

MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVE FORESTS FROM SENEGAL TO BENIN (PAPBio C1-MANGROVES)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GRAND MANO PRIORITY CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

1. Context

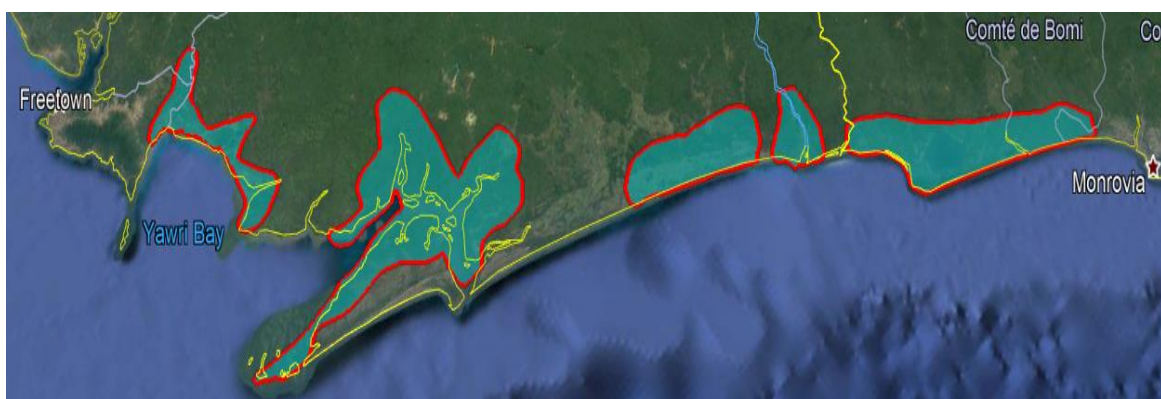
The overall objective of the Protected Areas and Biodiversity (PAPBio) program of the European Union (EU) is to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development in response to the challenges of climate change affecting biodiversity and fragile ecosystems in West Africa. Within the framework of this program, IUCN and its co-applicants, including Wetlands International Africa received a grant for the implementation of the *"Management of Mangrove Forests from Senegal to Benin"* project.

This project, is part of the West Africa Environmental Component of the Regional Indicative Program (RIP-WA) called *"Biodiversity and Climate Change Program"*, with a primary objective to ensure the integrated protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in several mangrove landscapes and to contribute to strengthening coastal resilience of communities affected by climate change. The project is contributing to delivering several national, regional (UEMOA, ECOWAS, Additional Protocol on mangroves of the Abidjan Convention) and international (Global Public Goods Program and EU challenges, in particular the thematic area "Environment and Climate Change"; SDGs 13, 14 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda and Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity) environmental policies and strategies.

The project was built through the capitalization of different experiences of conservation and restoration of mangrove landscapes at the national and regional levels in West Africa, particularly in the framework of the Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Areas in West Africa (PRCM).

Based on a landscape approach, the project is taking place in 09 countries, divided into four (04) large Priority Conservation Landscapes (PCL) of mangroves. This approach is based on a zoning of landscapes that offers the opportunity to serve as a framework for cooperation and land use planning better to reconcile socio-economic development objectives with biodiversity conservation imperatives.

It is in this context that Wetlands International Africa, as the lead agency for the implementation of project activities in the "Grand-Mano" Priority Conservation Landscape, plans to commission the development of a Master Plan for the management of this PCL.



"Grand Mano" Priority Conservation Landscape

2. Study area and justification

The **Grand-Mano PCL** extends from the outskirts of Freetown (Sierra Leone) to Monrovia (Liberia). Sierra Leone includes the Yawri Bay Marine Protected Area and the Sherbro Estuary, the Sewa Waanje Reserve, and the Strict Transboundary 2 Mangroves Reserve in Sulima. In Liberia, it includes the Ramsar site of Lake Piso. From the two covered countries, this Priority Conservation Landscape (PCL) hosts various biodiversity species of global significance. The governments of these two countries have been striving to preserve this rich biodiversity for many years.

Despite these conservation efforts, the biodiversity in the area continues to be threatened by various factors resulting from human activities as well as climate change and variability. These threats are compounded by various shortcomings: institutional (e.g. lack of a transnational management structure), legal (disparity of regulations), financial (lack of a sustainable financing mechanism for conservation) and operational (dependence on projects for the management of protected areas), all of which pose governance problems.

Faced to these real or potential threats, it is therefore critical to put in place a Master Plan for the coordinated development and management of the Grand Mano PCL. This transboundary planning tool will indeed, help harmonize approaches and management methods for a sustainable conservation in this area, which is of capital importance for the two concerned countries.

The three sub-landscapes that make up the PCL all have Management Plans and various conservation initiatives have been ongoing across the Grand Mano Priority landscape. In light of continuous climate change and global biodiversity issues, numerous initiatives for the conservation and restoration of mangroves could benefit from being better coordinated by promoting transboundary conservation efforts between Sierra Leone and Liberia

3. Objectives

A Master Plan is a dynamic planning tool that (i) guarantees a conducive environment for sustainable growth (ii) guides and regulates the current and future development of an area in the medium and long-term perspective. It is the result of a shared vision by stakeholders on the organization of the spatial and land use for biodiversity conservation and a sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems. This in order to strengthen resilience to climate change and to ensure the sustainability and quality of environmental, economic and socio-cultural services they provide.

