# United Nations Development Programme

**Terms of Reference**

**Title:** Implementation of Livelihood Activities Around the Grebo-Krahn National Park

**Type of Contract:** Grant to CSO

**Programme:** Energy and Environment

**Target Location:** Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties

**Language(s) Required:** English

**Duration**: 5 Months (May- October 2021)

**Grant Ceiling:** US$50,000.00

# Background

Liberia, with a forest area of approximately 4.35 million hectares, holds more than half of the remaining forests within the West African Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem (nearly 42%) that stretches from Sierra Leone to Togo. The country is recognized globally as a top conservation priority within the region due to its exceptionally high levels of species endemism. Liberia’s forest ecosystems host the highest populations of elephants in the region and is home to over 225 timber tree species, 2000 flowering plant species, 140 mammal species, 600 bird species, 75 amphibian and reptile species and over 1000 species of identified insects, all of which must be conserved, utilized equitably and managed sustainably.

The forests of Liberia provide a wide range of benefits—both locally and internationally— including provision of habitats for globally significant biodiversity, revenue generation, energy, and food for local inhabitants. Despite these benefits, the forests and associated ecosystems/habitats, including mangroves, along the Liberia’s coastline continue to face enormous anthropogenic and natural threats ranging from deforestation to forest landscape degradation. This is often as a result of activities conducted by host communities and other interests due to limited opportunities for income and livelihood. Today, there are five gazette protected areas set aside for the conservation of biodiversity in Liberia. However, these gazettes are not being adequately protected because communities close to these protected forests use the resources for the livelihood, which is detrimental to the forests and its natural inhabitants.

At the same time the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) is having devastating effects on the economy and population, including forest-host communities. The current restriction and economic meltdown are likely to have an impact on agriculture and food security of populations around biodiversity hotspots, many of whom are small-scale farmers. Many farmers have had to abandon productive agriculture activities as a result of the application of stringent measures to contain the spread of the virus. Additionally, some may have had to sell or use seeds and other inputs intended for planting in order to get food and to meeting their basic needs. The lack of access to good quality rice seeds to plant local rice, the main staple will pose a challenge for many local farmers. With no other alternatives communities around Protected Areas are likely to resort to trading in bush-meat and engaging in the unsustainable exploitation of forest resources. This could threaten biodiversity.

In order to support emergency livelihoods and recovery from the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the lives of small-scale rice farmers in forest host communities, the following interventions will be made. These are intended to mitigate the food security and income challenge created as the result of COVID19 that tends to exacerbate the threat to biodiversity:

* Supply of good quality inputs (i.e. seed rice, tools) to small farmers to cultivate crops during the planting season (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1)
* Support for small grants to households in forest communities to address agriculture and livelihood needs (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1)
* Training on sustainable harvest, marketing and utilization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support livelihood (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1)
* Support for National stakeholders’ dialogue on tourism export strategy and action plans and entry points for eco-tourism investments (E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1.1)
* Support and strengthen local security command structures traditional, religious and opinion leaders to monitor and enforce laws against illegal trade in bush-meat and other non-timber forest products.

UNDP is seeking a qualified civil society organization (CSO) to implement a set of livelihood activities around the Grebo-Krahn National Park, which is bordered by Maryland, River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties.

# Objective of the Assignment

To conserve biodiversity in the GKNP through introduction of livelihood activities in the surrounding communities.

# Scope of the Assignment

The scope of the assignment is to implement a set of livelihood activities around the GKNP to enhance biodiversity conservation.

The NGO services will include, but not be limited to the following:

* + Supply of good quality inputs (i.e. seed rice, tools, etc.) to small farmers to cultivate crops during the planting season (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1):

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of seed/tools/ Specification** | **Quantity** | **Quantity per farmer** |
| Rice | 150 bags (50kg) | 25kg bag/farmer |
| Beans | 100 bags | .33bag/farmer |
| Cassava | 600 bags | 2bags/farmer |
| Power tiller | 2 | Rotational use |
| Cutlass | 600 pcs | 2 pcs/farmer |
| Hoe | 600pcs | 2 pcs/farmer |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Shovel | 300pcs | 1 pcs/farmer |

# The process for selection of beneficiaries must be included in the bid proposal.

* + Implement small grants for households in forest communities to address agriculture and livelihood needs (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1).
  + A total amount of $5,000.00 will be disbursed to 100 beneficiaries around the protected area. Each beneficiary will receive $50.00 or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars. The selection process must be included in the bid proposal and must be gender responsive. Provide training on sustainable harvesting, utilization and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support livelihood (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1).
  + Facilitate and convene National stakeholders dialogue on implementing the Tourism Export Strategy and Action Plans and identify entry points for eco-tourism investments (E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1.1).

