



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) CONSULTING SERVICES



“To Conduct a Feasibility Study of Forest Plantations in Liberia”

Assignment Title: “Feasibility Study of Forest Plantations in Liberia”

1. Introduction

The Forestry Development Authority (“FDA”) is the principal government institution responsible for managing, protecting, conserving, and sustainably developing Liberia’s forest resources under the Act Creating the Forestry Development Authority of 1976 and the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006.

2. Background

Over the years, the FDA has established and managed sixteen (16) plantation areas across Liberia, for purposes including reforestation and afforestation; restoration of degraded forest lands; timber production; research and demonstration; and community forestry support. Many plantation areas require updated technical, legal, environmental, social, and institutional assessments to determine their current condition, management status, land tenure situation, productivity, ecological value, and opportunities for rehabilitation or sustainable development. The FDA, therefore, intends to undertake a comprehensive assessment of six (6) of the sixteen (16) FDA plantation areas in Liberia. These include:

No.	Plantation Name	Location	Size (area/hac)
1.	Cavalla	Grand Gedeh County	988 acres
2.	Glaro	River Gee County	908acres
3.	Yekepa	Nimba County	272 acres
4.	FDA/OTC, Bassa-River Cess	Grand Bassa & River Cess County	279 acres
5.	Siga, Dojee Town	Grand Gedeh County	250 acres
6.	Bomi	Bomi County	3,278 acres

3. Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) plantation areas to evaluate their physical and ecological condition, legal and tenure status, environmental and social context, operational and commercial viability, and restoration and rehabilitation needs. The assessment will further identify opportunities for sustainable forest management, landscape restoration, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, carbon finance, and other climate-related initiatives.

4. Scope of the Assignment

The Firm shall:

- Identify, map, and verify the FDA plantation areas covered under the assignment;

- Assess the physical condition, extent, and distribution of plantation resources;
- Evaluate plantation species composition, age structure, stocking levels, survival rates, productivity, and overall performance;
- Determine land tenure and boundary conditions; identify encroachments, illegal activities, competing land uses, and land-use conflicts;
- Assess environmental conditions and biodiversity values within and surrounding plantation areas; evaluate social conditions, community relations, and stakeholder issues affecting plantation management;
- Assess compliance with applicable legal, regulatory, and policy requirements;
- Identify opportunities for restoration, rehabilitation, sustainable commercial development, conservation, carbon finance and climate-related initiatives, and integration with community forestry programs;
- Provide practical recommendations to strengthen plantation governance, management, protection, and long-term sustainability.

5. Qualifications and Experience

The Firm shall possess the following:

- Demonstrated expertise in forestry and silviculture
- Forest inventory and mensuration
- GIS and remote sensing
- Environmental assessment
- Social safeguards and community engagement
- Land tenure and Forestry Governance
- Forest Economics
- Carbon assessment and climate-related project development
- At three (3) to five (5) years of relevant professional experience
- Experience in forestry assessments in Liberia or West Africa
- Familiarity with Liberian Forestry Laws and institutions

6. Minimum qualifications of Key Personnel should include: The team should include qualified specialists with relevant technical experience necessary to undertake the Assignment.

Team Leader

- Master's degree in the field of Agriculture, Silviculture, Forestry, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Management, or related discipline, with not less than three (3) years of professional experience managing large environmental or forestry programs.

Forestry Specialist

- Bachelor's degree in Forestry or Silviculture with at least three (3) years of practical experience in plantation establishment, forest restoration, or silvicultural management.

Environmental Specialist

- Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Management or a related discipline with at least three (3) years of demonstrated experience in environmental safeguards and ecosystem restoration.

Community Development Specialist

- Certificate or above in Social Work, Community Development or a related discipline with at least two (2) years' experience facilitating community participation and stakeholder engagement.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

- Certificate or above in Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation or a related discipline with demonstrated experience designing and implementing project MEL systems for at least two (2) years.

GIS Specialist

- Certificate or above in GIS, Remote Sensing, or a related discipline with at least three (3) years' experience in spatial analysis and environmental mapping.

Finance and Administration Officer

- Bachelor's Degree or above in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, or a related discipline with experience managing donor-funded projects for at least two (2) to three (3) years.

The Firm may propose additional experts considered necessary for successful implementation.

7. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Liberia Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): v.kpaiseh@yahoo.com, with copy to: wynnbeyant12@gmail.com
8. Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by **October 7, 2026, at 1:00 PM** and mention "Feasibility Study of Forest Plantations in Liberia".

Attn: Hon. Rudolph J. Merab, Sr.
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Link for Clarification:

Email: wynnbryant12@gmail.com

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Consultancy Service

“Feasibility Study of Forest Plantations in Liberia”

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4. Objectives of the Assignment

i. General Objective

To assess the status, condition, governance, and management of the FDA plantation areas in Liberia.

5. Scope of the Assignment

The Firm shall:

- Identify, map, and verify the FDA plantation areas covered under the assignment;

- Assess the physical condition, extent, and distribution of plantation resources;
- Evaluate plantation species composition, age structure, stocking levels, survival rates, productivity, and overall performance;
- Determine land tenure and boundary conditions; identify encroachments, illegal activities, competing land uses, and land-use conflicts;
- Assess environmental conditions and biodiversity values within and surrounding plantation areas; evaluate social conditions, community relations, and stakeholder issues affecting plantation management;
- Assess compliance with applicable legal, regulatory, and policy requirements;
- Identify opportunities for restoration, rehabilitation, sustainable commercial development, conservation, carbon finance and climate-related initiatives, and integration with community forestry programs;
- Provide practical recommendations to strengthen plantation governance, management, protection, and long-term sustainability.

