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| **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES** |

**Greneral information**

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| **Assignment Name**  | **Livelihood improvement and climate change response through restoration of degraded landscapes in Kasese Municipality** |
| **Beneficiary**  | Kasese Municipality  |
| **Country**  | Uganda |

Table of contents

[TERMS OF REFERENCE 2](#_Toc143621970)

[1. Background 2](#_Toc143621971)

[2. Implementing Entities 3](#_Toc143621972)

[**2.1.** **Expertise France** 3](#_Toc143621973)

[**2.2.** **Kasese Municipality** 3](#_Toc143621974)

[**2.3.** **General Objective** 4](#_Toc143621975)

[**2.4.** **Specific objectives** 4](#_Toc143621976)

[**3.1.** **Scope of the assignment** 5](#_Toc143621977)

[**3.2.** **Methodology** 5](#_Toc143621978)

[**3.3.** **Deliverables** 5](#_Toc143621979)

[**4.** **Time frame and cost for the assignment** 8](#_Toc143621980)

[**5.** **Required Expertise and Profile** 8](#_Toc143621981)

[**6.** **Offer, duration and terms** 8](#_Toc143621982)

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

# Background

Urban forest management, tree planting and open space management intervention in Kasese municipality is a joint partnership between Kasese Municipality, Expertise France under the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) initiative to make cities in Sub Saharan Africa resilient in the fight against climate change and ensuring access to clean energy. Under CoM SSA, local authorities make a voluntary political commitment to implement climate and energy actions in their communities and agree on a long-term vision to tackle 3 pillars, namely access to sustainable energy, climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

Cognisant of this, Kasese municipality developed its Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) that was approved by the Municipal council in 2021. Wetland management intervention is part of the priority actions for the SEACAP implementation.

The CoM SSA initiative is made up of three actions:

* Supporting the design, the implementation and the SEACAP assessment
* Supporting investments in sustainable energy and climate
* Supporting cooperation and twinning activities between municipalities at different levels (National, regional, international)

# Implementing Entities

# **Expertise France**

Expertise France, the French public agency for international technical assistance, aims to contribute to sustainable development based on solidarity and inclusiveness, mainly through enhancing the quality of public policies within the partner countries. Expertise France is supporting Kasese in implementing actions identified in the SEACAP.

# **Kasese Municipality**

Kasese Municipality has faced the increasing frequency of hydrological floods due to its location on the slopes of Rwenzori Mountains with rivers and their tributaries flowing from the bogs of the mountains. This has made the Municipality highly susceptible to flood disaster. This, coupled with high population rate, poor urban planning with infrastructural development in river flood plains, encroachment and degradation of river banks escalates the reoccurrence of floods that extend to various drainage channels in the municipality. One of the main causes of the floods in Kasese Municipality is generally agreed to be limited tree coverage of the surrounding hills and in various strategic locations in the Municipality hence resulting into decreased infiltration of run-off.

In recognition of this gap, in 2013, the Municipality Mayor launched a One million tree planting Campaign. This was followed by the 2016 council resolution to plant trees in compounds. These two pronouncements resulted into great improvement in tree coverage especially along the roads and streets within the central business district hence providing evidence that urban forestry is feasible as a step towards a vision of a ‘green’ Municipality. Expertise France supported the development of a the Urban Forestry Management Plan for Kasese Council (2023-32). In order to cncrease sustainable utilization and management of forest resources for improved livelihood and ecological enrichment. The following strategic objecties were identified:

1. Increased vegetation cover and afforestation efforts for ecosystem enrichment
2. Sustainable utilization of forest and non-forest products promoted
3. Increased sustainable production & use of energy efficient cooking technologies.
4. Strengthened legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable forest management

Finally, Kasese Municipal Council had developed an urban forestry management plan with support from Expertise France under the CoM SSA Arrangement and it is from this plan that the terms of reference has been drawn. As part of implementation of the SEACAP, Expertise France in partnership with Kasese Municipal council is looking for consulting firms or individual consultants or a consortium of consultants in Uganda to conduct increase vegetation cover and soil water conservation for ecosystem enrichment and livelihood enhancement with full community participation based on the Kasese.

# **General Objective**

The overall objective of the assignment is to increase vegetation cover and soil water conservation for ecosystem enrichment and livelihood enhancement with full community participation.

