

## **Request for Proposal**

**Title:** GEF Funded project Natural Capital Accounting - Conservation Friendly Enterprises Empowerment through Small Grant.

**RFP No:** CIL-2025-CONSULTANCY-01

**Date of Issuance:** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Background:**

Conservation International (CI) has been protecting nature for the benefit of all for over 30 years, through science, policy, and partnerships to build a healthier, more prosperous, and productive planet. CI is a global organization active in Liberia for over 20 years, working closely with communities, the private sector, government, and civil society leaders to support conservation and sustainable development. Liberia is at a vital point in its development history with an enormous wealth of natural resources that need to be protected.

### **Project Introduction:**

The Natural Capital Accounting project is a GEF-funded project with Co-financing from EPA, FDA, LiMA, and LISGIS. The project has three components; Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Coastal Ecosystems, Innovative Financing Schemes for Conserving Coastal Natural Capital, and Community Incentives to Conserve and Sustainably Manage Natural Capital in Coastal Ecosystems. The project aimed to improve the conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia's developmental trajectory. A specific focus for this grant manual is component two of the project, "Innovative Financing Schemes for Conserving Coastal Natural Capital" This will help strengthen at least three top SMEs/ local NGOs working along the coastal landscape on Coconut, fishery, and Cassava and other agricultural value chains for long-term sustainability in communities, and local NGOs that work with communities on conservation, climate change, natural resource management, advocacy on natural resources, and sustainable development.

### **Small Grant Objective:**

This grant is tailored to conservation-friendly enterprises/ local NGOs working within either of the nine coastal counties of Liberia and focuses on climate change, natural resource management, sustainable production, and smart agriculture practices.

- I. To support climate-smart SMEs/ local organization that are already working in these landscapes for project sustainability and reduction of threats on coastal natural resources.
- II. Encourage the adoption of sustainable business practices that benefit both local communities and the environment.
- III. Contribute to long-term environmental sustainability through the development and expansion of green businesses.
- IV. To strengthen SMEs/ local NGOs relationships with communities and establish a market value chain for sustainability.
- V. Improve community well-being through sustainable business strategies/ better alternative livelihoods.
- VI. Provide better financial sourcing for SMEs / local NGOs to enhance their interventions in coastal communities.
- VII. To ensure that local communities are empowered through SMEs/ local NGOs intervention after assessing grants and establishing long-term plans for project impact.

**Grant Eligibility:**

SMEs/ local organizations should meet the below criteria before applying for this grant:

- I. SMEs or local NGOs operating within either of the nine coastal counties of Liberia.
- II. SMEs should be registered, with proof of business registration and tax clearance or sectoral clearance from the sector lead.
- III. SMEs should be able to submit their business plan outlining goals, strategies, targeted markets, operational plan, and expected outcomes of the project.
- IV. SMEs should have a profit range of 5,000 USD annually.
- V. Local NGOs shall have impacted at least 500 beneficiaries in their past work.
- VI. SMEs/ local NGOs should have an active bank account with proven transaction records over the last year (s).
- VII. SMEs/ local NGOs should provide an Internal audit record if available or financial statements for the past year.

**Grant Size and Duration:**

SMEs/ local organizations should consider proposals in the below grant range.

- I. Grants will range from \$ 45,000 to \$ 70,000.
- II. The grant will run for one year. All financial activities apart from sustainability for SMEs should be completed within one year.
- III. 70% of the funds are intended to support the direct implementation of project activities.

### **Application timeline and process:**

Call for proposals starts effectively upon the publication of this request, all procedures as stated below, should be followed during this application process.

Application runs from the **14<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 and closed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 by 5:00 pm**, any application submitted beyond this timeline will not be considered. Again, all potential applicants should submit all documents required.

- I. Project proposal: (5-10 pages) covering project details (project title, objective, target, approach, and expected impact).
- II. Budget: A detailed budget outlining how the grant will be used to achieve the project goals.
- III. Implementation Plan: A timeline with key milestones and activities for the project.
- IV. Local NGOs/SMEs Profile: Information about your organization or business, including previous experience in conservation or sustainable business practices.
- V. Submit business registration, tax clearance, and sectorial clearance.

### **Application submission procedures:**

SMEs/ local NGOs interested should kindly follow the below application submission procedures:

- I. All proposals must be submitted in PDF and emailed to [hrliberia@conservation.org](mailto:hrliberia@conservation.org)
- II. The deadline for submission is **January 31, 2025, 5:00 Pm**.
- III. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- IV. Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for additional information or interviews.
- V. For any questions or clarifications, please contact [hrliberia@conservation.org](mailto:hrliberia@conservation.org)

Full details of this procurement can be found via this link >>>> <https://www.conservation.org/about/procurement-opportunities>

*Women-led enterprises/ local NGOs and inclusive groups with disabled people are encouraged to apply.*