



CHIMPANZEE TRUST

CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Terms of Reference for Consultant

Socio-economic 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 has 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 livelihoods especially of the rural forest adjacent communities 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 frontline households and their livelihood strategies in the Bugoma Forest (and associated corridor forests) landscape through amongst others;

- a) Documenting the effects of COVID-19 on the wellbeing and livelihoods strategies of forest adjacent communities, highlighting critical vulnerabilities at the household level, particularly those exacerbated by extended lockdown restrictions.
- b) Identification of impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on producer (farmer) behavior and markets; and emerging resilience trends and strategies in the landscape.
- c) Explore the household-level poverty implications of the COVID-19 response measures, particularly income lost due to lockdown restrictions, making considerations for the interplay between social dimensions (poverty, inequality) and gender considerations.
- d) Propose specific policy measures at various scales to implement that use natural resources as safety nets and scaling up social protection mechanisms that support households with financial and food security safety nets.

Experience and Qualifications

- i. At least an advanced degree in Natural resources with a bias to economics/market-based approaches to conservation.
- ii. Demonstrated knowledge on the nexus between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods improvement projects.
- iii. Experience and demonstrated ability in conducting socio-economic 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 nature-based livelihood strategies.
- v. Understanding of the conservation-poverty nexus in the context of Uganda's natural resources sector.
- vi. 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 socio-economic and household livelihood strategies in the Bugoma Landscape".
- iii. Summary recommendations of the action-based sustainable and scalable approaches to livelihood improvements for frontline/adjacent communities.
- iv. 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.