The dialogue will be organized and hosted by the selected NGO at a central location in the country (ex. Gbarnga, Ganta, etc.). The maximum number of participants expected is sixty (60) and should be drawn from stakeholders from the tourism, forestry, private, education, CSO, agriculture, environment and conservation sectors and forest dependent communities. The cost for hosting the dialogue, including caterings, DSA etc., should be inclusive of the bid proposal.

* + Take steps to strengthen two local security command structures. The structures could be traditional, religious and opinion leaders to monitor and enforce laws against illegal trade in bush-meat and other non-timber forest products.

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* + Design and establish agribusiness schemes and conduct training of women in how to manage and optimize these schemes in Lofa (Wonegizi) and Grand Gedeh (GKNP).

# Expected Outputs and Deliverables:

This engagement shall be completed within a period of five months beginning August 2020.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Description | Quantity | Delivery Timeframe | |
| 1 | Supply of good quality inputs (i.e. seed rice, tools, equipment) to small farmers to cultivate crops during the planting season (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1) | 300 farmers | October- December | |
| 2 | Implement small grants to households in forest communities to address agriculture and livelihood needs (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1) | 100 beneficiaries | September- November |  |
| 3 | Training on sustainable harvest and  utilization of non-timber forest products | 50 beneficiaries | October 1-15 |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (NTFPs) to support livelihood (linked to E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1) |  |  |
| 4 | Facilitate the holding of a National stakeholders’ dialogue on tourism export strategy and action plans and entry points for eco-tourism investments (E&E Component 2, Activity 2.1.1) | 50 participants | October- December |
| 5 | Take steps to strengthen local security command structures traditional, religious and opinion leaders to monitor and enforce laws against illegal trade in bush-meat and other non-timber forest products. | 2 command structures strengthen for  monitoring and enforcement | August-November |

# Impact Results:

The overall objective of the project is to conserve biodiversity at the Grebo-Krahn National Park through the improvement of sustainable livelihood activities.

In achieving the above objective, the project will:

1. Increase capacities of farmers and rangers for the conservation of biodiversity in the Grebo- Krahn National Park;
2. Increase knowledge of FDA regional authorities in protected area management.
3. Increase knowledge on sustainable harvesting, utilization and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support livelihood
4. Enhance dialogue on tourism export strategy and action plans and entry points for eco-tourism investments

# Eligibility Criteria

Grants will be awarded to organizations based on the following considerations:

* The qualified civil society organizations must be duly registered in Liberia
* Civil society organizations should have experience in the area of livelihood, conservation or biodiversity;
* CSOs should have a presence in the counties being targeted for this intervention
* The institutional capacity of the CSO;
* The legitimacy and quality of the contribution and values that the CSO can provide for the attainment of development results and maximizing the development impact of a programme/project.

# Selection Criteria

Proposal will be selected on the basis of technical (70%) and financial (30%) assessments. The technical assessment will review the following:

* Technical design of the proposal to achieving expected results (40%)
* Experience working with UNDP or other reputable institutions/agencies (5%)
* Local experience and presence (15%)
* Realistic work plan and timeline to complete activities (10%)
* Budget (cost effectiveness) (30%)

# Responsibility for Expenses and their Reimbursement

The selected NGO will be responsible for all personal administrative and travel expenses associated with undertaking this assignment including office accommodation, printing, stationary, telephone and electronic communications, and report copies incurred in this assignment.

# Responsibility for Managing the consultant and the Work Plan

The principal responsibility for managing the NGO will lie with the Programme Specialist for Energy & Environment at the UNDP CO in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority.

# Languages

Excellent English writing skills are essential.

# Evaluation of Applicants

* + Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated;
  + Individual NGO will be evaluated based on Combined Scoring method taking into consideration the combination of the applicants’ qualifications and experience.

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