

## Consultancy to support Participatory land Use Planning in the context of protected and conserved area establishment in the Wonegizi-Wologizi Landscape

### 1. Background:

Fauna & Flora has a long-term engagement in Liberia – which hosts some of the most important areas of Upper Guinean Forest and significant populations of pygmy hippo, forest elephant and chimpanzee. Recent legislative changes have opened new prospects for the achievement of rights-based conservation approaches that have the promise of empowering rural communities, alongside fulfilling the ambitions both of national forest conservation policy and of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The most substantive change has been the passing of the Liberian Lands Act in 2018. This law recognises community ownership of land based on customs, norms and oral testimony. In addition, the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law gives provision for a range of protected and conserved area types, including Community Resource Management Areas and Multiple Sustainable Use Management Areas. Whilst this is an exciting set of circumstances for projects that put rights-holders at the forefront of decision-making for conservation, the reality is that there will always be tensions and trade-offs between competing land uses and values.

Recognising these challenges, Fauna & Flora played a key role in organising the Liberian Conservation Area Land Dialogue in 2023 in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Liberia Land Authority (LLA). This meeting achieved a consensus on a rights-based approach to the establishment of protected and conserved areas in Liberia that ensures compliance with the 2018 Land Rights Act. Major decisions from the dialogue were captured in the so-called Gbehzohn Declaration. This declaration included: a commitment to the promotion of a rights-based approach that recognises local communities as central to advancing the conservation of Liberia's biodiversity, and a commitment to undertake Customary land formalisation( CLF )and respect the right of affected communities to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before the commencement of any new protected area and other area-based conservation initiatives.

In order to ensure compliance with the Land Rights Act (2018) and to put the principles of the Gbehzohn Declaration into action, Fauna & Flora is working closely with rights-holders, civil society, NGOs and the government in the Wonegizi and Wologizi landscape to undergo CLF. Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area (PPA) is the first site where CLF has been conducted in and around a PPA in Liberia. The CLF process is very advanced, and the Liberia Land Authority has delivered land deeds for three cluster communities in the WW Landscape. We are now preparing the next and final step of the CLF under the auspices of the LLA.

The Land Rights Act stipulates that each self-identified community should have a land use plan that informs the community management plan. The participatory land use planning (PLUP) process should help communities examine current and future land use scenarios and to articulate their land use objectives, to consider trade-offs and to inform which type of protected or conserved area model (as per the National Wildlife Law - 2016 (NWL) and which forest management regime is best aligned with the objectives defined by communities.

## 2. Purpose of the consultancy

We are seeking a consultant to support the development and delivery of a Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) process over a 20 days period with a focus on preparing Fauna & Flora staff and community facilitators to carry out PLUP for one cluster of communities (CLDMC) in the Wonegizi-Wologizi landscape in Liberia. The consultant will work closely with Fauna & Flora technical teams, CLDMC members, and community facilitators to build capacity for PLUP, provide technical analysis and advice on land use dynamics, and provide recommendations for sustainable land management.

The consultant will bring their experience of CLF in Liberia and previous land use planning processes (with consideration of conservation, rural development and climate resilience) and work with Fauna & Flora technical specialists to adapt the PLUP method to the context of the recognition of protected and conserved areas. Please provide a proposal/quote (including timelines and budget) for how your organisation would approach this activity and advise on the number of days needed for effective and efficient delivery.

### Task and deliverables (Estimated 18-20 days)

Task	Deliverable	Estimated # of days
<b>Preparation of training materials</b>  <b>Rapid review of existing relevant guidance<sup>1</sup> case studies, and existing land use maps to distil and synthesis the method to use in WW Landscape.</b>  Develop training material with Fauna & Flora team specialists. Including facilitation tips and how to introduce PLUP in the context of potential PCA establishment.	Agenda of training sessions  Training manual and materials	4 days
Conduct a 2-day training for Fauna & Flora field team and community facilitators on PLUP methods.	In-person training following manual	2 days on site (plus travel)
Prepare a module on climate-smart agriculture with Fauna & Flora technical specialist. The purpose of the module is to raise awareness of climate-smart agricultural practices. This will be relevant for discussions about land use decisions/trade-offs around conservation and agriculture.	Climate-smart training materials	2 days

<sup>1</sup> IDH LAND USE & MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDE PART ONE: COMMUNITY-LEVEL PLANNING and LLA SIMPLIFIED GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Conduct with FF team an introduction meeting with CLDMCs committee, community members and county/district level representatives	Conduct with FF team a LUP presentation to explain objectives, outcome and activities.	1 day
Deliver training of a community Land Use and Management (CLUM) team to lead the community in the LUP development process	Deliver training of CLUMT and prepare community gender responsive action plan for writing of land use	1 day (in landscape)
Deliver a Climate Smart agriculture (CSA) training to communities	Deliver training and draft with communities a community action plan and awareness messages	1 day (in landscape)
Deliver workshop to map existing community land uses with PLUP and CLUMT team - presentation of PCA options, review of existing land use map	Deliver workshop to discuss options, train CLUMT to map identified land use information in sub-units.	3 days (in landscape)
Synthesize, analyse, compile information and prepare a draft proposed community Land Use Plan	Draft report on PLUP activities and findings.	3days
Review and pre validate the draft PLUP in a community wide meeting	Revised draft PLUP	1 day
Incorporate stakeholder inputs and share final draft PLUP	Final draft PLUP	2 days

## HOW TO APPLY

All interested applicants or consulting firms should submit their applications electronically via email to [liberiajobs@fauna-flora.org](mailto:liberiajobs@fauna-flora.org). The application should consist of a cover letter explaining why you are applying for the consultancy opportunity, indicating relevant experience and skills (individually or team) possessed, a full CV, and contact details for two referees (who will not be approached without your permission). Additionally, you are to include a technical and financial detailing activity timelines and budget, how your organisation would approach this activity, and advise on the number of days needed for effective and efficient delivery.

Please mark your application '**Consultancy, Participatory Land Use Planning, Lofa**' in the subject line and indicate in your cover letter where you saw this position advertised.

The closing date for applications is **12th April, 2025**. However, due to the urgency of filling this role, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please note that the position may be filled before the vacancy announcement closes; therefore, early applications are strongly encouraged.

Regrettably, due to limited resources and the high number of applications we receive, we are only able to contact short-listed candidates. If you do not hear from us within two weeks of the closing date, please assume that you have not been successful on this occasion.