



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT.**

Project: Large Scale Forests Landscape Restoration in Rwanda: Tree Rich Landscape to Foster Biodiversity, Climate Change Resilience, and Better Livelihoods

1. Background on IKI BIG Project.

In 2011, Rwanda committed to bringing under restoration 2 million hectares of land by 2030 under Bonn Challenge¹. In recent years, the Government of Rwanda has been putting most of the restoration efforts in the Eastern Province, as it remains the most degraded part of the country as well as the worst hit by climate change.

Building on several other initiatives, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA) is undertaking a 4-years Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Project named “*Large scale Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa - tree rich landscapes to foster biodiversity, climate change resilience and better livelihoods*”, in Kirehe and Nyagatare Districts in Eastern province. Funded by BMU and implemented in three additional countries in Africa, (i.e. Kenya, Malawi, and Cameroon) by a consortium of technical partners including WB, FAO, WRI, WWF , AUDA NEPAD, and IUCN, the project aims at increasing the economic, ecological, and climate-related benefits from large-scale FLR. In Rwanda, the project seeks to restore 25,000 ha of degraded lands in the target districts by 2024. The project will provide field technical support; build FLR capacity among stakeholders; provide policy advice on FLR; unblock large-scale restoration, and share FLR experiences and lessons learned.

The overall goal for this programme is to increase economic, ecological, and climate-related benefits which are expected to contribute to the reduction of emission of greenhouse gases improved community resilience (particularly of poor subsistence farmers, women, and pastoralists) to the negative impacts of climate change; and reduced pressure on biodiversity-rich habitats.

To enhance community resilience, community participation is expected to be an important aspect of this project. Building on FLR lessons learned over the years, the project will adopt a bottom-up approach (commonly known as the community approach) in the implementation of land use actions. Embedded on the principles of Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), the bottom-up approach provides a negotiation space for FLR actions where landscape restoration challenges and actions are discussed with and agreed upon by the local stakeholders, e.g. the landowners, farmers, and wider communities. The agreed

¹ The Bonn Challenge, launched by the Government of Germany and IUCN in 2011, is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

interventions are subsequently implemented with full participation and buy-in from the communities.

The anticipated on-ground direct interventions in this project include rehabilitation of existing plantations, the establishment of new woodlots, agroforestry, and roadside plantation. Activities attached to these interventions will create jobs that will positively impact the lives and livelihoods of local communities, create local ownership, and ensure the sustainability of the project. Communities will also be engaged in establishing value chains and business models that will further enhance project ownership and sustainability.

It is within this context that IUCN seeks to hire a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with extensive experience in conservation and community-driven restoration initiatives to support community mobilization and local knowledge management in the aforementioned districts for a period of 3 years.

2. Importance of knowledge management and mobilization of FLR

Communication of the lessons learned and successes of this project is important. As provided for in the communication strategy for this project, documenting and transmitting best practices and lessons learned is key for creating broad awareness and for creating an enabling environment for scaling up to other parts of the country. Under the guidance of the IUCN communication team, the community mobilizer will be responsible for all communication at the community level, bridging any knowledge gap between the technical teams and local communities. The target audiences and platforms include youth, men, women, women groups, schools, churches, Christian Based Organizations (CBOs), opinion leaders, private sector, local media, etc.

3. Scope of work

The selected organization will conduct the following activities in the two districts:

1. Raise awareness on the project among all stakeholders, i.e. community and other key FLR partners, within the districts;
2. Mobilize communities for various training on the potential value chains, **agronomic and land use planning**, climate change, intervention systems, etc.;
3. Engage existing cooperatives and community groups in the restoration process and provide training on; planting stock diversification (with emphasis on the use of native trees), tree nursery establishment, best practices, FLR investments, savings, cooperatives management, and community-based savings;
4. Assist the communities in tree species selection, planting, and maintenance;
5. Develop communication materials in both English and Kinyarwanda targeting communities;
6. Support the establishment of FLR committees/blocks and build and strengthen their capacity;
7. Support the establishment of appropriate community-based restoration financing mechanism and champion the adoption of the community restoration incentives such as Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the two districts;
8. Maintain records of farmers/landowners involved in the project;
9. Establish farmer-to-farmer extension in the target districts and beyond and ensure best practices are documented and disseminated to the public;

