



CHIMPANZEE TRUST

CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Terms of Reference for Consultant

Public Health Expert 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 for 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 burden and prevalence on communities adjacent to Bugoma Forest has not been documented and the current testing efforts have only been limited to selected and opportunistic individuals.

Main Objective

The main objective of this assignment is to assess the prevalence of COVID-19 in the project areas and amongst the beneficiaries and highlight critical health vulnerabilities amongst the participants because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Specifically, the consultant will execute this through amongst others.

- a) Ring test participants in select areas of the project landscape to ascertain the prevalence of COVID-19 infection in the human population.
- b) Identification of potential or actual hotspots and recommend COVID-19 response measures to the communities.
- c) Highlight critical health aligned vulnerabilities, particularly those exacerbated by lockdowns and other restrictions.
- d) Identify, assess, and recommend social protection measures that support community public health.

- e) Document most effective interventions to reduce the spread of the virus.

Experiences and Qualifications

- i. At least an advanced degree in Public Health.
- ii. Demonstrated knowledge on the nexus between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods, and public health.
- iii. Experience and demonstrated ability in conducting public health related action-based research.
- iv. Experience and understanding of the natural resources and biodiversity sector of Uganda with a greater focus on the One Health approach.
- 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 “Prevalence of COVID-19 in the Bugoma Landscape”.
- iii. 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.