



Terms of Reference

AFF – International negotiations expert

Consultancy no. 01-621. Initiate development of systematic and on-going mechanisms or processes for achieving common African positions and effective African engagement in international multilateral processes (**one expert for Africa**).

Background

The African Forest Forum (AFF) is a pan-African non-governmental organization with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is an association of individuals who share the quest for and commitment to the sustainable management, use and conservation of the forest and tree resources of Africa for the socio-economic wellbeing of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

The purpose of AFF is to provide a platform and create an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant policy and technical issues pertaining to achieving sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources as part of efforts to reduce poverty and promote economic and social development.

The African Forest Forum has secured funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to implement a project entitled "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa" that seeks to generate and share knowledge and information through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into policy options and capacity building for improved forest management that better address poverty eradication and environmental protection in Africa.

The project has the following six **specific objectives** that have been identified as covering the highest priority areas to be delivered by this project:

7. To facilitate the emergence of a strong partnership platform through which stakeholders identify challenges related to sustainable management of forest and tree resources and co-create solutions.
8. To facilitate the collation, synthesis, provision of access to, exchange and management of critical information and knowledge demanded by stakeholders in African forestry for forestry compatible development.

9. To catalyse efforts to enhance equitable and sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to adverse effects of climate change, and upscale promising approaches that support livelihoods.
10. To facilitate the formulation and harmonization of evidence-based policies, regulations and governance mechanisms to strengthen public and private institutions to effectively support SFM and transparent trade.
11. To enhance capacity of institutions and individuals – including farmers and farmer organizations, and other private sector actors, professional organisations, and public sector organizations - to achieve forest compatible development.
12. To strengthen participation in regional and international debates and negotiations related to forestry and enhance informed country adoption and implementation of international and regional forest and related agreements.

For its annual work plan in 2014, AFF plans to initiate the development, synthesis and facilitation of ongoing mechanisms or processes for “achieving common African engagement in international multilateral processes. This activity will shape a future in which African participation in international forestry dialogue, discourses and processes is effective, well-coordinated, and truly reflects the context realities of the continent.

This training courses will be conducted in selected countries in different ecoregions (Forest types covered: Sahel-parklands, woodlands, and savannah, dry forests, moist forests). The African Forest Forum is recruiting one expert (for continental Africa) to develop the training module.

Purpose of the work

To provide technical backstopping to African delegates during regional and international convenings on forestry and related issues, develop a relevant training module and prepare short courses on negotiation skills.

Specific tasks

- Assess the input of African delegates to key international negotiations, especially sessions of UNFF, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD.
- Assess the potential and conditions for sustainable mechanisms for effective African engagement in international forestry processes/negotiations.
- Assess the challenges of African delegates face to effectively influence policy in global negotiations
- Identify the negotiation skills gap prevalent among African negotiators and formulate the training needs required
- Develop and validate a relevant training module for effective engagement of African delegates in international multilateral processes

Minimum qualifications and skills

- Be an expert with proven knowledge and experience in international processes and negotiations in the area of forestry and natural resources;

- Have broad knowledge and experience in global forest policy and related issue, climate change, and sustainable forest management;
- Experience and understanding of customized training courses in international negotiations
- Have good writing skills and have at least written a book chapter and published peer reviewed journal papers;
- Have at least a Master's degree in natural resources management policy, law, or administration;
- A PhD will be an added advantage;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Working knowledge of French will be an added advantage.

Expected Scope and Duration of Assignment

The tasks in this TOR are estimated to be the equivalent to 1 (one) person-month of work load, commencing on 15 July, 2014 and spread over a period of three months. The consultant can work from his/her location but in close consultation with AFF and according to agreed delivery schedule.

How to apply

Please email, quoting the consultancy number, and a proposal containing:

- Cover letter (stating how the above qualification and experience requirement are met),
- Key results area and corresponding specific activities
- Data matrix listing the information needs plotted against data source
- Draft work plan (clear deliverables plotted against work weeks for each key results)
- Annex tentative table of contents with corresponding number of pages
- Annex an updated CV

with the subject line: "Consultancy no: 01-621: International negotiations expert" to:

All submissions should be made electronically to j.yila@cgiar.org and y.yemshaw@cgiar.org with copy to m.larwanou@cgiar.org and g.kowero@cgiar.org

Application deadline is **July 14, 2014**. Only successful applicants will be contacted. The experts will be selected based on their relevant experience and demonstrated capability.