TERMS OF REFERENCE
Research Consultant – Sociologist, Azerbaijan

1. POSITION: RESEARCH CONSULTANT – SOCIOLOGIST ANALYSES, AZERBAIJAN

Program title: “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia”

2. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES¹:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Direct Reporting Line</th>
<th>Reporting Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENPI/FLEG IUCN Program Consultant – Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Issues pertaining to the IUCN ENPI-FLEG program implementation in Azerbaijan, with respect to conducting assessment of the economic and social impact of unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging on rural population of Azerbaijan.</td>
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All administrative issues pertaining to these Terms of Reference.

3. LOCATION – Baku, Azerbaijan

4. DURATION – 6 months with likelihood of extension

5. STARTING – ASAP

6. BACKGROUND

The European Commission financed European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument – Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENPI-FLEG) program will promote the development of improved forest law enforcement and governance arrangements in seven targeted countries: Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The program’s core funding is provided through a grant agreement from the European Commission to the World Bank. The program is being undertaken as a partnership among the World Bank, IUCN and WWF. Each of the three partnered program implementation organizations will be responsible for its own set of specified activities and deliverables. Three broad categories of stakeholder groups will be targeted by the program: government (line departments, parliamentarians, local authorities and the judiciary); civil society (NGOs, community organizations and forest-dependent communities); and the private sector (particularly timber companies). The program will define the policy, legal, institutional and economic obstacles to improved forest governance (including the control of illegal logging); test pilot innovative approaches to overcoming these obstacles; enhance the capacity of key stakeholders to implement forest governance reforms; and disseminate the lessons learned at

¹ Direct reporting lines indicate those staff members providing direct supervision. Additional reporting lines indicate accountability for particular functions or areas of work. Consultation, information sharing and other relationship lines are not indicated, as they are likely to be numerous.
national, regional and global levels. The program will also support the other regional Forest Law Enforcement and Governance official processes being organised by the World Bank and will contribute to the EU FLEGT Action Plan.

The program’s purpose is to contribute to ensuring that improved forest governance arrangements are in place in the forest sector and closely linked sectors through effective implementation of the ENA FLEG Ministerial Declaration (St. Petersburg Declaration 2005), involving governments, civil society and the private sector.

The program’s specific objective is to contribute to legal and sustainable forest management and utilization practices and improved local livelihoods in the six ENPI East countries plus Russia.

The program’s results will be:

**Result 1**: Increased awareness and commitment of key stakeholders on FLEGA
**Result 2**: Effective national and regional FLEGA action processes in place
**Result 3**: National ownership and capacity increased
**Result 4**: Improved regional and sub-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing
**Result 5**: Effective engagement of key trading partners
**Result 6**: Continuation of the formal official ENA FLEGA process
**Result 7**: Sustainable forest management practices implemented

7. **TASKS**

7.1 **General tasks**

Under the direct supervision of the ENPI-FLEGA Program Consultant – South Caucasus the Research Consultant will be responsible for studying and assessing the economic and social impact of inefficient and unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging on rural population of Azerbaijan; Preparing practical recommendations; Identifying suitable pilot areas for implementing small scale projects that aim to strengthen local capacity for improving possibilities for livelihood development; and for creating strategies to expand the scope for those projects. The study will include assessment of the current socio-economic situation in rural, forest dependent communities as well as assessing the volume of wood lost to poor utilization and illegal logging. Pilot assessment and analysis of illegal logging by the example of Balakan-Zagatala pilot transboundary region. Development of FLEGA indicators using various techniques including remote sensing tools in Azerbaijan; prepare practical recommendations; collect data of illegal logging, dynamics and preparation of Data Base. The study will include sociological semi structural interviews and analyse, volume of wood lost to poor utilization and illegal logging. The study will include field work and interviews with groups targeted by the program (local government, local authorities, local units of forestry administration, communities and forest-dependent communities, population and other stakeholder groups) to provide information about the present knowledge, attitudes and perceptions regarding illegal logging.

7.2 **Specific tasks**

- **Defining scope of work and methodology for the study**

At the initial stage of the preparation for the study the following should be resolved:

- The scope of study to be conducted;
• The availability and reliability of the data on current utilization and illegal logging by local populations;
• The availability and reliability of data on current economic and social state of the forest dependent populations of Azerbaijan;
• Legal basis, regulating the legal access to forest resources by local population;
• Geographical coverage of the proposed study;
• Methodology of conducting research.

