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

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for the Services of

Consulting Company for survey and analysis of economic and social impact of inefficient and unsustainable forest practices, illegal logging and transboundary forest smuggling processes

TA-P111139-TAS-TF091437

BACKGROUND

The regional program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia” (the “Program”) is aimed at putting in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the St. Petersburg Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Plan of Actions for the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG) process.

The Program will be carried out over a three-year period, from July 2008 through June 2011. It will specifically cover seven countries of the ENA Region, including six members of the European Neighbourhood Policy Initiative (ENPI) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine – and the Russian Federation. The Program will support selected pilot activities to be implemented with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector. Most activities will be at a country level, complemented by strategically targeted sub-regional and regional actions. It is also envisaged that the Program will facilitate preparation of the 2nd ENA-FLEG Ministerial Conference in 2010.

The Program is supported by the European Commission and other donors contributing to a special multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Implementation of the Program is led by the World Bank, working in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (all three collectively referred to as the “Implementing Organizations” or “IO’s”) and in close coordination with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders of the participating countries.

Implementation of the program will depend on synchronization of Program activities between the IO’s, and their ability to communicate the agreed Program objectives with stakeholders. To this end, the IO’s have agreed to establish a Program Management Team (PMT) consisting of three Program Managers (PMs), one from each IO.

1 Representatives of the five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – may also be invited to participate in the Program’s subregional and regional activities.
TASKS

The purpose of the assignment is to analyze possibility of prevention of illegal logging through economic and social initiatives; to carry out survey and analysis of economic and social impact of inefficient and unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging; to analyze transboundary forest smuggling processes and to put forward recommendations to prevent smuggling. The Consulting Company will also ensure coordination of its work with other FLEG activities in Azerbaijan.

Specifically, the Consulting Company will be responsible for the fulfilment of the following tasks:

- study and assess the economic and social impact of inefficient and unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging on rural population of Azerbaijan;
- analyze the current regulatory framework and governance practices. This will include review of the legislative acts and laws, international conventions which Azerbaijan is party to, interviews with all relevant stakeholders, including government and non-government organizations, local authorities, community representatives;
- review similar studies which have already been conducted, both on the national and international level, and incorporate the results of those studies respectively;
- collate and review existing data on the current socio-economic situation in rural, forest dependent communities (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;
- study the regional experience and legal framework in forestry management, especially for transboundary forest areas;
- search for economic incentives for prevention of illegal logging and unsustainable forest practices;
- prepare and formulate practical recommendations and proposals to prevent transboundary smuggling of illegal wood products;
- summarize all the findings and recommendations in reports which should be presented and widely discussed with all relevant stakeholders, and then finalized with incorporation of the feedback from those consulted.

Stakeholders’ consultations will be carried out through round table discussions, workshops, and seminars, both in Baku and in selected districts, advised by the FLEG WB Program Coordinator. The list of stakeholders should be proposed by the Consultant and advised and agreed with the FLEG WB Program Coordinator.

TIMING AND REPORTING

The total duration of the assignment is 10 month, starting in ..., 2011, which will include ...working days. The Company is responsible to carry out two stakeholders’ meeting; one in Baku, the other one in the selected pilot region.
Three reports have to be submitted: two interim and one final report. The timing of the deliverables will be as follows:

- first draft report – 3 months after commencement of the assignment (first reviewed by the Program Coordinator and then discussed with stakeholders);
- final draft report – 6 months after commencement of the assignment (first reviewed by the Program Coordinator and the then discussed with stakeholders);
- final report – within the last month of the assignment. The final version should incorporate all comments submitted by stakeholders, WB FLEG team, FLEG PCT, FLEG WB Program Coordinator;
- stakeholder consultations – throughout the whole duration of the assignment (precise schedule, audience and specific arrangements to be agreed with the FLEG WB Program Coordinator).

- There should be at least two stakeholder workshops one at the inception phase and one to present the draft report to get feedback etc.

The Consulting Company will report to the FLEG WB Program Coordinator in Azerbaijan and provide him as needed with all information relevant to the Company’s assignment and area of expertise, including inputs for press/media events, and publications on the national and regional ENPI/FLEG web-sites.

All deliverables should be submitted in 2 hard copies, both in English and Azerbaijani, and electronically, to the FLEG WB Program Coordinator. All translations should be handled by the ENPI/FLEG Program Publication editing and translation service Consultant unless otherwise is decided by the Program’s Consultant.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Consulting Company has to demonstrate proven experience and knowledge of legislation related to the forest and natural resources use and to the rights of local residents and small business. The Consulting Company should have at least 7 years of experience in the area concerned.

The following specific qualifications shall be met:

- Knowledge and minimum 7 years experience with the social and economic research issues concerning natural resource management and governance issues on local and international level (preferably EU, other);
- Experience with issues on governance, public awareness and participation in decision making;
- Strong expertise in the development and implementation of applied research tools and survey methods;
- Wide experience of working with clients from governmental bodies, businesses, civil society, particularly NGOs;
- Proven supervisory and managerial experience in international projects, programs, initiatives, assignments;
- Ability to analyse and clearly articulate complex issues in an understandable fashion to decision-makers;
• Highly developed economic research skills, including preparation of high quality reports and 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 World Bank work globally and regionally is an asset;
• Computer literacy;
• Fluency in oral and particularly written English and Azerbaijani is mandatory; good command of Russian is an advantage;
• Cultural awareness and sensitivity to gender issues;
• Availability and willingness to travel internationally.