



Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a study on, ‘Understanding the current status, emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) for advancing private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes in Uganda.’

1.0 Introduction

These are Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a study on, ‘Understanding the current status, emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) for advancing private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes in Uganda.’ They present the overall objectives of the study, the suggested methodology and approaches, the expected outputs and the required qualification and experiences of the consultant to conduct the assignment.

They provide a reference guide for identification of competent consultants but also actual implementation of the study.

2.0 Background

The Energy sector is dominated by biomass that contributes nearly 96% of the total primary energy consumed. This includes firewood and charcoal supplying about 78.6 and 5.6% respectively (MEMD, 2012). Furthermore, the energy demand is growing between 10-15% posing more stress on the biomass resource partly as a result of the growing population currently which is estimated at about 42 million and with an annual growth rate of about 3.2%. It's projected to reach 93.4 million in the next 30 years (UBOS, 2017). The high demand for fuel wood and charcoal is a key contributor to the current escalating deforestation and forest degradation, currently estimated at about 250,000 Ha lost per year (Ministry of Water and Environment, 2016). Moreover, there is inadequate supply of biomass in medium and long term coupled with unsustainable production, yet biomass energy will still be a major source of energy given the increasing demands for energy by the growing population.

Notable is that if people depending on forests for these goods are not provided with sustainable biomass (fuelwood, charcoal) alternatives, more pressure will still be on forests as highlighted in the REDD+ strategy. Besides, in addition sustainable production of biomass energy is among the practical solutions to deal with this challenge. This is already stipulated in the National REDD+ strategy as strategic option 2 on, sustainable fuelwood and commercial charcoal production among the strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (Ministry of Water and Environment, 2017).

Therefore, the National Forestry Authority (NFA) as the custodian for management of Central Forest Reserves in Uganda, which cover 15% of the total forest estate is a key stakeholder and player to advance sustainable biomass energy production with the forest estate through collaboration and promotion of private sector investment. Besides, over the years NFA has allocated part of the land in the CFR for commercial timber production for restoration and sustainable management of the CFRs. Some of the investments in biomass should be on forest on private land which is 70% of the forest estate but there could be other limitations of biomass investments.

However, it's also not clear whether there is proactive considerations for investment in biomass energy on this land. The guidelines and practices seem to be silent on this. Besides, the status of investment in sustainable biomass energy production within forest landscapes is not known and or documented.

It's against that background that Environment Alert is commission a study on, *Understanding the current status, emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) for advancing private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes in Uganda.* Thus, study will generate some baseline information of the status of investments in sustainable biomass production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes across the country. Overall the study targets at identifying the underlying issues (challenges & opportunities), recommendations and actions for advancing structured investments in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes to contribute towards the huge national demands for biomass energy.

This study is an output of the Environmental Alert outputs under the project titled, *'Increasing access to sustainable and Renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben.'* The project is implemented in partnership with WWF-UCO with financial support from NORAD.

2.1 Objectives of the study

The overall objective of the study is, *'identify the underlying issues (challenges & opportunities), recommendations and actions for advancing structured investments (by Government & Private sector) in sustainable biomass production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes across the country to contribute towards the huge national demands for biomass energy.'*

2.2 Scope of work

The scope of work for the consultant will include but not limited to:

- a) *Provide an overview on the status on NFA's contribution to sustainable biomass energy production through implementation of the guidelines on land allocation for restoration in the central forest reserves;*
- b) *Assess the NFA guidelines on land allocation to identify gaps and opportunities for investment in biomass production;*
- c) *Review the current constraints (challenges & limitations) for advancing private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production in central forest reserves and with forest landscapes;*
- d) *Make recommendations (policy & practices) for addressing the constraints /limitations for private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production in central forest reserves and the catchment/landscapes;*
- e) *Identify practical actions for implementation of the identified recommendations;*
- f) *Submit a draft study report to Environmental Alert;*
- g) *Conduct a peer review meeting with technical experts to validate the draft study report and policy brief;*
- h) *Submit a final policy brief to Environmental Alert.*

2.3 Key deliverables

The consultant will work closely with Environmental Alert's designated staff and submit all the following deliverables to EA:

- a) *Inception report;*
- b) *Progress report;*
- c) *Draft study report;*
- d) *Draft policy brief;*
- e) *Final study report;*
- f) *Final policy brief.*

Notable: All deliverables shall be submitted in softcopy in an editable format.