- **Review of the regulatory basis and existing practices**

  - Research Consultant will be responsible for conducting a study of current regulatory basis of the legal access to forest resources by local population for their personal consumption (heating, cooking);
  - Review existing practices of legal use of forest resources and identify gaps that enable corruption at the local level.
    - **Analyze existing data**
  - Collate and review existing data on the current socio-economic situation in pilot rural, forest dependent communities. (official data from the governmental institutions as well as reports from different international and donor funded projects and from NGOs)
  - Collate and review existing data on current illegal logging by local population. (official data from the governmental institutions as well as reports from different international and donor funded projects and from NGOs)

- **Conduct an assessment of the economic and social impact of unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging on rural population of Azerbaijan and provide recommendations for improvement of existing practices**

  - **Defining pilot areas (districts) for implementation of the follow-up pilot scale projects and recommending possible activities/topics for the projects.**

As the result of the study, small scale projects will be implemented in the selected communities. The projects will strengthen local capacity for improving rural livelihood development through sustainable consumption of forest products (timber/non timber) which will reduce pressure on forest resources. Under the direct supervision of the ENPI-FLEG Program Consultant – Azerbaijan the Research Consultant will be responsible for the development of criteria for selecting the pilot districts, relevant district should be identified and possible activities will be recommended for the pilot projects.

- **Prepare inception, draft final and final reports on the study and present summary findings during the final FLEG-conference**

  - Prepare inception report which will include research methodology, identification of pilot areas for field studies and planning of activities;
  - Prepare final report with executive summary on the completed study;
  - Prepare Terms of Reference for the small-scale pilot projects to be implemented as follow-up to the study;
  - Present summary findings of the study during the FLEG conference in Azerbaijan and possibly during the regional conference.
  - Prepare presentation materials and briefs summarizing methodology, findings and recommendations for stakeholders’ round table(s), workshops, press/media events, and publication on a web-site.

- **Project planning, assessment and reporting**
• Provide accurate information and advice to the Program Consultant in a timely fashion so that all required technical and financial reports can be submitted;

• In concert with the Program Consultant, facilitate monitoring and evaluation of project progress, impacts and lessons.

- Program Communications

• Work with the Program Consultant and the other IUCN Consultants to clearly communicate results, success stories and key messages from project;

• During external communications use requirements of Guidelines for External Communications prepared by the Joint Communications Team, also upon approval from the Program Consultant, participate in implementation of the country-specific Monitoring & Evaluation plan and communications strategy for the Program;

• Cooperate actively with other co-implementing organizations (WB and WWF) for clear, consistent and efficient communications.

- Other

• As instructed by the Project Consultant, carry out any other appropriate associated work that may be requested to effectively perform the Program activities.

For the implementation of all tasks, the Forestry Expert will be working in close consultation with Research Consultant – Social Economic Analyses.

8. QUALIFICATIONS

The position requires an individual or team with proven analytical survey experience and knowledge of forest and natural resource management issues. Consultant should have at least 10 years of relevant professional experience. The following specific qualifications must be met:

• A Masters or higher degree in a discipline that is relevant to economic, forest or natural resource management or governance issues;

• Knowledge, understanding, and practical implementation of survey methodology that demonstrates clear cognizance of technical, social, and economic focal points associated with forest resources management;

• Knowledge and understanding of the current forest management and governance issues in Azerbaijan;

• Proven project work at international, national and local levels, including some supervisory experience;

• Experience in providing quality technical reports;

• Ability to analyse and clearly articulate complex issues in an understandable fashion to decision-makers;

• Highly developed communication skills, including the preparation of high quality reports and the delivery of presentations;

• Ability to work under pressure, sometimes with extended hours, and to meet tight deadlines without compromising the quality of outputs;

• Ability to maintain confidentiality and use discretion when dealing with sensitive political issues;

• Knowledge of IUCN’s work globally and regionally is an asset;

• Computer literacy;

• Fluency in oral and particularly written English;
• Cultural awareness and sensitivity to gender issues;
• Availability and willingness to travel.