



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
Bright Building 302-A Old CID Road, Mamba Point
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
P.O. Box 4024



Consultancy Services
Request for Expression of Interest

Job title		Livelihood and Value Chain Expert (International Consultant)	
Division/Department		Project: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County, Liberia (ERVCCS)	
Program/Project Number/ GEF Project ID number		10376	
Activity Result		i) Report on needs and cost assessment of equipment requirements for identified livelihoods; ii) Report on identified communities and champion households to receive equipment; and iii) Industry-level standards and codes of conduct for identified livelihoods	
Assignment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing standards and codes of conduct for equipment and identified livelihoods• Conduct a site-specific needs and costs assessment of equipment requirements for the identified livelihoods• Identify priority communities and champion households to receive equipment	
Location	Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, and Grand Cape Mount Counties	Duration	50 Days

BACKGROUND

The EPA is Liberia's principal authority for environmental management. It coordinates, monitors, supervises, and consults with relevant stakeholders and sector Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) on all activities related to protecting the environment and sustainable use of its natural resources.

The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the EPA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), received funding for the project “Enhancing



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Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (ERVCCS).” EPA is the project's Executing Entity. It is financed by a GEF Trust Fund grant and co-financed by UNDP and the GoL.

The project aims to build on existing projects to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and their livelihoods to the impacts of climate change, focusing on women and youths. Specifically, project interventions include 1) Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation Planning, 2) Supporting Innovative Technologies for Climate Information and Communication Management, 3) Introducing Hybrid Adaptation Solutions, and 4) Supporting Resilient Livelihood Diversification through Training and Improved Access to Finance. The majority of the above interventions will target all coastal counties in Liberia. In contrast, hybrid adaptation interventions will be explicitly implemented in Sinoe County, one of the country's most vulnerable coastal counties.

The impacts of climate change, combined with non-climatic drivers, such as sand mining, the expansion of agricultural areas, unsustainable fishing, pollution, and inadequate drainage systems, compromise the resilience of Liberian communities' ecosystems along the coastline. Consequently, local communities and ecosystems are experiencing increased coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into groundwater supplies, waterlogging of inland areas, and sedimentation of rivers and freshwater resources due to Sea Level Rise (SLR) and higher-intensity rainfall events. The vulnerability of communities and ecosystems occurs through I) inundation and consequent damage of coastal infrastructure, II) loss of fishery and agriculture-dependent livelihoods, III) decrease in stable income generation for coastal communities, IV) increase in conflict and competition over resources within communities, V) decrease in food and nutrition security, VI) increased risk of vector- and waterborne diseases through waterlogging, and VII) increased pressure on surrounding ecosystems to compensate for the reduced provision of services from coastal, wetland and mangrove ecosystems. In addition, the vulnerability of Liberia's coastal communities and their resilience to climate change, particularly in Sinoe County, is exacerbated by the limited capacity of GoL to provide essential services and adequate support for, among other things, water and sanitation, healthcare, utility-scale energy, and road infrastructure.

As a result, coastal communities in Liberia are threatened by damaging floods and erosion, both of which are increasing due to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, such as increasingly intense rainfall events and the current limited financial and technical capacity at the national and county levels to address these threats.

These coastal counties of Liberia are endowed with significant natural resources and opportunities for economic development, particularly in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. However, there is a need for the establishment of standards and codes of conduct to enhance the sustainability, quality, and competitiveness of



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these livelihoods and the equipment that will be used in training beneficiaries. These codes of conduct will also ensure that equipment is locally sourced or manufactured where possible—which will assist in supporting Liberia’s economy—and the equipment is sustainable and has minimal impacts on the environment. This ToR outlines the role of an international Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist tasked with developing the Code of Conduct (CoC), focusing on improved farming methods, integrated farming system, fishing, fish preservation, and micro, small, and medium enterprises.

In this regard, the EPA, through the ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU), requests expressions of interest from applicants interested in serving as International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialists.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this engagement is to create a set of standards and codes of conduct that will guide the Sinoe PMU and stakeholders in improving practices in farming, fishing, fish preservation, Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEBs), and Macro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSMEs), ultimately promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing value chains.

