

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ECONOMIC VALUATION OF MANGROVES ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE "GRAND SALOUM" AND "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.

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 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-Saloum" and "Grand-Mano" Priority Conservation Landscape, is launching this call for tenders. It is to carry out work on the economic valuation of goods and services of mangrove ecosystems in these landscapes, which cover Senegal and Gambia at one hand and Sierra Leone and Liberia at the other.

2. Description of the call for tenders and budgets

This call for tenders comprises four separate lots as follows:

- Lot 1:** Economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem goods and services in the Saloum Delta in Senegal - Budget €12,000 to €15,000
- Lot 2:** Economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem goods and services in the North Bank Region (Niumi and Jokadu) in The Gambia - Budget €12,000 to €15,000
- Lot 3:** Economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem goods and services in the Sherbro River Estuary and Yawri Bay in Sierra Leone - Budget €12,000 to €15,000
- Lot 4:** Economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem goods and services in the Lake Piso Reserve in Liberia - Budget €12,000 to €15,000

Each lot constitutes a study in its own right and will be treated as such in order to achieve the specific results expected in relation to the different zones and countries to which each lot refers.

3. Objectives

The overall objective of the consultancy is to provide, for each lot, an economic valuation of the mangroves ecosystem goods and services in the indicated areas. This, to have a good understanding of the value of these ecosystem services, to raise awareness of their importance among local stakeholders and, lastly, to use the information for decision-making on strategic guidelines for land use planning and the sustainable management of the various entities within the landscapes.

Specifically, the studies will contribute to enhancing the ecological, economic and social benefits of mangroves in order to encourage decision-makers, site managers and other stakeholders to take measures for the conservation and/or sustainable use of these mangrove ecosystems and their resources. For each lot, this will involve:

- carry out a diachronic mapping from 1997 to 2022 of the mangrove ecosystems in the area;
- on the basis of the literature, field visits and mapping, propose a typology of mangroves in the area, identifying the surface areas according to their state of conservation and their contribution to the provision of ecosystem services;
- characterize the ecosystem services provided by mangroves in the area;
- provide a monetary estimate of each of the ecosystem services for each category of mangrove as detailed in the typology and provide an overall estimate of the economic value of the mangrove ecosystems in the area;
- compare the results of the study with similar studies carried out in West and Central Africa and draw appropriate conclusions;
- propose a prospective economic estimate of the loss of mangroves on one hand, and the gain on the other, over 10 and 25 years according to different probable scenarios;
- define the mangrove management method(s) in the area and suggest improvements to help conserve them;
- Based on the results of the study, propose a short Policy Brief for decision-makers;

4. The process and main activities

Without being exhaustive, the consulting team will conduct the studies around the following main activities:

- carry out diachronic mapping (1997-2022) of the evolution of mangrove ecosystems in the area;
- carry out an economic estimate of the value of the goods and services of the mangrove ecosystems in the area, based on a typology to be defined;
- estimate the carbon storage capacity for each category of mangrove as detailed in the typology;
- make an economic estimate of the loss of mangroves on one hand, and the gain on the other, over 10 and 25 years;
- - produce a report and a policy note for each lot.
- lead a national workshop to present and validate the provisional study report, with the involvement of all stakeholders. Following this workshop, the consultant will take into account the recommendations and suggestions to finalise the study.

Throughout the duration of the consultancy, the team of consultants will work in close collaboration with the project management team at WIACO and with all relevant or designated actors in the countries and zones of intervention, such as the members of the consultation platforms set up as part of the project. He/she will keep the stakeholders, in particular WIACO, regularly informed of the progress of the work;

5. Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected for each lot:

- A methodological note including a detailed work plan that encompasses a timeline, submitted within 10 days after signing the contract;
- An interim report 90 days after contract signature;

- a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the main conclusions of the study;
- a report on the workshops held to present the results.
- a final report in hard copy and electronic version in PDF and MS Word format with the databases (spatial data in Shapefiles) within 5 days after receipt of comments on the interim report;
- Maps of the study areas in the appropriate format;
- A policy brief to disseminate the results and raise awareness among stakeholders;

6. Reporting requirements

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

A clear, concise final study report that can be structured around :

- Introduction
 - General background on mangroves
 - Importance of mangrove ecosystem services
 - Objectives of the economic evaluation
- Methodology
 - Description of the methods used to evaluate ecosystem services
 - Explanation of the economic models used
 - Data collected and sources of information
- Description of mangrove ecosystem services
 - Detailed explanation of the different ecosystem services provided by mangroves
 - Importance of each service for local communities and the regional economy
- Economic valuation results
 - Presentation of monetary results for each ecosystem service assessed
 - Analysis of the costs and benefits associated with the conservation or degradation of mangroves
- Analysis of the results
 - Interpretation of the economic results obtained
 - Discussion of the political, economic and environmental implications of the results
- - Limitations of the study
 - Identification of the limitations of the economic evaluation carried out
 - Factors that could influence the results but have not been taken into account
- - Recommendations
 - Suggestions for using the results in decision-making
 - Recommended actions for the conservation and sustainable management of mangroves
- - Conclusion
 - Summary of the main results and conclusions drawn
 - Call for action to preserve mangroves and their ecosystem services
- References and appendices.

7. Timeline / Duration of assignment

The assignment will take place over a period of four (03) months¹ with a hoped-for start date of **1 March 2024**. The planning and organization of working time remains at the initiative of the tenderers, who must propose a schedule for the assignment that will take effect from the date of signature of the contract.

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 three (3) months as indicated.

8. Profile of the candidate/group of consultants

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

- Strong interdisciplinary expertise (environmental economics, ecosystem monitoring and management, social sciences, cartography, etc.) and ability to apply interdisciplinary and participatory approaches;
- Strong expertise in the analysis of ecosystem services and their economic calculation;
- Excellent knowledge of coastal ecosystems, communities and socio-economic, political, environmental and cultural contexts.
- Proven experience in conducting valuation studies of ecosystem goods and services in coastal areas, particularly mangrove ecosystems
- Demonstrated capacity in social engineering, including the organization and facilitation of public consultations;
- Good command of French, with good skills and abilities in writing and presenting reports.
- Working under pressure and travelling in the field.

9. 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 February 28, 2024** to the following address: ecosyst@wetlands-africa.org

10. Bid evaluation

The successful bid will be the ones that presents the best technical bids supported by the most advanced analysis with financial bids 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%.**

11. Working languages

The working languages for this consultation will be French (Lot 1) and English (Lots 2, 3 and 4). Interim reports and PPT presentations, as well as final reports/documents, will be submitted in the languages indicated for each of the lots.