Regional program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia”

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WWF-Caucasus Programme Office is seeking a consultant to facilitate Regional Workshop on Voluntary Forest Certification and Initiation of the Process of Elaboration of Sustainable Forest Management Standard for the Southern Caucasus

1. Background information on the project

The regional program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia” (the “Program”), supported by the European Commission and other donors, 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 on the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG). It will cover seven countries of the ENA Region, including six members of the European Neighborhood Policy Initiative – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine – and the Russian Federation. Implementation of the Program is led by the World Bank, working in partnership with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The Program will be carried out from February 2008 through June 2012. It 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 regional actions. The program activities cover: development of national action plans, capacity building and training, awareness raising, assistance in enhancing regional and sub regional collaboration, and support for the implementation of the priority actions on FLEG. Alongside this, the program will carry out analytical work on illegal forest activities and government responses to such crime, as well as monitoring or related developments. The outputs of the program will be:

- **Result 1:** Increased awareness and commitment of key stakeholders on FLEG
- **Result 2:** Effective national and regional FLEG 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 FLEG process
- **Result 7:** Sustainable forest management practices implemented.

2. Objectives of the assignment

The objective of this assignment is to prepare the agenda and facilitate the workshop on Voluntary Forest Certification and Initiation of the Process of Elaboration of Sustainable Forest Management Standard for the Southern Caucasus (a two-day workshop will be held in Batumi, Georgia, on 23-24 May 2012). The workshop should kick-off the process of elaboration of a regional sustainable forestry standard for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It is hoped that at the workshop, an agreement could be reached among the participants on the concrete steps towards elaboration of the regional standard. The standard could subsequently be used for
voluntary forest certification in the Southern Caucasus. Representatives of the 3-4 Eastern European countries with substantial areas of certified forests will also attend the workshop.

3. Scope of work, duration and estimated time input

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager (WWF-Caucasus Programme Office), the consultant will:

- Obtain background information about forestry sectors in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia as well as the perspectives of initiation of voluntary forest certification in these countries (three working days);
- Prepare the workshop agenda (two working days);
- Facilitate the workshop (two working days);
- Prepare the workshop proceedings (with summaries of presentations) and submit to the Project Manager (five working days).

In total, the duration of work is 12 working days.

4. Expected outcomes

- Information about the experience in the field of forest certification exchanged among the participants;
- The idea of initiating the process of elaboration of the regional sustainable forest management standard for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia has been accepted among the participants and the first concrete steps have been designed and agreed upon.

5. Qualification requirements and evaluation criteria

- University degree in forestry;
- Minimum five years of working experience in the field of forest management and policy which includes substantial experience in voluntary forest certification;
- Working experience in forest certification-related issues in post-socialist countries (especially Armenia, Azerbaijan and/or Georgia) would be an advantage;
- Strong communication skills and ability to cooperate with stakeholders from public and private sector;
- Working knowledge of English and Russian.

6. Reporting requirements

The consultant will:

- Directly report to the Project Manager within the scope of the work outlined above;
- Provide accurate information and advice to the Project Manager (including administrative and logistical issues) in a timely manner.

The deliverables will include:

- Workshop effectively facilitated;
- Workshop proceedings.