



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### FOR A SUBCONTRACTOR TO SUPPORT AWF IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS DONOR-FUNDED ACTIVITIES IN THE TRIDOM LANDSCAPE.

### PROJECT TITLE: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CAMEROON'S FOREST LANDSCAPES IN THE CONGO BASIN.

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#### A. INTRODUCTION

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is an international conservation organization formed in 1961. Together with the people of Africa, AWF works to ensure that the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, AWF has country offices in Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, and Rwanda) and is registered in the USA, UK, Canada, Switzerland, and South Africa.

AWF Cameroon has received funding from The Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a project titled: **Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin**. Under this project, AWF was identified for the implementation of activities related to the project's components 2, 3, and 4.

AWF is soliciting proposals from Local NGOs in Cameroon to support the implementation of the project's component 3 activities that focus on advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest products (NTFP) and hardwood value chains in the TRIDOM landscape.

The local NGOs to be recruited will address the impacts of unsustainable resource use by local communities and private sector actors by promoting their increased engagement in local-level models for SFM that engage IPLCs and the private sector. The activities described under this component are to be executed in the TRIDOM, thus a need for local NGOs working in the zone to support implementation on the ground.

#### B. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

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**B.1 Location of Activities:** Mintom Council Area (Surrounding communities in the Mintom Council Area).

#### **B.2 Details about activities and Expected Results**

Concerning the activities described, there are 3 activities to be executed by the local NGO that will be recruited. Each activity is described below in terms of context, specific task, expected results, and outcomes.

**N.B Local NGOs recruited should describe methods on how to execute the specific task described for each activity.**

**1. Activity 3.1.1.1: Identify sustainable non-timber forest products (NTFP) through valuation analyses, stakeholder and expert consultations, and an assessment of key lessons learned from previous or existing NTFP models (local, national, and regional).**

**Background:**

Identifying sustainable non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is crucial for the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. Valuation analyses, stakeholder and expert consultation, and assessment of existing NTFP models provide valuable insights into the ecological, socio-economic, and cultural aspects of these products. By analyzing the lessons learned from previous or existing NTFP models, it is possible to develop effective strategies for identifying and promoting sustainable NTFPs. The identification of sustainable NTFPs involves a comprehensive analysis of various factors, including ecological sustainability, socio-economic viability, cultural significance, and market potential within the MINTOM council area. Valuation analyses assess the ecological value of NTFPs, such as their role in ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration. Stakeholder and expert consultation involves engaging local communities, indigenous peoples, forest managers, policymakers, researchers, and industry representatives to gather diverse perspectives and knowledge on NTFPs and the consultation is necessary during this assessment.

**Objective:**

To identify sustainable NTFP products through valuation analyses, stakeholder and expert consultations, and an assessment of key lessons learned from previous or existing NTFP models (local, national, regional).

**Specific Tasks:**

- 1. Conduct valuation analyses:** This involves assessing the ecological value of NTFPs by quantifying their contribution to ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. Various methods, such as market valuation, ecological modeling, and economic impact analysis, can be employed to determine the ecological significance of NTFPs.
- 2. Engage stakeholders and experts:** Organize consultations and workshops with stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous peoples, forest managers, policymakers, researchers, and industry representatives. The goal is to gather insights and perspectives on the sustainable management and utilization of NTFPs, as well as to understand the social and cultural significance of these products.
- 3. Assess lessons learned from previous or existing NTFP models:** Analyze successful and unsuccessful NTFP models implemented in similar contexts or regions. Identify key lessons, challenges, and best practices from these models. This assessment serves as a valuable resource for informing the identification and promotion of sustainable NTFPs.
- 4. Develop criteria and guidelines:** Based on the valuation analyses, stakeholder consultation, and lessons learned, develop criteria and guidelines for the identification of sustainable NTFPs. These criteria may include ecological sustainability, socio-economic viability, cultural significance, and market potential. The guidelines should provide clear instructions for sustainable management practices, harvesting techniques, and monitoring of NTFPs.



### **Expected Results:**

At the end of each the activities and task carried out by the recruited NGO, A detailed report is required highlighting the following results

<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Indicators (max three/result)</b>
The different NTFPs and value chains identified in the Mintom Council Area through valuation analyses, stakeholder and expert consultation, and assessment of existing NTFP models.	The number of identified and recognized sustainable NTFPs. Number of NTFPs value chain identified
Improved understanding of the ecological and socio-economic value of NTFPs	Number of consultations meetings
Development of guidelines and criteria for the sustainable management and harvest of NTFPs.	The number of guidelines and criteria developed and implemented for the sustainable management, harvest, and marketing of NTFPs.

## **2. Activity 3.1.1.2: Elaborate gender-sensitive and responsive strategies for strengthening or establishing NTFP value chains for three landscapes, taking into consideration the results of Activity 3.1.1.1, existing capacity, and key enabling conditions.**

### **Background:**

Gender-sensitive and responsive strategies are necessary for strengthening or establishing non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains. By considering existing capacity and enabling conditions, these strategies aim to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in NTFP value chains. This is important because women often play crucial roles in NTFP collection, processing, marketing, and decision-making processes. Therefore, it is essential to develop strategies that address gender disparities, enhance women's participation, and ensure their fair and equitable access to benefits from NTFP activities in the Mintom council area. Elaborating gender-sensitive and responsive strategies for NTFP value chains involves understanding the existing capacity and enabling conditions for women's engagement, analyzing gender dynamics, and identifying appropriate interventions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The strategies should also address the socio-cultural factors that impact gender roles and relationships within NTFP value chains.

### **Objective:**

To elaborate gender-sensitive and responsive strategies for strengthening or establishing NTFP value chains for three landscapes, taking into consideration the results of Activity 3.1.1.1, existing capacity, and key enabling conditions).