10. Involve schools (environmental clubs) and youth groups/cooperatives through tree planting, football competition, athletics, and Umuganda activities;
11. Support and ensure geo-enabled monitoring of restored landscapes at the site and parcel level;
12. Collect and communicate lessons-learned, best practices, and innovations;
13. Monitor & report community engagement dynamics.
 - i. Monitor and ensure effective implementation of on-ground interventions – working closely with communities, local stakeholders, and service providers/contracted individuals/ companies.
 - ii. Monitor and report on communities' engagement and participation in project activities; i.e. manual labor related to nursery establishment, transplanting, and monitoring must be drawn from the communities.
 - iii. Monitoring the implementation of interventions based on agreements made with targeted communities/farmers.
 - iv. Communicate, timely, on inaction, poor or slow delivery, malfunction, inappropriate actions, etc. that may affect the quality, delivery, and sustainability of restoration measures.
 - v. Prepare quarterly and yearly reports on community engagement.
 - vi. Upon completion of the works, carry out the necessary inspection, specify and supervise any remedial works to be carried out and upon completion of remedial works, propose to RFA and IUCN a date for a joint inspection.

4. Expected outputs

- a. Broad awareness of the project (its goal, objectives, etc.) raised among key stakeholders within the target Districts.
- b. Communities mobilized and sensitized on FLR interventions and practices, their importance, and expected benefits.
- c. Digital records of farmers/households/landowners involved in the IKI BIG project created and maintained. This should include, but not be limited to names, gender, age, parcel numbers, administrative location, and type of tree species.
- d. Periodical and end-of-project communication materials (both in English and Kinyarwanda) produced. These should include brochures, leaflets, videos, etc. targeting both the target districts and the general public.
- e. Lessons learned, best practices, and innovations collated and communicated.
- f. Quarterly and annual reports (templates of the expected reports will be shared by the IUCN and RFA),
 - a. Inception report – 3 hard copies and a soft copy- including but not limited to the following:
 - Review of participatory field planning and community approach in forest landscape restoration,
 - Reviews and provide insights on the restoration plans.
 - The overall approach in community engagement and detailed annual work plans.

NB: This report will be submitted within 3 months after the commencement of the activities on site.
 - b. Quarterly progress reports – 3 hard copies and a soft copy - and must include but not limited to:
 - Maps of areas covered showing each type of intervention and related shapefiles.

- Assessment of the involvement and participation of the communities in the on-ground activities, clearly demonstrating the livelihoods impacts.
 - Interventions in percentages concerning estimates in bills of quantities, financial statements, challenges in implementing the works or decisions made or technical proposals raised during weekly/monthly meetings with the Service Provider and the PIC, etc.
 - Achievements made in creating awareness and community-level training.
 - Lessons learned and possible aspects that can be used to build best practices.
 - Project communication: Key communication materials used dissemination methods and impacts made.
- c. Final (end of the project) report- 3 hard copies and a soft copy - describing the successes of community approach, restoration measures achieved (quality and quantity - in terms of hectares survival rates and geospatial location), livelihood impacts, lessons learned, best practices, project communication achievements, major challenges and how they were resolved, and the recommendations.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria				Weight
At least 5 years' of existence and registration in Rwanda				20
Demonstrate expertise; (key experts and support staff) in community mobilization in FLR or nature conservation;				40
Staff	No.	Qualification	Experience /Years	
Team leader	1	MSc. Environmental Sciences or any other related domain.	10	
FLR extensions/ Agronomist	2	At least bachelor's degree in agronomy or forestry.	7	
Livelihoods officer/ social-economist	2	At least bachelor's degree in sociology or social science or social economics.	7	
Practical experience in working in Eastern province and knowledge about the biophysical and social-economic challenges facing the region. The local NGO must demonstrate the products /impacts it has produced in similar projects in Rwanda.				40
Total				100%

Note:

- a. Any proposal that scores '0' for any evaluation criterion will be disqualified.
- b. This is the first stage of a two-stage selection procedure.
- c. The first stage will consist of shortlisting on the basis of the stated evaluation criteria.
- d. Only candidate who achieves a score of 85% or more in the first stage will be shortlisted for the second stage.

- e. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit a full proposal through a formal RfP (second-stage).
- f. RfP will be sent within 10 days after the results for first stage selection are announced.

6. Process of submission

Interested local NGO's are invited to submit their EoI (in English) by email to rwanda@iucn.org copying Valentine.Ikirezi@iucn.org. Offers should indicate "Your Name" and the assignment title in the subject line

The application must be received on or before 20th August 2021 at 5.00 p.m.

The submission should not exceed 20 pages demonstrating NGO's specific experience or suitability for the assignment (with CVs of the key personnel and the Lead Consultant), description of methodology or clear understating of the assignment, and a work plan.