Specific objectives include:

- Establishing clear, practical standards for integrated farming systems (IFS), fishing practices, fish preservation methods, CESBs, and MSMEs operations.
- Developing standards for equipment that may be locally sourced to support the identified livelihoods
- Enhancing the capacities of local communities to adopt sustainable practices that increase productivity and ensure environmental stewardship.
- Promoting compliance with the industry’s best practices to improve market access and competitiveness.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the consultant shall include but not be limited to the following:

- **Review of literature on Standard Code of Conduct for the IFS, CESBs, and sustainable farming Industries**
 - i. Review studies, methodology, established code of conduct of other African Countries that contains these industries
 - ii. Laise with project stakeholders [Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) , Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), etc.] to obtain contextualized existing literature to enhance the review of new and existing livelihood options
- **Situational Analysis:**



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- i. Conduct a thorough analysis of current livelihood practices in the five coastal counties affected by these activities, identifying existing methods in agriculture, fisheries, and MSME operations
 - ii. Assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) of current practices to inform the development process.
- **Cost Analysis:**
 - i. Conduct a site-specific needs and costs assessment of equipment requirements using
 - ii. ISO standards for the identified livelihoods
 - **Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - i. Laise with the MoA, UNIDO, Liberia Agency of Community Empowerment (LACE) the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA), LIFSCAA and relevant community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs to gather information focussing on upskilling communities on the introduced technologies, practices and standards for these livelihoods and their value chains
 - ii. Facilitate consultations with key stakeholders, including local farmers, fishers, MSME operators, community leaders, and government authorities, to gather input and ensure that the standards are locally relevant and feasible.
 - iii. Organize workshops and focus groups to discuss challenges and opportunities related to livelihoods in the coastal counties.
 - iv. Identify priority communities and champion households to receive equipment
 - **Development of Industry-level Standards and Codes of Conduct**
 - i. Develop clear, understandable, and practical industry-level standards and codes of conduct for each identified climate-resilient livelihood sector: integrated farming system, fishing, fish preservation, compressed stabilized earth blocks, and MSMEs.
 - ii. Ensure that the standards consider environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic viability.
Consider standards and code for specific livelihoods and value-chain opportunities that target women will be to ensure equal gender participation
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:**
 - i. Establish guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the standards.
 - ii. Provide recommendations for ongoing assessments and improvements to the codes of conduct.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

- I. The International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist is expected to deliver the following:
 - i. Standards and codes of conduct for identified livelihoods



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- ii. Stakeholder engagement minutes detailing consultations and feedback gathered during the process.
- iii. Final report summarizing the process, findings, and recommendations for future actions, including rationale and cost assessment of equipment required for identified livelihoods;
- iv. Report on identified communities and champion households to receive equipment.

NOTE: HARD COPIES OF THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE GLUE-BINDED USING GLOSS PAPERS

CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

The International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist shall report directly to the PMU through the Project Manager under the supervision of the Energy and Environment Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Regular updates and meetings shall be held for effective collaboration and supervision.

The International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist shall be recruited for 50 days under a Service Contractual agreement. The EPA reserves the right to rescind the contract during that period should the performance of the Gender expert not meet its requirements.

QUALIFICATIONS

➤ ***Education***

The International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist should have at least a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Environmental Management, International Development, or a related field.

➤ ***Experience***

- Must have at least 7-10 years of proven experience as a Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist;
- Must have worked on a UNDP, GEF, World Bank, or any mega-project sponsored by an international donor;
- Extensive experience in value chain analysis, livelihood development, and community engagement, particularly in agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- Knowledge of sustainable farming practices, fish preservation techniques, and MSME development;
- Proven ability to develop and implement training programs for diverse audiences effectively.
- Experience working in West Africa or similar coastal environments is preferred

➤ ***Competencies and skills***

- Strong analytical and communication skills, with a demonstrated ability to engage stakeholders;
- Ability to identify stakeholders' needs and deliver them promptly and accurately;



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- Tolerant, culturally sensitive, and knowledgeable in dealing with the local environment;
- Ability to work under tight timelines and minimum supervision but maximum productivity;

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should submit a CV, Technical & Financial Proposal, and a one-page cover letter to the below address or by email at maldonakarway1@gmail.com indicating their suitability for the post. **Please indicate “International Livelihood and Value Chain Specialist” in the subject line.**

ATTENTION:

Maldona K. Karway

Procurement Officer

Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe (ERVCCS)

Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

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***Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply!**

The closing date for submission of applications is **4:00 PM on April 14, 2025**. Any submission received after this deadline will not be considered. Only applicants who meet the requirements as outlined in the terms of reference will be considered for evaluation.

NOTE: This information is also posted on <https://www.emansion.gov.lr/>, <https://www.epa.gov.lr/>, <https://www.undp.org/>, www.mme.gov.lr and can be found in local dailies.