### **Specific Tasks:**

**1. Assess existing capacity and enabling conditions:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current capacity and conditions for women's participation in NTFP value chains. This may involve analyzing existing policies, institutions, and resources that support or hinder women's involvement in NTFP activities.



**2. Analyze gender dynamics:** Explore the gender roles, norms, and power dynamics within NTFP value chains. This analysis should include an examination of the division of labor, decision-making processes, control over resources, access to markets and finance, and benefits distribution among men and women involved in NTFP activities.

**3. Identify gender-responsive interventions:** Based on the assessment and gender analysis, identify specific interventions that can promote gender equality and women's empowerment in NTFP value chains. These interventions may include capacity building for women, enhancing access to resources and markets, promoting women's leadership and decision-making, and addressing gender-based constraints or biases.

**Expected Results:**

At the end of each the activities and task carried out by the recruited NGO, A detailed report is required highlighting the following results

Expected results	Indicators (max three/result)
1. Gender-sensitive and responsive strategies for NTFP value chains, addressing existing capacity and enabling conditions in the MINTOM Council Area	A gender-Sensitive strategy is developed in a participatory way according to the contexts of the Mintom Council Area.

**3. Activity 3.1.2.1: Identify engaged communities and undertake gender-inclusive consultations and capacity needs assessments of local organizations and Indigenous people and local community groups to develop or establish NTFP value chains.**

**Background**

To facilitate the development or establishment of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) value chains, it is crucial to engage communities and ensure gender inclusivity through consultations and capacity needs assessments. This aims to familiarize local organizations, indigenous people, and community groups with the goals and benefits of establishing NTFP value chains. This includes highlighting the potential economic opportunities, conservation benefits, and community empowerment that can arise from such initiatives. The description to undertake gender-inclusive consultation and carry out needs assessment is to identify and develop NTFP value chains in a manner that is inclusive of gender perspectives and engages local organizations, indigenous people, and community groups. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing gender disparities and ensuring the active participation of all stakeholder.

**Objectives:**

To carry out capacity need assessment of engaged communities/groups, and local organizations to establish NTFP value chains. This is specifically, to identify and develop NTFP value chains in a manner that is inclusive of gender perspectives and engages local organizations, indigenous people, and community groups.



**Specific Tasks:**

To achieve this objective, a specific task is assigned, namely the undertake ogender-inclusive consultations and capacity needs assessments. This task involves engaging with local organizations, indigenous people, and community groups to understand their needs, aspirations, and existing capacities related to NTFP value chains. It also involves identifying any gender-specific barriers or opportunities that may exist within these communities.

**Expected Results:**

At the end of each of the activities and tasks carried out by the recruited NGO, A detailed report is required highlighting the following results.

This information will serve as the basis for designing gender-inclusive strategies and interventions to develop or establish NTFP value chains. It will also contribute to the empowerment and capacity building of local organisations, indigenous people, and community groups.

<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Indicators (max three/result)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Report regarding the needs assessment, capacities, and gender dynamics of the engaged communities in the Mintom Council Area is related to NTFP value chains produced.</li> </ul>	<p>Comprehensive data and insights regarding the needs, capacities, and gender dynamics of the engaged communities.</p> <p>Identification of gender-specific barriers and opportunities, the incorporation of gender perspectives in decision-making processes, and the promotion of gender equity throughout the NTFP value chain.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Based on the needs assessment and capacities, propose gender-inclusive strategies and interventions to develop or establish NTFP value chains for communities that will contribute to the empowerment and capacity building of local organizations, indigenous people, and community groups.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of proposed gender-inclusive strategies and interventions to develop to provide needs and strengthen the capacities of local communities</p>

**LOCAL NGO QUALIFICATION**

- Local NGO should have strong background in social and environmental research with understanding of the forest ecosystem..
- Strong knowledge to identify NTFPS that can sustainably be harvested.
- Demonstrate skills in conducting valuation analyses. This involves assessing the economic value of NTFPs, considering their market potential, and quantifying the benefits they can bring to local communities. This will be an added advantage.
- Local NGO should have experience in working with local communities especially indigenous communities and women in particular and should have a deep understanding of gender dynamics in these contexts of the TRIDOM Landscape.



- The Local NGO should have strong communication and collaboration skills to engage with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders.

### **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL NGO SELECTION**

Interested Local NGOs should submit a proposal that includes:

- A detailed description of the methodology that satisfies the scope of work concerning each activity (**Activity 3.1.1.1, Activity 3.1.1.2, Activity 3.1.2.1**).
- Experience working in the MINTOM Council Area zone.
- A cost breakdown of services available by activity. Additional services not specified in the scope of work may also be included if deemed appropriate;
- At least two examples of services rendered to comparable non-profits, including a detailed description of the work offered; and
- References.
- AWF will evaluate bids based on the Local NGO's's experience, costs, and ability to satisfy the proposed scope of work/methodology.

### **WORK REQUIREMENTS**

The contract will be for 3 months starting 1 August 2023 and ending 31 October 2023.

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Please submit proposals via email to [procurement@awf.org](mailto:procurement@awf.org) with a copy to [LAKenji@awf.org](mailto:LAKenji@awf.org) and [CTuekam@awf.org](mailto:CTuekam@awf.org) **by 5.00 pm CAT on July 19, 2023**.

Early submissions are welcome and appreciated. AWF may request meetings or calls to discuss proposals and reserves the right to reject any bids. AWF also reserves the right to consider bids for modification at any time before an award is made.

AWF will not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation, transmittal, or presentation of any materials submitted in response to this RFP, but reserves the right to request further information before making an award.