



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
 4th Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
 P.O. Box 4024



Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
To provide consultancy for the below services
REOI NO.EPA/ ERVCCS/ICS/004/24

IV. CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND COASTAL ADAPTATION CONSULTANT (IC) TO DESIGN A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY MONITORING OF ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR SERVICES

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT (IC)

Job title	International Climate and Coastal Adaptation Consultant		
Division/Department	Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Sinoe County (ERVCCS)		
Program/Project Number	10376		
Activity Result	Climate and coastal adaptation participatory community monitoring framework designed		
Assignment	To design climate and coastal adaptation participatory community monitoring of ecosystems and their services		
Location	Monrovia, and with required travel (s) to Sinoe County		
Reports to	ERVCCS Project Assistant/Team & Energy & Environment (E&E) Coordinator/EPA-UNDP	Consultancy Duration:	40 Days (October 1 to November 9, 2024)

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 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 Government of Liberia (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.

In this regard, the EPA, through the ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU), is requesting the services of an IC to design a climate and coastal adaptation participatory community monitoring framework. The participatory community monitoring framework should provide guidelines for how coastal communities/districts can participate in monitoring coastal ecosystems and their services and for the adaptations of new livelihood and other opportunities. The development of these plans should encourage and support coastal communities to adopt new gender-responsive adaptation and livelihood opportunities to increase their resilience to flooding and erosion caused by SLR and intense storm events. The adaptation options for these action plans should be informed by the GCF-funded National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). It should include a framework that fosters participatory monitoring of coastal and river ecosystems and their services by local communities and their local authorities.

CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

The IC will be hired against a performance-based contract for Forty Days (October 1 to November 9, 2024). The project team will supervise him/her through the Project Assistant, who shall report to the EPA-UNDP E&E Coordinator. The IC shall submit reports summarized below for the respective period(s). All documents/reports should be issued in English and submitted in hard and electronic copies.

- **Weekly Progress Reports:** The IC shall prepare weekly concise reports with relevant information on progress, highlighting achievements, emerging issues that need clarification, and recommendations.
- **Final Report:** Before the end of the assignment, the IC shall submit a final report detailing all the activities undertaken. It should outline achievements, issues, lessons learned, recommendations, and a sustainability plan.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The overall objective of this consultancy is to design a participatory community monitoring framework for monitoring the ecosystem and its services. This framework will highlight the change detection approach and methodology in mangroves, agricultural land, and water bodies for the local communities. The consultant will design a community monitoring framework generated from the Community Actions Plans (CAPs) that will encourage coastline dwellers to adopt new adaptation and livelihood opportunities, thus making them resilient to the impacts of climate change while reducing activities that will drive degradation. The framework will inform the design of a participatory community monitoring training module, which will be used to train residents of all coastal communities regarding the monitoring and evaluation of mangroves, river, and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, services, etc., that will aid in the mitigation of coastal and marine ecosystem degradation.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The participatory monitoring framework will cover climate adaptation needs, techniques in detecting change in mangroves, coastal and river ecosystems, agricultural land, biodiversity, and the services provided by local communities, as well as monitoring and evaluation. This framework must encourage vulnerable coastal communities to participate in monitoring actively and conserving ecosystems that provide ecosystem services — including protection from storm surges, hydrological regulation, and natural resources such as timber and fish — that, in turn, increase the long-term resilience of both these ecosystems and communities to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, the mapping assessment will document different coastal resources communities use and

identify areas of particular value, such as resource harvesting zones, biodiversity hotspots, erosion zones, agricultural grounds, and newly rehabilitated areas. The mapping exercise will include historical mapping to enable communities to document their observed environmental changes over time. The framework for participatory monitoring will also include guidance for the active involvement of relevant district government staff, specifically by training officers and stakeholders to use global information system (GIS) equipment and software to document and accurately document and display information gathered by participating communities. Besides encouraging ownership of ecosystem conservation by local communities, a participatory monitoring approach also enables the use of local experience, knowledge, and information, which enormously benefits ecosystem service valuation assessments and mapping exercises, focusing on each community's economic viability and strategy for harnessing.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The International Consultant (IC) shall be responsible to perform the following:

- Attend meetings with the ERVCCS Project Management Unit (PMU), including MME, UNDP, EPA, MPW, etc
- Conduct, along with the project team and the local communities, an assessment of the existing ecosystems
- Conduct a desk review to improve the scope of developing the action-based and participatory community monitoring framework, which should encompass ecosystem integrity, alternative livelihood identification, capacity building, resource management, infrastructure protection, etc.
- Identify the impact pathways for climate-resilient and participatory community monitoring framework
- Conduct stakeholders' engagements, prioritizing focused group discussions, key informant interviews, etc.
- Collect relevant data to build on the framework developed in the Community Actions Plans (CAPs), tailoring the document to the climate mitigation approach and livelihood adaptation.
- Design a participatory monitoring framework for community-based monitoring systems that integrate river and coastal ecosystem management, biodiversity protection, and sustainable livelihood identification to promote climate change impact mitigation and adaptation options.
- Participatory monitoring and management of coastal ecosystems, supporting other GEF themes, including sustainable land-use management and increased biodiversity
- Provide relevant support to all tasks, leading to achieving expected results as assigned by the Project Assistant.

FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCIES:

- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including preparing reports and conducting presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; and communicating complex issues and positions to the public and stakeholders.
- Must have considerable knowledge of technical participatory monitoring framework, especially regarding climate change adaptation and alternative livelihoods.
- Excellent GIS skills relating to mapping, marine, mangrove, agricultural land and biodiversity change detection, and database system monitoring

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

A comprehensive climate and coastal adaptation participatory community monitoring framework containing a sustainability plan and stakeholders' engagement report has been designed and submitted in printed and soft copies.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS

1. A comprehensive climate and coastal adaptation participatory community monitoring framework containing an adaptation and livelihood sustainability plan is designed, produced, and submitted.
2. Minutes of stakeholder(s) consultations/engagements.
3. Stakeholders' validation workshop/meeting report.
4. Printed and soft copies of the IC final consultancy product submitted.
5. Minutes of stakeholders' inception meeting.

OUTPUT

The Consultancy will achieve the following deliverables:

- Identifying key stakeholders and their interests and concerns concerning the assigned task.
- Ensuring that stakeholders understood the importance of the community participatory monitoring framework
- Informing and involving affected and interested individuals and organizational stakeholders in developing the participatory monitoring framework and incorporating their concerns, where applicable, in preparing the document.
- Ensuring that stakeholders have access to information about the document development process.

QUALIFICATION – EDUCATION:

- International Climate and Coastal Adaptation Experts must have a Master's in Climate Change, Coastal and Marine Management, Sustainable Development, Environmental Management, Sociology, Anthropology, Monitoring & Evaluation, or other related fields.

EXPERIENCE

- At least seven years of professional experience in developing community action Plans, community monitoring frameworks, climate change adaptation policies or frameworks, etc.
- Previous experience working in a cross-cultural context or a remote, tropical, and challenging environment of the world
- Demonstrated experience in strategic planning exercise
- Demonstrated experience in developing a training module

COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

- Excellent interpersonal communication and facilitation skills;
- Ability to conduct activities with integrity;
- Excellent team player who demonstrates patience, flexibility, and honesty;
- Be willing and able to meet tight deadlines and work long hours when required;
- Ability to work under minimum supervision to meet short deadlines;
- Ability to write and communicate clearly and logically;
- Excellent spoken and written English

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESS TO:

Mr. Maldona K. Karway
Procurement Officer
Project Management Unit
ERVCCS Project
4th Street, Sinkor 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
P.O. Box 4024

Or through sinoecoastalproject@gmail.com, indicating in the subject area “Consultancy Service for International Climate and Coastal Adaptation Consultant (IC) to Design Participatory Community Monitoring Framework”. The closing date for submission of REOIs is 4PM, September 19th, 2024. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions meeting the requirement/criteria in the REOIs will be considered for evaluation. The application package must include a CV outlining suitability for the required task and technical and financial proposals.

NOTE: This information is posted on <https://www.emansion.gov.lr/>, <https://www.epa.gov.lr/>, <https://www.undp.org/> and can be found in local dailies. **FEMALES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!**