

Term of Reference for an Expert to Support Development of GVL Initiative's Collaboration Framework Agreement/ MoU

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the largest conservation organizations in the World. WWF has been working in the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) for many years alongside the government, civil society, private sector organizations and local communities to contribute towards providing an enabling environment for the achievement of sustainable natural resource management. Our mission is to stop degradation of our planet's natural environment, and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Introduction:

In 2020, WWF started to implement a GVL Initiative Development Project to inspire the formation of a Collaboration Initiative between the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC) and Conservation and Development NGOs. The goal of this collaboration is to increase effectiveness of conservation work in the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda. A number of background studies have been completed and meetings of partners conducted.

The collaboration is expected to;

- Increase collaboration and effectiveness of conservation work in the Greater Virunga Landscape
- Build a shared vision for the GVL among collaborating conservation and development NGOs working alongside and in support of GVTC
- Agree a forward-looking GVL strategy and how best to collaborate in its implementation including via assigned roles and responsibilities
- Improve outcomes through better collaboration amongst NGOs, increase investments where there are gaps, and avoid duplication
- Agree some potential early projects where partners could collaborate and demonstrate the potential success of the initiative

The future structure and framework for collaboration is for members to determine and there is no presumption of its eventual shape. However, the initial idea is for it to be guided by a partnership agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of like-minded member organizations seeking to work alongside and in support of Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC). GVTC is an inter-governmental regional body mandated to enhance and facilitate conservation work in the GVL- <https://greatervirunga.org>).

Initial discussions have been very positive, but further consultations are needed to agree the framework/structure of this collaboration and to agree terms of the partnership.

A legal and institutional development expert/ Firm is required to support the development of the GVL Initiative's Collaboration Framework Agreement/ MoU and to manage the necessary consultative meetings/ discussions for its adoption.

Scope of work:

The consultant/Firm will help to originate the framework structure and facilitate a consultative process among partners in order to obtain input and consensus on the key provisions in the partnership document.

Currently we anticipate that there will be four strands to this work

1. Initial meeting/s between the consultant, WWF, GVTC and the Core Group of the Collaboration Partners
2. Desk work to review current available literature of the collaboration initiative to further develop the agreement about objectives, operating principles for the collaboration, governance framework and ways of working
3. Subject to the above, develop the partnership agreement/ MoU and consult member organizations to agree proposed content of the resulting draft partnership agreement/ MoU
4. Present the final version of the draft partnership agreement/ MoU to the core working group and the steering committee.

Methodology:

We anticipate that the successful consultant/firm will come with their own ideas and suggestions to improve what we already have discussed. We expect that the consultant/firm shall present a comprehensive methodology for undertaking this work which may include; consultative meetings, literature review, bilateral and group calls/ meetings with key informants, analysis and collation of collected information, and writing of draft partnership agreement/MoU. The consultant should propose how final endorsement/signature will be coordinated given that partners institutions have offices/ executives with varying mandates.

Deliverables:

- Inception report
- Draft Partnership Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Final Partnership Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Timing:

We envisage that this work will be undertaken between June 2023 and August 2023. We anticipate a total of around 20-30 days of work subject to an initial discussion with the successful candidate. The successful consultant will be able to work reasonably flexibly according to the competing schedules of organizations involved.

Competences

Applicants should have a successful track record of developing collaborate partnership arrangements/documents, facilitating consultations and consensus building. They should be experienced in the development of MoUs and Partnership agreements with clear examples of

previous assignments they have undertaken, similar to what we seek. An understanding of NGO and Government Agency dynamics and of conservation issues in the Greater Virunga Landscape/ Albertine Region/East Africa will be important advantages. Fluency in English is essential, the ability to speak French and/or Swahili will be beneficial.

Applications:

Kindly respond to procurement@wwfuganda.org by close of business on **June 20th, 2023**.

Applicants **should send a proposal** with: a cover letter to the application, CVs of team leader (and team members, if proposed), and a written statement of their suitability for and experience relevant to this task. This should also outline their own proposed methods and approaches building on what is stated here. It should include a **financial proposal** based around a daily rate fee and any anticipated additional costs. This will be subject to further discussion with the successful candidate.