

**Terms of Reference and Call for Proposals for the Mid-term Evaluation of the  
GolaMA Project**

**“Securing Liberian forest connectivity through community forest management  
and innovative financing mechanisms”**



**Background:** The GolaMA Project aims to conserve an internationally important forest corridor in the Gola Forest in western Liberia by supporting communities to manage their forests while improving livelihoods and establishing a pilot model for sustainable financing.

The GolaMA Project is financed by the European Commission through grant DCI-ENV/2013/323889 and the original duration of the project was from 17 December 2013 to 16 December 2018. Because of delays due to the Ebola outbreak in 2014/15, a no-cost extension of the project is expected to December 2019.

The Coordinating Partner is the UK-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), working in collaboration with:

- the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), the primary implementation partner,
- Levin Sources Ltd., a UK-based consulting firm specialising in artisanal mining,
- and Gola Conservation CLG, the Sierra Leonean entity that manages the neighbouring Gola Rainforest National Park.

The Forestry Development Authority of the Government of Liberia has overall responsibility for all forestry activities in Liberia.

**Results and objectives:** The Specific Objective of the project is: Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) established in the Gola National Forest, Liberia, secure a nationally and internationally important forest corridor while establishing a model for sustainable financing and improving livelihoods. The seven expected results are:

- Result 0: Project partnerships and management processes formalised and maintained.
- Result 1: CFMAs and financial sustainability business plans established for the project area.
- Result 2: Forest communities are benefitting from new, sustainable, alternative income-generating activities under CFMAs and contributing to forest protection.

Result 3: FDA and forest communities are reducing bushmeat hunting and trading in the project area.  
Result 4: Sustainable artisanal mining practices are established and self-regulated in project area.  
Result 5: The potential of carbon trading to provide sustained finance for the project area is understood.  
Result 6: Lessons learned influence national governance of and policy on Protected Areas and adjacent forest corridors and contributes to development of a Community Forest Strategy for Liberia.

**Purpose of the mid-term evaluation:** The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to help guide the implementation of the project from now until the end of the project so that it achieves the expected results and objective.

**Overall evaluation criteria:** The mid-term evaluation will assess the project using the five standard DAC evaluation criteria – relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and relevant impact. In addition, the mid-term evaluation will assess two specific EU evaluation criteria:

- the EU added value (the extent to which the project adds benefits to what would have resulted from Member States' interventions only);
- the coherence of the project with the EU's environmental and forestry strategies in Liberia.

**Objectives of the mid-term evaluation:** The objectives of the mid-term evaluation are to:

1. Validate the design of the project.
  - a. Is the current design of the project, modified slightly from the original, still valid and relevant and likely to lead to the achievement of the project's results and objective?
  - b. Is the current design of the project likely to lead to the *sustainable* achievement of the project's results and objectives?
  - c. What is the extent to which the current design of the project provides EU added value?
  - d. Is the current design of the project coherent with the EU's environmental and forestry strategies in Liberia?
2. Assess progress towards and the likelihood of achieving the project's expected results and objectives and make recommendations for any changes needed to improve the project's effectiveness.
3. Review budget vs project outputs and make recommendations for any changes to improve project efficiency.
4. Assess the effectiveness and the efficiency of the project's operating modalities and management structure and make recommendations for any changes needed for their improvement.

**Special questions:**

1. Identification of any emerging lessons learned that can contribute to Result 6, including any preliminary results with respect to the development of a sustainable business plan for community forests and the likely profitability of livelihoods activities.
2. Identification of any issues or questions that should be included in the upcoming mid-term and end-of-project household surveys.

**Division of time:** As an indication of the priority of each objective above, the time of the mid-term evaluation should be divided roughly as follows:

1. Design of the project: 20%
2. Progress towards results and objective: 40%
3. Budget vs project outputs: 15%
4. Project's operating modalities: 15%
5. Emerging lessons: 5%
6. Survey issues and questions: 5%

**Implementation of the mid-term evaluation:** The evaluation will be conducted on the basis that the primary purpose of the evaluation is to improve the project and for this to happen all stakeholders must understand and identify with the evaluation report.

The mid-term evaluation is expected to take 13.5 days, roughly scheduled as follows:

- 2 days: Review of written documentation and development of detailed workplan
- 1-2 days: Travel to Liberia (if not based in Liberia)
- 2 days: Meetings/discussions with Monrovia-based stakeholders: RSPB, SCNL, FDA
- 1 day: Travel to the project area
- 4 days: Meetings/discussions with community members and field staff
- 1 day: Return to Monrovia
- 1 day: Discussions with Monrovia-based project staff, presentation of initial findings
- 1-2 days: Return travel (if not based in Liberia)
- 2 days: Preparation of draft report
- 0.5 day: Preparation of final report

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Total: 13.5 days plus (if necessary) travel to and from Liberia

The evaluation should take place in March or April 2018, on dates mutually agreed by the consultant and the GolaMA Project Manager.

Please note that the project area is isolated, the road there is in poor condition, and there is no phone or internet connection in the area.

**Deliverables:** The consultant is expected to produce:

- a. a detailed workplan to be mutually agreed with the GolaMA Project Manager
- b. a draft report addressing the objectives and special questions described above.
- c. a final report incorporating comments from stakeholders on the draft report

The consultant may structure the evaluation report in the way they think best addresses the objectives of the evaluation but should include a list of acronyms, an executive summary, a separate section for recommendations, and separate section for emerging lessons learned amongst others.

**Payment:** The consultant selected to carry out the mid-term evaluation will be offered a fixed-price contract for 13.5 working days plus travel costs. Payments will be made as follows:

- a. 15% upon signature of the contract
- b. 35% upon submission of the draft report
- c. 50% upon submission and acceptance of the final report by RSPB.

**Proposals:** Consultants interested in carrying out this mid-term evaluation are requested to send a proposal to Anne Gardner, Project Manager at [anne.gardner@rspb.org.uk](mailto:anne.gardner@rspb.org.uk) by 15 March 2018. The proposal should contain the following:

- a. Description of the consultant's expertise
- b. Description of the consultant's experience relevant to this evaluation
- c. Description of the methodologies likely to be used
- d. Budget

Please keep the proposal to a maximum of 5-7 pages.