# **Specific objectives**

1. To increase awareness and build capacity of all stakeholders taking deliberate consideration of women, men, youth, elderly and people living with diability
2. Promote and support establishment of soil and water conservation measures on a minimum of 15 ha of individual farmers/public land to restore degraded hotspots and reduce/control runoff to control soil erosion and siltation and to restore of deforested and degraded communal and individual land through tree growing (afforestation, reforestation, and agroforestry)
3. To promote the adoption of sustainable afforestation practices for livelihood enhancement and Local climate modification and ecotourism

**Expected Impacts**

* Reduced emissions from degradation (from deforestation, poor waste management, cooking etc) and increased carbon sequestrations in restored forest landscapes
* Enhanced ecosystem services including availability of water through sustainable forest management
* Increased appreciation and participation of the community in sustainable afforestation practices for livelihood improvement
* Enhanced crop yields triggered by increased water percolation and soil management practices
* Increased number of green jobs and improved livelihoods for local communities with at least 30% women and 30% youths.

**Cross cutting activities to realize the objectives**

1. Identify, mobilise, engage and build capacity of stakeholders and communities in undertaking catchment-based and community driven catchment management measures including 30% women, 30% youth;
2. Support communities to restore degraded hotspot hillsides in Nyakabingo II Ward, Central Division
3. Support communities to implement soil and water conservation measures on priority hotspots in the sub catchments;
4. Support communities to establish and promote alternative income generating activities for improved community livelihoods basing on the major interventions
5. Carbon credits generated trading partners

It is important to note that stakeholder identification, mobilization, sensitization and trainings will crosscut through every intervention on its own in the various areas where each intervention will take place. Radio talk shows, consideration of women and youth, will all be done at the various levels.

# **Scope of the assignment**

The assignment will be conducted in the Wards of Kasese municipality.

# **Methodology**

The consultant(s) will design a suitable methodology based on the objectives and deliverables of this assignment. The proposed methodology should be presented in a kick-off meeting, and reviewed and validated by Expertise France and Kasese Municipal Council before commencing of fieldwork.

# **Deliverables**

The consultant shall be required to deliver the following key outputs:

1. **Inception report and data collection checklist.**

The consultant(s) will review project documents, prepare and submit an inception report containing the technical design of the assignment. The inception report should include background information to the assignment, general and specific objectives of the assignment, a clear methodology to achieve each of the specific objectives and deliverables of the assignment, guiding questions for the participatory involvement of the different key stakeholders, data sources, data collection materials and methods. The inception report shall be submitted one week after contract signing.

1. **Support communities in** **catchment rehabilitation through soil and water conservation measures on priority hotspots in the Micro-catchments.**

Soil and water conservation in the area of intervention shall be undertaken with the main objective of maintaining or enhancing the productive capacity of the land including soil, water and vegetation in areas prone to degradation through prevention or reduction of soil erosion, conservation or drainage of water and maintenance or improvement of soil fertility. The conservation of these vital resources implies utilization without waste so as to make possible a high level of production which can be continued indefinitely with the participating communities. Soil and water problems in hillsides are caused principally by man's removal of the protective cover of natural vegetation. Soil erosion, on the other hand, is the movement of soil from one part of the land to another through the action of wind or water. Thus, soil erosion by water is caused by raindrop impact surface sealing, and crust formation leading to high runoff rate and amount, high runoff velocity on long and undulating slopes, and low soil strength of structurally weak soils with high moisture content due to frequent rains. Soil erosion is caused by lack of vegetation cover, dry pounded soils and poor land management practices such as continuous tillage and over-grazing. The design of SWC structures in the hillsides shall consider severity and extent of erosion damage or risks, the factors causing erosion, as well as the suitability of land to the identified intervention. Therefore, SWC control measures shall be directed at protecting the soil from raindrop impact and hydraulic forces of runoff. The process involves four areas of attention:

1. Reduction of raindrop impacts on soil;
2. Reduction of overland flows;
3. Increase infiltration rate, and
4. Slowing runoff velocities.
* Soil and water conservation measures shall be promoted and established under this task on a minimum of 50ha of individual farmers/public land to restore degraded hotspots and reduce/control runoff to control soil erosion and siltation. The selection of the farmers to undertake these tasks shall follow the same approach for recruitment of farmers using the FPIC form where farmers shall be allowed to pick from a range of measures and technologies from the menu of work with local stakeholders shall: -
* Mobilize minimum of 50 community members in Nyakabingo II Ward and raise their awareness on the advantages of controlling soil erosion/floods through use of water harvesting and biophysical measures as to ably participate in the implementation activities.
* Conduct trainings for 25 community members from selected communities to undertake and adopt on soil and water conservation practices for each of the areas at watershed level: infiltration trenches, stormwater diversion drains, percolation ditches; grow trees, shrubs grasses on contour bunds; gully control developed terraces. Use of other agronomic measures such as cover crops, Conservation Tillage, Deep Tillage, Conservation Farming, Contour-Farming, Mulching, Growing of Cover Crops, Strip Cropping, Mixed Cropping, etc. (25 members per training for 3 days)
* Provide tools (wheelbarrow, Handles, Spades, Pangas, etc.) to communities for use during the establishment of water harvesting and soil and water conservation structures (terracing, soil bunds, infiltration pits etc.) Establish 2 Ha of soil and water conservation structures at a selected farm site to serve as a training and demonstration centre.
* Plant contour stabilization material along the contour to hold the loosened soils, provide mulch material, and fodder for livestock
* Support individual farmers to establish 25Ha similar soil and water conservation structures on the hotspots identified on their individual land.
* Carry out quarterly inspections and monitoring of the established structures to ensure survival and growth of the planted species and also to ensure effective functioning of the structures established.
1. **Support communities to restore deforested and degraded communal and individual land through tree growing in the Nyakabingo II Ward.**

