

Terms of Reference Environmental Risk Management Specialist



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development Project (IFPA-CD)

Terms of Reference for: Environmental Risk Management Specialist

(Twenty-four months - renewable)

1. Introduction

The IFPA-CD project is jointly developed and implemented by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) as the Lead Agency and Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities (MTWA). The project implementation period is 6 years and it seeks to improve sustainable management of forests and protected areas and increase benefits to communities from forests in target landscapes.

The project geographic area includes the Albert Rift and West Nile, with focus on target protected areas (7 National Parks, 4 Wildlife Reserves, 28 Central Forest Reserves) and 11 refugee host districts (using the July 2010 boundaries) and 13 other districts. The performance-based subsidy scheme for private plantation development under Component 2 will be national in scale.

The project is structured in four main components namely; i) Improved management of forest protected areas; ii) Increased revenues and jobs from forests and wildlife protected areas; iii) Improved landscape management in refugee hosting areas; and, iv) Project Management and Monitoring. Details of project activities and implementation arrangements are provided in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

The project objective will be achieved by undertaking integrated interventions by MWE, MTWA, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), National Forestry Authority (NFA) and targeted District Local Governments (DLGs).

2. Objectives of the Assignment

The primary objective for engaging services of an Environmental Risk Management Specialist in implementation of IFPA-CD is to ensure project's compliance with the provisions of the E&S documents required under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and referred to in the IFPA-CD Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), as well as Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), National Environmental requirements as stipulated in the National Environment Act, 2019 and Environmental, Health and Safety Plans, that will be developed for the Project.

3. Key duties and responsibilities

The prospective Environmental Risk Management Specialist will be reporting to the National Project Coordinator but working under the overall technical direction of the Commissioner, Department of Environmental Sector Support. The Specialist will undertake the following tasks:

- a. Oversee environmental issues pertaining to the IFPA-CD, ensuring project compliance with commitments expressed in the ESCP;
- b. Oversee the design, implementation and monitoring of environmental mitigation measures stipulated in the project's ESMF (including Labor Management Procedures), and ESMPs, and Environmental, Health and Safety Plans other instruments that will be deemed relevant from the environmental risk management perspective;
- c. Liaise with the Environment and Social Safeguards focal points in MWE (DESSS) and IFPA-CD Implementing agencies to ensure consistency in compliance with ESCP and other relevant E&S instruments across project and targeted project sites, including the national environment requirements;
- d. Support the implementing agencies in carrying out environmental screening and subsequent preparation of the required environmental instruments for the proposed civil works consistent with ESMF guidance. If it is determined that an ESIA is required, then this shall be prepared by the entity and submitted to NEMA for review and approval;
- e. Provide timely advice to the MWE/DESSS and project Implementing Agencies in regards to any environmental issues arising out of implementation of the project or changes in environmental risk rating that would require due attention;
- f. In collaboration with the project Social Risk Management Specialist, support all project implementing agencies in ensuring adequate stakeholder engagement consistent with the project Stakeholder Engagement Framework;
- g. Design and operate a tracking system to ensure that environmental risks are monitored systematically across the project and the ESCP is timely reported upon as part of regular

project reporting requirements. The Specialist will produce quarterly and annual reports (as per ESCP)

- h. In collaboration with the project Social Risk Management Specialist, design and support the Capacity Building Program of the Project Coordination Unit, User departments in MWE, UWA and NFA on E&S risk management as per ESMF guidance;
- i. The Specialist will participate in World Bank implementation support missions and meetings to discuss environment safeguards related to the project, and project completion reporting.

4. Required skills, competencies and experience

The main required skills, competencies and experience are summarized below:

- a. At least a Bachelors' Degree in Environmental Sciences or related fields.
- b. Six years of relevant professional experience on environmental risk management / safeguards, especially in natural resources management aspects.
- c. Familiarity with key institutions and local context in environment, forestry, wildlife, and rural development in Uganda.
- d. Preference will be given to candidates with proven expertise and experience in applying the World Bank's safeguards policies or the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) as well as Uganda's National Safeguards policies relating to environment, health and safety, community rights, rights of minorities, citizen engagement in natural resources management, gender, equal opportunities and inclusiveness, etc. Knowledge of the World Bank ESF as demonstrated through presentation of a certificate of completion of the free online training course offered by the World Bank is a must.
- e. Experience in Managing Occupational Health and Safety Risks.
- f. Ability and willingness to travel to project locations.
- g. Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking as well as practical problem solving.
- h. Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- i. Knowledge of local languages spoken in Western Uganda and West Nile desirable.

5. Reporting

The Environmental Risk Management Specialist will report to the National Project Coordinator.

6. Duration

The Environmental Risk Management Specialist will be recruited for a period of twenty-four (24) months. The contract period may be extended based on the overall performance and if the need arises.

7. Remuneration

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience

8. Facilities and information to be provided by the client

The Specialist will work within the Project Coordination Unit based in MWE. Adequate office furniture and equipment will be assigned to the specialist.

9. Performance indicators

- a. Satisfactory project compliance with commitments expressed in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.
- b. Sound and functional system for implementing and monitoring/tracking and reporting on Environmental mitigation measures stipulated in the project's ESMF, Environmental, Health and Safety Plans other instruments deemed relevant from the environmental risk management perspective.
- c. Technical backstopping to Implementing Agencies, User Departments in MWE and Districts in compliance with Environmental Safeguards requirements and procedures (including Environmental Screening of project activities), and seeking NEMA's review and approval where applicable.
- d. Timely briefs and reports on Environmental issues for attention by MWE/DEA and Implementing Agencies.
- e. Timely and quality reports, briefs and documentation on Stakeholder consultative processes, that facilitates ease of access and response to public comments or queries at later stages in the IFPA-CD implementation.
- f. Good quality quarterly and annual reports of project performance or compliance with Environmental safeguards (as per ESMF).
- g. Effective support and engagement in project coordination, steering, coordination, supervisory and review/evaluation processes.