture, forests

¹ GEF. 1998. Strengthening Capacity for Managing National Parks and Biodiversity. Gabon. Project ID: 1064.
http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_detail?projID=1064

² African Development Bank. 2011. Republic of Gabon: Country Strategy Paper 2011-2015.
<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Gabon%20-%202011-2015%20Country%20Strategy%20Paper.pdf>

and fisheries, transport, waste, public awareness, training and research, telecommunications) were involved in the development of this plan. The Climate Council reports directly to the Head of State. The government has also established a National Observatory to monitor climate risks.

WWF has been working in Gabon since the early 90's with field based work in several priority sites, including the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas. The area include a coastal component with beaches known as important sites for marine turtle nesting (especially vulnerable species Leatherback turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea* and Olive Ridley turtles *Lepidochelys olivacea*). It also includes a complex system of lagoons, rivers and lakes classified as Ramsar sites in acknowledgement of its biodiversity richness (several threatened flagship species such as hippos, manatees) and importance to people in terms of water provision, and food security and livelihoods through fishing. The area is looked as one of the most important area for ecotourism development in Gabon especially in and around national parks (Loango and Moukalaba Doudou NP), given the potential to observe a diverse wildlife combining both forest, savannahs, wetlands and marine wildlife, and being considered also as a hotspot for sport fishing. In-shore and off-shore oil and gas exploitation is occurring all along the coast of Gabon with heavy infrastructures deployed in the area of Gamba. Given the ecological and economical value of the area, it has been identified as a priority site by the national strategy of adaptation to climate change in coastal areas in Gabon³ to monitor climate change and develop adaptation strategies. However, to date a local climate monitoring system is not yet in place and no detailed vulnerability assessment has been carried out yet in the area to inform decision making on appropriate adaptation strategies.

The WWF strategy of intervention in the area aims at implementing integrated landscape management approaches that involve working with all stakeholders to address main threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services with a view to use lessons learnt locally to inform national policies. However, in its past work, the Gabon office has not yet evaluated the weight of climate change in influencing landscapes and biodiversity in the future, both at the local level and national level.

In order to fulfill this need, WWF is seeking for a consultant to assist in 1/ assessing and building WWF Gabon and partners capacities in mainstreaming climate change into its WWF thematic and field programmes, and 2/ developing a vulnerability assessment project for the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas targeting both key species and ecosystems.

Objectives of the consultancy

The consultancy will contribute to integrate climate change adaptation into WWF Gabon's conservation work and to implement climate smart activities in Gabon that meet both WWF network global goals and national priorities.

Specific objectives are:

- Build capacities of WWF technical staff and partners on climate change and adaptation approaches ;
- Develop a proposal for a vulnerability assessment of key species and ecosystems in Gabon and its funding.

³ Stratégie nationale d'adaptation du littoral gabonais face aux effets des changements climatiques. 2011. Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature.

Tasks

- Review and compile existing species and ecosystem Vulnerability Impact Assessment (VIA) in Gabon and surrounding countries with similar coast profile (Cameroon, Republic of Congo), national assessment methodology, tools and climate change scenario, including data layers and methods for mapping ecosystem vulnerability and ecosystem based adaptation ;
- Carry out a stakeholder analysis of actors involved in climate change in general, and in climate change adaptation in particular, in Gabon ;
- Review and compile best practices in terms of adaptation to Climate Change in Gabon
- Identify species and/or ecosystems that are likely to be strongly affected by projected climate changes along the Gabon coast – with special emphasis on Gamba Complex – and recommend methodology and tools to be used for species and ecosystem VIA in Gamba complex priority landscape ;
- Guide and facilitate a self-assessment workshop with WWF technical staff in integrating climate change adaptation in GCPO conservation’s project and programmes ;
- Organize (terms of reference, content development) and facilitate a two-day workshop aiming at building capacities of WWF technical staff and partners on climate change and adaptation approaches and developing synergies with other involved stakeholders and related projects initiated in Gabon ;
- Develop a project proposal for a vulnerability assessment of key species and ecosystems in Gabon and its funding ;
- Based on different consultations and analysis, propose orientations for GCPO conservation strategic plan regarding climate change and adaptation.