Afforestation, reforestation, and agroforestry play an important role in the socio–economic development of communities, as trees planted provide timber, fuel wood, fodder, fruits, medicine, windbreaks, and a whole range of other economic and environmental benefits. At present the need to plant trees for these needs is on the increase and in order to meet present and future demand for wood and non-wood products, there is a need to promote on-farm tree growing, where the trees are owned and managed by individual farmers, by self-help groups, by schools, by churches and/or by a range of individual farmers local community institutions and structures.

A minimum of 15 hectares of degraded communal and individual land will be restored through tree growing (afforestation, reforestation, and agroforestry. The key identified hot spot villages for restoration in the Municipality are in Nyakabingo II ward, targeting Katadoba, Kihalimu-Kyaminyuku, Kyanjuki-Muyenga cells. In these identified villages we will be working with local leaders, Town Agents and the Environment, Forestry and Agriculture Technical staff.

* Mobilize and sensitize 50 households in 3 meetings to engage in tree growing initiatives
* Conduct 3 trainings to 50 households in tree growing and forest
* Management for restoration (the same as those for soil and water conservation)
* Procure tools and materials (wheelbarrow, Handles, Spades, Pangas, etc.) to supplement those owned by 50 households for use during tree growing,
* Generate 30,000 tree seedlings to an average height of 30cm and distribute to preselected communities
* Plant 30,000 tree seedlings of average height of 30cm to communities and restore 30 ha of degraded land (at a spacing of 5m x 5m) under technical supervision. Indigenous trees to include but not limited to Albizia Coriaria, Markhamia, Melia Volkensii, false mvule, Prunus Africana, Maesopsis eminii, terminalia species, and fruit trees (Mango, Avocado, Jackfruit) and bamboo.
* Carry out Quarterly inspections and monitoring to provide oversight services during and after establishment to ensure tree survival and growth.
1. **Support the beautification and greening of 5km of road, including the round-about and Council headquarter premises.**

Kasese Municipal Council achieved has achieved several kilometers of tarmack roads have not been planted with trees or flowers. 5km of hese roads will be targeted for greening and beautification to enhance the face of the municipality. Such roads include Nyakasanga road 2.5km and, Korokoro Byensi-Matebele road 2.5km.

There are also spaces such as the round about which is the entrance into the city and the Municipal Headquarters. These need to be well designed to bring out its best for beautification of the area.

1. **Final assignment report**.

# **Time frame and cost for the assignment**

The Assignment period is September 2023 to January 2024 with a total days commencing the day of signing the contract. The total maximum cost for the assignment, including stakeholder engagement and all related costs is 20,000 € exclusive of VAT.

# **Required Expertise and Profile**

**Qualifications and Competences**

Successful completion of the assignment requires consulting companies or teams of individual consultants with proven expertise in forestry, catchment rehabilitation through soil and water conservation, beautification, and restoring deforested and degraded land. Demonstrated knowledge and skills in use of GIS in land cover and land use mapping and analysis and urban forestry are useful additional skills. The team must have at least 3-5 years’ experience in urban forest management and forest action plan development.

The lead consultant must have at least a MSc degree in Forestry, geography or related field. Irrespective of who leads, the consultancy team must have a GIS specialist and a forester:

* At least 3-5 years’ experience in restoring deforested and degraded land
* Proven experience in use of participatory approaches to community engagements and Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM);
* Excellent skills in analytical report writing and visualization;
* Proven history of delivering quality products on time for similar assignments.

# **Offer, duration and terms**

**Technical Proposal (not more than 15 pages excluding annexes)** that includes:

* Introduction
* Interpretation/Understanding of the ToR
* Methodology
* Work plan

Proposed personnel and summaries of their relevant educational backgrounds, experience and skill sets and their CVs

* Experience and capabilities statement. Which includes individual and/or institutional past performance references.
* Sample products from previous assignments (links/pointers to the documents for evidence should be included)
* Proof of certificate of completion of similar assignments

**Financial Proposal** **(not more than 3 pages)** that lays out: detailed costs for the period of the contract broken down by deliverables and activity. This should include all costs associated with this assignment exclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT). Copies of relevant legal documents like license, VAT registration, etc. should be attached.