The objective of the consultancy is to engage with stakeholders the development of a Master Plan for the management of the Grand Mano landscape over the next ten (10) years (period 2023 - 2032) that focuses on conserving biodiversity for resilience to climate change. In other words, develop a Master Plan with strategic orientations for the development and sustainable management of the various entities that make up the PCL of Grand Mano over the next decade, considering the main issues and challenges of shared governance in the Landscape.

Specifically, the Master Plan would propose strategic guidance at the institutional, legal, operational and financial levels for the medium and long-term management of this common space shared by the two (02) countries. The actions will result from intensive public consultations and a multidisciplinary analysis that could ultimately formulate rules and guidelines for current and planned development taking into account population, economy, and development needs and current and future spatial use.

4. Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected from this consultancy assignment:

- A methodological note including a detailed work plan that encompasses a timeline, submitted within 10 days after signing the contract;
- A draft report 90 days after contract signature;
- A PowerPoint presentation highlighting the key findings of the Master Plan;
- A report of the validation workshop presenting the findings
- A final report in PDF and Word format taking into account the evaluation comments, within five (5) days of receiving feedbacks on the interim report;

5. The process and main activities

The development of the master plan will be done in a participatory manner involving the majority, if not all, the significant actors present and/or intervening at the level of the PCL in managing mangrove ecosystems. This approach should promote a collaborative process that incites to common and transboundary management dynamics. The consulting team will emphasize and effectively ensure effective involvement and participation of the national and transboundary authorities (incl. platforms) to guarantee a good ownership by the latter of the anticipated plan.

Without being exhaustive, the consulting team should have to articulate the master plan development around the following main activities:

- Literature review and analysis-undertake an evaluation of the existing management strategies, development plans and biodiversity conservation policies and legislations of the PCL ;
- Develop the major planning and development orientations with strategic goals and objectives for the Master Plan;
- Validate the Master Plan through a process involving all the stakeholders.

6. Methodological approach

Throughout the assignment, the consulting team will collaborate closely with the members of the national and cross-border platforms set up in the PCL within the framework of the project and with the project management team at WIACO. These different stakeholders will meet at least three times during this assignment:

- i- At the beginning of the mission, to clarify the objectives and issues based on the methodology proposed by the consulting team (discussion of the offer and framing);
- ii- During the mission for restitution and discussion of the preliminary results, the findings and the assessment and
- iii- At the end to feedback to stakeholders on the principal findings, major conclusions, recommendations and opinions on the final report.

The responsibilities of the consulting team include the following

- Ensure close liaison and collaboration with all stakeholders (platforms, deconcentrated services of the State, etc.). WIACO will facilitate and establish the necessary contacts between the consulting team and all identified stakeholders;
- Keep stakeholders, mainly WIACO, regularly informed of the progress of the work;
- Providing stakeholders with all the information necessary to monitor progress and to be able to evaluate the interim results of the mission.

7. Timeline

The consultancy will be implemented over **four (4) months**¹ with a **start date of May 1, 2023** at the latest.

8. Reporting requirements

Without being exhaustive, the final report, i.e. the Master Plan, must present/contain at least the following:

- Results of the analysis of the political, legal and institutional context in the PCL;
- Results of the analysis of the various development plans and management strategies in the PCL;
- Based on the analysis above, a description of the proposed strategic planning and management framework for PCL;
- A structural and financial framework for implementing the Master Plan;

¹ It is up to the tenderer to propose the working time and its distribution among the members of its team. In any case, the whole process of development and the validation of the Master Plan will take place over the four (4) months as indicated.

- A monitoring and evaluation mechanism and plan to ensure the necessary dynamism for the implementation of the Master Plan.

9. Consultant's profile

The work will be carried out by a multidisciplinary team, which must own/have the following skills and experience:

- Expertise in the development of master plans, development and management plans, action plans and business plans for Protected Areas in West Africa or other strategic planning and/or guidance documents in similar contexts;
- Strong interdisciplinary expertise (eco-biology, ecosystems monitoring, social sciences, mapping, park planning, economics and tourism, etc.) and ability to apply interdisciplinary and participatory approaches;
- Demonstrated capacity in social engineering, including organizing and facilitating public consultations;
- 5 years of extensive PA experience is essential for at least part of the team and/or consulting assignments with PAs.
- Excellent knowledge of coastal ecosystems, communities and socio-economic, political, environmental and cultural contexts.
- Familiarity with international debates on sustainability (SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD, Abidjan Convention) and their possible application, including labels (UNESCO World Heritage, RAMSAR sites, etc.) and climate financing (Adaptation Fund, others); and
- Good report writing skills.

10. Bid submission

Applications to be submitted should include the following:

- A technical and financial bid;
- An indicative schedule of activities;
- The CVs of the lead consultant and other team members clearly show how the other team members complement and contribute to the present assignment;
- References of similar services.

Interested consultants, groups of consultants, consulting firms are invited to send their technical and financial proposals **no later than April 15, 2023** to the following address: pccmano@wetlands-africa.org

11. Bid evaluation

The successful bid will be the one that presents the best technical bid supported by the most advanced analysis with a financial bid presenting the best quality/price ratio evaluated according to the criteria below:

- **Technical score 80%:** taking into account the qualifications of the mission leader and the team, the understanding of the mission and finally the quality and presentation of the technical offer;
- **Financial score: 20%.**

12. Available resource documents

- Landscape diagnostic report;
- Grand Mano Priority Landscape resources (Sherbro River Estuary, Yawri Bay, and Lake Piso management plans);