Methods

The consultant will work closely with the WWF ROA Climate change adaptation initiative regional coordinator to ensure all analyses are made in line with WWF network global goals and to adapt already existing capacity building tools to the Gabonese context.

The work will involve a field trip to the Gamba Complex with focus on its coastal and wetlands areas. When identifying species and/or ecosystems potentially vulnerable to climate change, the consultant will ensure its analyses provide a good understanding of why these resources are likely to be vulnerable, including the interaction between climate shifts and existing stressors. He will give a particular attention to see how ecosystem based approaches to adaptation⁴ and land use planning processes, could be applied locally to address climate change adaptation challenges.

The project proposal to be developed will follow a bottom-up approach including a field-based component focusing on Gamba Complex and a component on lessons sharing and policy guidance at national level.

As a whole, the consultancy will ensure its work contribute to strengthen links and to develop synergies with national institutions, CSOs and other technical partners.

⁴ Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (EbA) are defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as “the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change”. This definition was elaborated by the CBD COP 10 Decision X/33 on Climate Change and Biodiversity as including “sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities”.

Expected outputs

- (i) A final report including:
 - a. Recommendations on how to mainstream climate change adaptation into GCPO conservation activities
 - b. Analysis of stakeholders, past and existing initiatives
- (ii) A two day self-assessment and training workshop for GCPO technical staff and partners carried out
- (iii) A project proposal available including:
 - a. Rational for selected species/ecosystems to focus on
 - b. Methods to be used for VIA
 - c. Estimated budget
 - d. Potential funding streams

Provisional timeframe of Assignment

- 5 days: Inception meeting with WWF Gabon to have clarity of the scope and requirements of the consultancy work; literature review; stakeholder interviews
- 5 days: Field trip to Gamba and interviews of local stakeholders
- 3 days: Workshop preparation and facilitation
- 12 days: Final reporting and proposal writing including review by WWF GCPO team.

The work is expected to be completed by **31/12/2015**.

Required Experiences, Competencies and Skills

Applicants shall demonstrate sufficient capacities to carry out activities in a satisfactory manner. The successful applicants will have:

- At least a Masters Degree in natural resources management, social science, development studies, or a relevant field (7 years of relevant experience with a relevant Bachelor's Degree will substitute the Master Degree requirement)
- At least 5 years of work experience in programme management and monitoring in development work. Work experience in sustainable livelihoods is a strong asset, including experience in direct execution of similar assignments; Experience in the fields of environment, agriculture or climate change would be a distinct advantage; Proven research experience;
- Experience with working with various stakeholders in Africa including civil society, government institutions, and international organizations; and experience carrying out baseline surveys;
- Demonstrated ability and excellent communication skills to facilitate and coordinate interviews and focus group discussions;
- Results driven, ability to work under pressure and to meet strict deadlines; remains calm and in control under pressure;
- Experience in report and proposal writing;
- French speaking person;
- Excellent inter-personal and technical communication (oral, written and visual) skills with high level English language writing skills are essential;

Core skills:

- Technical knowledge and understanding of climate change and adaptation, as well as community-based natural resource management
- Technical knowledge in Monitoring and evaluation
- Comprehensive Knowledge in Vulnerability Impact Assessments

Application

Applications should be sent to Mrs Sandra Ratiarison, Conservation Director WWF Gabon by email to SRatiarison@wwfgab.org **before the 15th November 2015 - 4:00pm Gabon time**. They will include a short technical analysis showing the understanding of the terms of reference (maximum 3 pages), a financial bid, a CV and a list of indicative relevant work on the topic carried out by the consultant.