



CHIMPANZEE TRUST

CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Terms of Reference for Consultant

Biodiversity Consultant

ASSESSING COVID-19 PANDEMIC RISK TO BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING, UGANDA" PROJECT

Background

Chimpanzee Trust- a Non-Governmental Organisation whose mission is to “sustainably conserve Chimpanzees in their natural habitat and provide optimum captive care to those who cannot survive in the wild”, has received a Rapid Response grant from the Darwin Initiatives to address the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. The Trust has running projects around the Bugoma Forest landscape which have been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the organisation’s efforts in sustainably conserving chimpanzees and their habitats through community livelihoods enhancement and biodiversity conservation have faced challenges.

Since COVID-19 has had environmental, economic, and societal impacts across the world, there have been increased pressure on biodiversity (flora and fauna) in the forest’s ecosystem (both natural, planted, private and public) with persons who have lost their employment in the closed rural institutions and the city due to COVID-19 returning to their rural homes, further increasing the pressure on the ecosystem services accrued from the forests. COVID-19 presents a potential threat of further degrading restored forest landscapes through increased uptake of forest products thus exacerbating Human-Wildlife Conflict and a potential further spread of the disease and other related zoonotic diseases. The COVID-19 virus aligned pressure on biodiversity has not been documented in this landscape however and it would be imperative to document what this pressure is about, where it is originating from specifically and propose action-based solutions to address the challenge.

Main Objective

The main objective of this assignment is to identify the spatial-temporal pressures to biodiversity arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Bugoma Forest Landscape and propose action-based mechanisms to address the challenges in the short and long term.

Specifically, the consultant will document how COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on wildlife and wild places conservation, particularly encroachment on Bugoma Forest and corridor private forests in the project area through amongst others;

- a) Exploration of hotspots and key drivers of biodiversity loss during the different phases (pre lockdown, lockdown, and post lockdown) of COVID-19 pandemic in the Bugoma Landscape.
- b) Assess the potential impacts of biodiversity loss and how they align to potential zoonotic or emerging infectious diseases.

- c) Highlight critical integrated biodiversity measures (e.g OneHealth approaches amongst others) that contribute to sustainable biodiversity conservation, particularly those that contribute to conservation of biodiversity.

Experiences and Qualifications

- i. At least an advanced degree in Biodiversity and/or Natural Resources Management, from a recognized institution.
- ii. Demonstrated knowledge on the nexus between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods improvement projects.
- iii. Experience and demonstrated ability in conducting action-based research in the natural resources sector.
- iv. Experience and understanding of the natural resources and biodiversity sector of Uganda with a greater focus on human-wildlife interface relations, wildlife management and smallholder farming systems.
- v. Demonstrated ability to work through tight deadlines and produce quality reports and outputs under minimum supervision.

Deliverables

- i. An inception report that highlights the method(s) and approaches to execute the task.
- ii. A technical report that highlights the “Impacts of COVID-19 on the biodiversity conservation in the Bugoma Landscape”.
- iii. Summary recommendations of the action-based sustainable approaches to biodiversity conservation amidst threats of pandemics such as COVID-19. These should be in line with the global One-Health Approach to Sustainable Landscape management.
- iv. Any data products generated during the execution of the task.

Applications

Send in your Expression of interest (both technical and financial) to philkihum@gmail.com with a copy to director@ngambaisland.org not later than **8th February, 2021, 1700hrs**. Your expression should demonstrate a clear understanding of the tasks and the proposed method(s) to deliver on the tasks.