

# Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)



Henry's Compound, Opp. German Embassy, Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town,

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E-mail: [info@scnlliberia.org](mailto:info@scnlliberia.org)

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## Term of Reference for consultancy to develop a Co-Management Plan of Gola Forest National Park (GFNP)

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) in partnership with FDA and fringe PA Communities is seeking a competent and motivated Consultant to develop a comprehensive Co-Management Plan for the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP). SCNL is implementing a three-year EU-Funded project called **PAPFor** (Preservation and prevention of Forest Ecosystem in West Africa) for which funding is secured.

### Purpose of Consultancy

#### Long term goal:

To develop and implement a co-management legal framework Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be suited to the varying socio-economic, cultural and ecological considerations for sustainable and collaborative management the Gola Forest National Park.

**Current Need:** SCNL is seeking to contract a consultant to develop a co-management plan for the Gola Forest National Park. A plan that will clearly define the roles of government headed by the FDA and other partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/ Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and the fringe rural Protected Area communities and their respective local and traditional authorities in and around the park in the management of the Park. It will define and guarantee a fair sharing of management functions and responsibilities when it comes to sustainable collaborative management and protection of the park and at the same time providing sustainable livelihood options for huge forest dependent fringe PA inhabitants. It will also consider conflict management strategies, strategic plan, issues of bush meat trade and illegal wildlife trade (IWT), artisanal gold & diamond mining within the PA, shifting cultivation/farming and chainsaw logging within the PA, illegal settlement within the PA, community forests establishment and monitoring, research and development, Ecotourism/tourism, in PA buffer zones of the PA, alternative livelihood, long term financial considerations (Trust Fund), shared responsibilities and provide a mechanism for benefits gathering, analysis and sharing, etc.

The Consultant will also identify the key stakeholders and players as well as their roles and responsibilities that will be involved (government, NGOs project coordinators, officers and managers, CSOs/CBOs, protected area management committee members and private sector), while providing specific recommendations for the development and implementation of a sustainable co-management legal framework and MOU for establishing a Trust fund for the Park.

In this regard, the consultant will need to review the existing literature to trace back the Protected Area-community relations from the perspective of features of rural fringe PA communities, namely knowledge accumulation, social bond, collective actions, and risk-aversion, and reflect on changing roles of community conservation through recognition of those features. Combining case studies and

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consultant research experience, he/she will focus on the de facto practices behind the somewhat casual use of several terms and re-classified community participation in conservation to the mode of community participatory management or community co-management for confirming that conservation is more a means rather than an end for the community to be empowered for their own resource management. With the believe that the success of community participation must ensure stable and flexible land tenure so that the right to benefit can be guaranteed, and the collective action in managing resources can be achieved by empowerment. In short, the consultant will document also practical findings from the field especially the PA landscape that will strengthen further institutional changes for improvement in the legislation and optimization in benefit sharing and compensation that will be needed to promote community participation in a broader social participation context.

Moreover, the consultant will follow up and document other details on Co-management Legal Framework Agreement and MOU pertaining to protected areas in Liberia, conduct interviews with important leaders, managers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and other relevant stakeholders and visit the park to gain first-hand knowledge of the current management practices within the field as well as vigorous engagement with the FDA for better understanding of the issues around the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP) Management for enhancing its sustainable protection and management.

### III. Scope of Work

The scope of work will include but is not strictly limited to the following:

- Conduct peer-review and compile findings, and document the various natures of community involvement in conservation and the naming of projects supporting Co-management arrangements for sustainable Management and protection of the GFNP
- Generate a master list of names of fringe PA community-involved conservation models for further review
- Summarize the findings and recommendations that support Co-management interventional programs from existing management Plan of GFNP for community rethinking for conservation
- Compile the job responsibilities of co-management committee and council
- To assess, identify, and document community-protected area relations, which are important to understand the incentives of the community participating in conservation and institutional features of the community-involved conservation practices under various names
- Conduct an assessment of the feasibility and benefits of a co-management approach for the management of the park through literature review, interviews and site visits
- Review and analyze relevant legal instruments and jurisdiction of management agencies to determine overlaps and/or how to utilize the supporting legal framework and laws effectively to support a co-management plan.

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- Identify challenges/barriers to advancing co-management based on the current legal framework and practices, and provide recommendations where appropriate to acknowledge, facilitate and support a co-management regime;
- Complete a stakeholder analysis to gather input on the most appropriate co-management framework. Key stakeholders should include the relevant agencies and people directly involved and or affected in the implementation and management of the protected area. The stakeholder analysis should also assess the current capacity for specific entities to be engaged in co-management and capacity-building needs to facilitate co-management;
- Develop actions or operational plan to present detailed information on how and when specific management action will be carried out

## IV. Specific Outputs

The outputs from this consultancy will include:

1. Baseline assessment report that includes all literature and peer reviewed and sources of information following a standard outline as agreed with the contractor;
2. The results of meetings, interviews and stakeholder engagement(s) written as a short stand-alone report to document the discussions and agreements emanating from the meetings, interviews and engagement(s);
3. Stakeholder analysis and legislative review report that highlights the challenges, explores recommendations and proposes amendments (where appropriate) to facilitate and accommodate co-management arrangement under Liberia Law;
4. At least one seminar presentation on the findings of the consultancy to a pertinent audience in Liberia that includes key stakeholders and SCNL staff among others.

## V. Contractor's Qualifications

The selected consultant should have previous experience in evaluating management effectiveness of Protected Areas and/or in developing governance frameworks for natural resource management in the West Africa or similar areas.

Must have developed a Management plan or Co-management plan for a protected Area.

## Qualifications

- Possess at least a Master's level degree (MSc.) in a relevant field of studies; and doctorate degree (PHD) in the related field is an added advantage.
- At least 5 years' experience in community-based co-management in conjunction with government agencies for natural resource management;
- Ability to be self-directed, multi-task, organized and meet deadlines;
- Experience interviewing a variety of persons in a manner that is sensitive to their context and limitations;
- Ability to compile large amounts of information succinctly into a coherent report for conservation practitioners and government officials; and

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- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- Competent in Computer programs (Microsoft, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Fluent in oral speaking and written English
- Has good skills and knowledge in report writing

## How to apply

Candidates for the consultancy should submit the following:

- letter of interest addressed to the office of the Executive Director, Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia, opposite, German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, or email to: [vacancy@scnlliberia.org](mailto:vacancy@scnlliberia.org)
- CV highlighting the competencies and experiences of relevance to the Consultancy
- Past records and report of similar activity
- Application opens on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021 at 4:00PM
- No application will be accepted after this date and time.
- Qualified candidates will be contacted for interview

## Timeframe

- Consultant will deliver the first draft consultant report 6 weeks after signing contract.
- Delivery of final draft 5 weeks after presentation.
- Upon the signing of the contract, the consultant shall use 3 months to successfully complete the task.