2.4 Methodology

The methodology will be proposed by the consultant. However, we expect that the consultant will:

- i. Carry out desk review of the relevant documents;
- ii. Use participatory and interactive approaches to engage key stakeholders in respect to land allocation. This may include holding meetings/ courtesy visits with relevant NFA technical staff to get required information and facts in respect to this initiative;
- iii. Conduct key informant interviews with other key stakeholders including: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development; National REDD+ Secretariat; Food and Agricultural Organization – Sowlog Production Grant Scheme III; Uganda Timber Growers Association; Bamboo Association; Forest Sector Support Department - Ministry of Water and Environment; Directorate of Environmental Affairs - Ministry of Water and Environment; Makerere University, National Forest Research Institute, United Nations Development Program; World Agroforestry Centre; International Union for Conservation of Nature; World Wide Fund for Conservation of Nature, Care International in Uganda; selected Local Governments; Uganda Forestry Working Group; Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Network; European Union; GIZ; Parliamentary Committee on natural Resources; Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change; and Private Sector Investors in biomass energy production both in the central forest reserves and within forest landscapes.

2.5 Time frame and timelines for the study

The assignment is planned for during the months of **August and September 2019** and is anticipated to take not more than 13 working days. In **Table 1**, the tasks and associated duration within which the tasks should be completed are presented.

Table 1. Key tasks and associated number of days.

Task	Duration (days)
A) Inception meeting and contracting	2
B) Literature review	2
C) Key informant interviews	3
D) Data analyses & synthesis	2
E) Compilation of draft study report & policy brief	3
F) Validation of the draft study report and policy brief during a meeting with Technical experts	0.5
G) Addressing comments and feedback into final study report & policy brief for submission to Environmental Alert	0.5
Total days	13 days

2.6 Correspondence

All contractual and implementation correspondences will be addressed to Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD), Environmental Alert, P.O Box 11259, Kampala, Uganda, **Email:** ed@envalert.org or joszake@gmail.com.

2.7 Payments

The consultant will be paid professional fees as compensation for his/her technical/professional expertise and time invested in the delivery of the expected outputs. This will be discussed and agreed amicably for a win-win for both the consultant and Environmental Alert.

Notable is that the Consultant will be responsible for declaration of the income for income tax purposes and where applicable, EA will make **6% statutory deductions** (from the gross payment) payable to Uganda Revenue Authority as withholding tax in accordance with the income tax regulations of Uganda.

2.8 Contractual conditions

- a) The best consultants will be awarded a contract to implement the study.
- b) The consultants shall be persons of high integrity and competence in application of the task at hand for the period required.
- c) Except with prior agreement with Environmental Alert, the Consultants shall not publicize or make public through media or in private any (part) of the raw or finished material, recommendations or information provided within the framework of this contract.
- d) All reference materials belonging to Environmental Alert that the Consultants may have in possession by virtue of the contract shall be surrendered to Environmental Alert at the end of the contract.
- e) In case of conflict arising from the implementation or execution of this contract, the parties agree to do their best to avoid legal action, but shall seek arbitration from a third party acceptable to both parties.

2.9 Qualifications and required competencies for the Consultant

Environmental Alert is looking for a competent consultant of consultant/s with the following qualifications and competencies:

- i. *Relevant academic background with a minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree in appropriate discipline including: Environment, Natural Resources/Energy Economics, Engineering, Environment and Natural Resources, Policy and Advocacy;*
- ii. *A master's degree in the related fields is an added advantage;*
- iii. *Demonstrate experience (at least 3 years) in carrying out similar assignments in relation to financing/ investment in renewable energy access;*
- iv. *Strong research, analytical, facilitation and communication skills;*
- v. *Good understanding of the energy sector in Uganda;*
- vi. *Excellent presentation, documentation and reporting skills;*
- vii. *Ability to work efficiently and deliver on committed outputs under the assignment within agreed timelines and deadline.*

3.0 Application process/submission of the technical and financial proposal

The consultant is expected to interpret these ToRs and submit an expression of interest with a technical and financial proposal for delivery of the expected outputs and the cost implications in terms of professional fees respectively. Other supportive documents/evidence as described in **sub-section 2.9** should as well be submitted.

This will be the basis for selection of the consultants, who will be invited to interact with a vetting team at Environmental Alert through presentation and discussions.

The technical and financial proposal should be submitted to Executive Director, Environmental Alert P.O Box 11259, Kampala, Uganda. Or email to PO.energy@envalert.org with a copy to ed@envalert.org or hand deliver to Plot 3, Sonko Lane, Kabalagala (Off Gaba Road).

Applications should be delivered to the above address not later than **13th September, 2019**.