6. Methodology

The consultant shall undertake the following tasks:

- Desk Review:** Review and analyze all relevant documentation about the plantation areas, including available plantation establishment records, management plans, maps and GIS datasets, previous assessment reports, environmental and social studies, applicable laws, regulations and policies, as well as satellite imagery, land-use and land-cover data, and any other relevant technical, administrative, or historical records necessary to inform the assessment and support evidence-based findings and recommendations.
- Plantation Inventory and Technical Assessment:** Conduct field-based assessments to determine and verify plantation size, boundaries, and spatial extent; assess tree species composition, plantation density, stocking levels, growth performance, survival rates, and overall plantation health and condition; review harvesting history and regeneration status; identify evidence of fire damage, pest infestation, disease, and other threats; evaluate existing silvicultural management practices; and assess accessibility, road networks, infrastructure, and other operational conditions affecting the effective management, protection, rehabilitation, and utilization of the plantation areas.
- GIS Mapping and Spatial Analysis:** The Consultant shall undertake spatial mapping and analysis of plantation areas using GPS, GIS, remote sensing, and other appropriate geospatial tools to delineate plantation boundaries accurately; assess land-cover and land-use changes; identify and map areas affected by encroachment, illegal occupation, or competing land uses; evaluate the proximity and spatial relationship of plantation areas to protected areas, forests, rivers, wetlands, settlements, and other environmentally or socially sensitive features; and develop updated spatial datasets, geodatabases, and high-quality maps to support plantation management, monitoring, planning, and decision-making.

- iv. **Environmental Assessment:** The Consultant shall assess the environmental and ecological conditions of the plantation areas, including potential impacts on biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystem functions; soil quality, erosion risks, and land degradation; watershed, wetland, and riparian conditions; the presence and spread of invasive species; habitat fragmentation or degradation; climate resilience and carbon sequestration potential; and environmental risks associated with current or proposed plantation activities, with a view to identifying appropriate mitigation, restoration, conservation, and sustainable management measures.
- v. **Social and Community Assessment:** The Consultant shall assess the social and community dimensions of the plantation areas, including community relationships with and interests in the plantation resources; customary land claims, tenure issues, and boundary-related concerns; livelihood dependence on plantation areas and community use of forest and non-timber forest resources; existing or potential social conflicts, grievances, and dispute-resolution mechanisms; gender, youth, and vulnerable group considerations; and opportunities for meaningful community participation, consultation, benefit-sharing, livelihood support, and collaborative plantation management.
- vi. **Governance and Legal Compliance Assessment:** The Consultant shall assess the extent to which the establishment, management, protection, utilization, and rehabilitation of FDA plantation areas comply with applicable legal, regulatory, and policy requirements, including the National Forestry Reform Law, Environmental Protection and Management Law, Community Rights Law, Land Rights Act, FDA regulations and policies, ESIA requirements, and relevant labor, occupational safety, and environmental standards. The assessment shall also examine institutional coordination, mandate clarity, enforcement capacity, compliance monitoring, and other governance challenges affecting effective plantation management.
- vii. **Economic and Commercial Assessment:** The Consultant shall assess the commercial and financial viability of the plantation areas, including their timber and non-timber forest product potential, restoration and rehabilitation investment opportunities, carbon finance and climate-related project potential, agroforestry and sustainable livelihood opportunities, and prospects for public-private partnerships. The assessment shall also examine operational constraints, market access, infrastructure limitations, management costs, revenue-generation potential, and overall financial sustainability to inform practical options for improved plantation development, utilization, and long-term management.

7. Deliverables

The Consultant shall provide the following deliverables:

- i. **Inception Report** – A detailed report outlining the proposed methodology, work plan, staffing arrangements, data collection tools, stakeholder engagement approach, and implementation schedule. **Due within one (1) week of contract commencement.**

- ii. **Field Assessment and GIS Mapping Report** – A summary of preliminary field findings, including plantation mapping outputs, spatial analysis, key observations, and emerging issues identified during fieldwork. **Due at the midpoint of the assignment.**
- iii. **Draft Assessment Report** – A comprehensive report presenting the assessment findings, analysis, maps, conclusions, and recommendations relating to plantation condition, tenure, governance, environmental and social issues, commercial opportunities, and management interventions. **Due on a date to be agreed with the FDA.**
- iv. **Final Assessment Report** – A revised and finalized report incorporating comments and inputs received from the FDA and other stakeholders, together with all supporting datasets, maps, and annexes. **Due upon completion of the assignment.**
- v. **Stakeholder Validation Workshop and Presentation** – Preparation and delivery of a presentation of key findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the FDA and relevant stakeholders for validation and feedback. **To be conducted on a date agreed with the FDA.**

8. Duration of Assignment

The assignment is expected to be conducted over approximately **45–120 days**, depending on the number and geographic distribution of plantation areas.

9. Qualifications and Experience

The Firm shall possess the following:

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The Firm may propose additional experts considered necessary for successful implementation.

11. Institutional Arrangements

The consultant shall work under the supervision of the Forestry Development Authority or its designated technical committee.

The FDA will facilitate:

- access to available records and maps;
- coordination with field offices;
- introductions to local authorities and communities;
- logistical coordination where necessary.

Note: Only consultants with the required qualifications and relevant experience will be shortlisted for an interview.

FDA is devoted to the highest standards of ethics and integrity in procurement. FDA has zero tolerance for fraud and strictly prohibits bribes, kick-backs, gratuities, and any other gifts in-kind or in monetary form. Consultants are selected on merit basis and will only engage individuals who demonstrate strong level of competence.