

## Terms of Reference (TOR)

### Political advising to ECO. Georgia Project

#### 1. Brief information on the project

Climate change impacts and the demand for fuelwood from rural population put significant pressure on Georgia's forests: up to 90% of rural households (1.43 million people) rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that households use obsolete technologies, such as traditional stoves with a lifetime of two years and an efficiency of 35% or less. Fuelwood demand exceeds sustainable harvesting levels, considering reduced productivity of many forests in the country because of extensive forest degradation. This forest degradation leads to a loss of carbon absorption capacity which is projected to decrease by five times between 1990 and 2030.

In order to address this negative development, the project "Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform - ECO.Georgia" supports the Government of Georgia to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the framework for sustainable forest management (SFM). It will do so by supporting the establishment of a nation-wide SFM system (Component 1) and in parallel promoting market development for energy efficient appliances and alternative fuels (Component 2) to address the main driver of forest degradation. The project will safeguard the reform implementation by diversifying livelihood opportunities and strengthening local self-governance in forest adjoining rural communities (Component 3).

The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) with GIZ being the project's accredited entity. The German contribution is part of the wider German support in the priority area "Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the South Caucasus", which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and climate protection, particularly for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly, both the share of renewables in the energy composition as well as the energy efficiency levels will increase.

Especially rural households using firewood as their source of heating energy will benefit from improved air quality and reduced fuelwood demand through eased access to energy efficient stoves. Forest-related small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees will receive support to improve economic efficiency and environmental sustainability of their business activities. Additionally, staff members of relevant public institutions (National Forestry Agency NFA, Department of Environmental Supervision DES, Environmental Information and Education Center EIEC, Rural Development Agency RDA, municipalities) will receive direct support through human capacity development measures and grant finance.

ECO.Georgia primarily contributes to achieving the SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) of the 2030 Agenda of the UN, but also to achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

The duration of ECO.Georgia is from April 2021 until June 2028.

## **2. Description of the Assignment**

### **2.1. Context**

The GIZ has been supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), main implementing partners: its Biodiversity and Forestry Department (BFD), the National Forestry Agency (NFA), Department of the Environmental Supervision and Rural development Agency (RDA), as well as EIEC in different directions dealing with forest sector reform, with strong focus on introduction of close-to-nature Sustainable Forest Management into forestry practice.

The intensive work is required to bring to local municipality administrations and local rural population the advantages of new Forest Code and upcoming Biodiversity Law for improvement of livelihood of rural population.

To support the start of practical implementation of the provisions of the forest sector reform, new, wide-scaled project was launched “Enabling Implementation of Forest Sector Reform in Georgia to Reduce GHG Emissions from Forest Degradation”.

The project is focused in 3 target regions: Guria, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Kakheti, and 8 targets municipalities: Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti, Chokhatauri, Tianeti, Akhmeta, Telavi, Kvareli, Dedoplistskaro, identified to plan and implement sustainable forestry as well as introduce of energy efficient measures.

### **2.2. Objective(s) of the assignment and work packages/tasks**

The objectives of the assignment are to provide political recommendations to ECO.Georgia team on measures defined in abovementioned brief information on the Project, focused on implementation of forest sector reform, with consideration of their feasibility in current political landscape in Georgia with outreach to the target regions.

In particular, the consultant shall fulfil the following tasks:

1. Advise the Project on all aspects related to cooperation on SFM and MFM with the administration of the 8 target municipalities and administrations of the State Representatives of 3 target regions (C1.4.2 and C3.1).
2. Advise the Project on all aspects related to cooperation with the different stakeholders of the 8 target municipalities, as NGOs, private forestry companies, organized private groups working in forest (C1.1.1 and C3.2).
3. Advise the Project on all aspects related to cooperation with Parliament of Georgia, in particular with the Committee of Environment Protection and Natural Resources and the Committee of Regional Policy and Self-Government (C 1.4.1).
4. Support MEPA in introduction after its approval of the provisions of new Biodiversity Law to the municipalities (C1.4.1 and C3.2).
5. Support arrangement and participate in meetings and workshops in the target municipalities according to needs to fulfil the objectives of the assignment (C3.2).
6. Advise the Project on biodiversity policy issues, as consideration of non-timber forest products and value-chain development, at local level (C1.4; C3.2 and C3.4).

7. Support the development of awareness campaigns on importance of stakeholder participation in FMP in target municipalities (C3.2).
8. Support the development of concept for the establishment of a locally accessible grievance mechanism and incident reporting system for the forest sector (C3.2).

### 2.3. Outputs/deliverables

Expected outputs are:

1. Political recommendations and strategic advice to ECO. Georgia Team according to needs related to the tasks described above.
2. Practical recommendation during the preparation and implementation of meetings related to the new Forest Code and new Biodiversity Law at municipal level.
3. Established cooperation with the municipal administration and related to the Project's activities stakeholders' groups in 8 target municipalities.
4. Recommendations for content and communication channels on awareness campaigns.
5. Recommendations for concept for the establishment of a locally accessible grievance mechanism and incident reporting system for the forest sector

### 2.4. Schedule and timeframe

	Deadline	Number of experts	Number of days per expert
• Output 1-5 / Deliverable 1-5	01.04.2024	1	120
Travel expenses		Number of experts	Number of days/nights per experts
• Overnight allowance in country of assignment		1	24
• Travel costs (train, private vehicle)		1	24

### 3. Experts' profile

**Title of expert** - Required competences and experience

- Working experience in biodiversity policy, forest policy, management of natural resources;
- At least 5 years working experience in national level public administration or management;
- At least 3 years working experience in municipal level public administration or management;
- Experience to work with different international and national governmental, non-governmental or scientific organizations;
- Experience to work in the MoENRP/MEPA is advantage
- Language skills: sufficient level of written and oral English is required

#### **4. Timing and duration**

From 01.04.2022 to 01.04.2024

#### **5. Place of assignment**

Tbilisi, Georgia

#### **6. Reporting**

- All recommendations shall be delivered electronically (text files) in English or in Georgian, based on the request.
- The consultant shall report to GIZ - ECO.Georgia.
- The consultant is expected to work very closely with MEPA: BFD, NFA, DES.
- The consultant is expected to coordinate very closely with relevant staff members of the Project, including Project Regional Coordinators.
- The consultant shall keep a time sheet (8 hours = 1 working day).

#### **7. Other provisions**

Payments will be effected after provision of timesheet for accomplished 20 working days.

Travel expenses will be included in the contract.

Participation expenses in the workshops, meetings, study tours requested by GIZ is not included in the contract and will be covered by GIZ.