**Supervision**

For quality assurance, the consultants will be supervised by a supervising consultant recruited by Expertise France with support from Kasese Municipal technical teams. The assignment will be coordinated by the CoM SSA coordinator(s).

**Payment**

Payments will be effected in 3 instalments as detailed below:

* 20% advance payment on contract signature and delivery of inception report;
* 30 % down payment upon delivery and validation of deliverable 2 and 3;
* 50 % after validation of final assignment report.

Annex I: Indicative project plan and timetable that can be used as a guide:

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| **Project Budget and Time Schedule**   |
| **SN** | **Description of activities** |  **Target No**  |  **Unit cost**  |  **Frequency**  |  **Amount €** | **Delivery period** |
| **Schedule 1: General Items.** |
| **A** | **General Items**  |
| A1 | Inception meetings with TPC Municipal Council |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 | Inception meetings with Executive meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
| A3 | Inception meetings with Working Council |  |  |  |  |  |
| A4 | Inception meetings with Division |  |  |  |  |  |
| A5 | Donors participation in the project activities (2 staff) |  |  |  |  |  |
| A6 | Carry out quarterly inspections and monitoring and site meetings of the interventions after establishment to ensure high survival (10 technical officers from Kasese MC and Expertise France). |  |  |  |  |  |
| A7 | Facilitate the political leaders at both Municipal and Division level to monitor the progress of activities on a quarterly basis |  |  |  |  |  |
| A8 | Facilitate 5 Technical staff involved in day to day field implementation activities  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Schedule 2: Support communities to implement soil and water conservation and afforestation measures on priority hotspots in the sub catchments.** |
| **B** | **Promote and support establishment of soil and water conservation measures on 15 ha of individual farmers/public land to restore degraded hotspots and reduce/control runoff to control soil erosion and siltation and to restore of deforested and degraded communal and individual land through tree growing (afforestation, reforestation, and agroforestry)** |
| B.1 | Mobilise community members and raise their awareness on the advantages of controlling soil erosion / floods through use of water harvesting and engage in tree growing initiatives, with atleast 30% inclusion of women and youth |  |  |  |  |  |
| B.2 | Conduct trainings for community members from selected communities to undertake and adopt on soil and water conservation practices for each of the parishes at selected farms: infiltration trenches, storm water diversion drains, percolation ditches; grow trees, shrubs grasses on contour bunds; gully control, developed terraces. Use of other agronomic measures such as cover crops, Conservation Tillage, Deep Tillage, Conservation Farming, Contour- Farming, Mulching, Growing of Cover Crops, Strip Cropping, Mixed Cropping,, in in tree growing and forest management for restoration and energy saving technologies |  |  |  |  |  |
| B.2 | Provide tools to communities for use during the establishment of water harvesting and soil and water conservation structures (terracing, soil bunds, infiltration pits etc.) tools to suppliments those owned by community |  |  |  |  |  |
| B.3 | Establish 2 Ha of soil and water conservation structures at selected farm sites to serve as training and demonstration centres.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B4 | Support individual farmers to establish a minimum of 15 Ha soil and water conservation structures on the hotspots identified on their individual land. |  |  |  |  |  |
| B5 | Generate a minimum of 22,000 Assorted agroforestry and woodlot seedlings at the Municipal tree nursery  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B6 | Distribute seedlings to the different planting sites |  |  |  |  |  |
| B7 | Plant a minimum of 20,000 tree seedlings of average height of 30cm to communities and restore a minimum of15 ha of degraded land (at a spacing of 5m x 5m) under technical supervision. (includes weeding, mulching) |  |  |  |  |  |
| B8 | Beating up depending on initial tree survival within first month of planting |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Subtotal  |   |   |   |  |  |
| **Schedule 3: Support the beautification and greening of 5km of road at 10m interval on both sides and beautification of some spaces** |
| C.1 | Generate ornamental tree seedlings in the Municipal tree and flower nursery |  |  |  |  |  |
| C.2 | plant and care for ornamental trees along the 5km roads |  |  |  |  |  |
| C.3 | Provide animal and other touristic carvings of wood and clay to mimic nature parks in some spaces |  |  |  |  |  |
| C.4 | Procure vessels in which to plant flowers and shrubs |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Subtotal** |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Total Sum |   |   |   |  79,999,000 UGX |  20,000 EUR |