**Project title:*****CBD GEF Early Action Support Project – Liberia***

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| **Post title** | ***National Consultant*** *- Subsidy Analysis Expert – Biodiversity Impacts and Policy Recommendations* |
| **Procuring Entity** | Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) |
| **Project Location:** | *Monrovia, Liberia* |
| **Duration**  | *2 months from the signing of the contract (with possible extension based on project needs)* |
| **Deadline of Application:** | September 3, 2025 @ 23:59 hours (GMT) |

1. Background

The Government of Liberia, through the Environmental Protection Agency, under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) unit, is undertaking the GEF Early Action Support Project, which aims to strengthen the country’s capacity to revise and align national biodiversity strategies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). One of the critical focus areas is the assessment and reform of subsidies that may have harmful effects on biodiversity, in line with Target 18 of the GBF, which calls for the identification, reform, or elimination of incentives harmful to biodiversity.

Many subsidies in Liberia’s forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and extractive sectors may inadvertently contribute to habitat loss, overexploitation, and environmental degradation. This consultancy seeks to identify such subsidies, assess their ecological impacts, and recommend alternatives or reforms aligned with sustainability and biodiversity conservation goals.

2. Objectives of the Assignment

The main objective of the consultancy is to conduct an in-depth analysis of existing subsidies in Liberia and evaluate their impacts on biodiversity. The consultant will develop practical, evidence-based recommendations to support the reform or repurposing of subsidies to promote positive biodiversity outcomes.

3. Scope of Work and Key Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the National Project Coordinator and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the consultant will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive mapping of current subsidies (including direct and indirect, sectoral and cross-sectoral) relevant to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and extractive sectors.
2. Analyze the ecological and economic impacts of these subsidies on biodiversity, including effects on ecosystem services, protected areas, and endangered species.
3. Identify biodiversity-harmful subsidies (BHS) using international guidance (e.g., OECD, CBD, UNEP-WCMC frameworks).
4. Consult stakeholders including government agencies, civil society, and private sector actors to validate findings and understand subsidy mechanisms and implementation challenges.
5. Benchmark best practices from comparable countries on subsidy reform, particularly from Africa or the Global South.
6. Recommend policy and regulatory options for phasing out, reforming, or repurposing harmful subsidies in line with Target 18 of the GBF and national development priorities.
7. Present findings in a stakeholder validation workshop and revise the final report based on feedback.

4. Deliverables and Schedule

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| Deliverable | Description | Timeline |
| Inception Report | Methodology, workplan, and mapping framework | Week 1 |
| Interim Findings Report | Preliminary list of subsidies and draft impact assessment | Week 4 |
| Draft Final Report | Detailed analysis, stakeholder inputs, and recommendations | Week 7 |
| Final Report | Revised report integrating feedback from EPA and stakeholders | Week 8 |

5. Required Qualifications and Experience

Education:

* Advanced university degree (Master’s or higher) in Environmental Economics, Public Policy, Natural Resource Management, or related field.

Experience:

* At least 7 years of professional experience in environmental policy, biodiversity conservation, or subsidy reform.
* Proven expertise in environmental economic assessments or subsidy analysis.
* Familiarity with the CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), especially Target 18.
* Previous work experience in Liberia or similar ecological and institutional contexts is highly desirable.

Competencies:

* Strong analytical and writing skills.
* Ability to work independently and produce high-quality deliverables under tight deadlines.
* Excellent stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills.

6. Institutional Arrangements

* The consultant will work under the supervision of the EPA through the National Project Coordinator.
* The EPA will provide access to relevant project documents, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and support validation meetings.
* The consultant will be responsible for all logistical arrangements, including travel and communications.

7. Duration and Payment Terms

* The consultancy is expected to be completed within two (2) months, with a total of 40 working days.
* Payment will be made in tranches based on the successful submission and approval of key deliverables as outlined in the schedule.

8. Application Procedure

Interested applicants should submit the following:

* A detailed technical proposal and cover letter outlining the approach to the assignment.
* Updated CV highlighting relevant qualifications and experience.
* Financial proposal

### **9. Evaluation Criteria for Applicants**

#### **1. Technical Competence (40 points)**

* **Understanding of the Assignment (10 points)**
	+ Clear articulation of the objectives and scope of work in the proposal.
	+ Demonstrates understanding of Liberia’s biodiversity and subsidy context.
* **Proposed Methodology and Work Plan (15 points)**
	+ Logical, practical, and evidence-based approach for mapping and analysis.
	+ Inclusion of stakeholder consultation plan and validation process.
	+ Alignment with international guidance (OECD, CBD, UNEP-WCMC frameworks).
* **Innovation and Best Practices (5 points)**
	+ Use of comparative benchmarks or lessons learned from similar contexts.
	+ Clear strategies for sustainability and policy integration.
* **Risk Management and Quality Assurance (5 points)**
	+ Identification of potential challenges and mitigation strategies.
	+ Mechanisms for quality control of deliverables.
* **Work Plan and Timelines (5 points)**
	+ Realistic timeline aligned with deliverable schedule in the TOR.

#### **2. Qualifications and Relevant Experience (35 points)**

* **Academic Background (5 points)**
	+ Advanced degree in Environmental Economics, Public Policy, Natural Resource Management, or related field.
* **Professional Experience (15 points)**
	+ Minimum 7 years in environmental policy, biodiversity conservation, or subsidy reform.
	+ Proven experience in environmental economic assessments and subsidy analysis.
* **Knowledge of CBD and GBF (5 points)**
	+ Demonstrated familiarity with CBD frameworks and Target 18.
* **Regional/Local Experience (5 points)**
	+ Prior work experience in Liberia or similar ecological and institutional contexts.
* **Stakeholder Engagement Skills (5 points)**
	+ Evidence of successful consultations and participatory processes in previous assignments.

#### **3. Institutional and Individual Capacity (10 points)**

* Demonstrated ability to deliver assignments within the given timeframe.
* Organizational structure and roles (if applying as a firm).
* CVs of key experts with relevant experience and availability.

#### **4. Financial Proposal (15 points)**

* **Cost Effectiveness and Value for Money (10 points)**
	+ Realistic and justified budget aligning with work scope.
* **Transparency of Cost Structure (5 points)**
	+ Clear breakdown of fees, logistics, and other costs.

#### **Total: 100 points**

* **Technical Proposal:** 85 points
* **Financial Proposal:** 15 points
* **Minimum Technical Score to Qualify:** 70 points

All expressions of interest must be delivered by email to the address below, before or on **3 September 2025 @ 23:59 hours (GMT)**. Please indicate in the subject line “**National Service Provider to conduct *Subsidy Analysis Expert – Biodiversity Impacts and Policy Recommendations***. Any submission received after the above deadline will not be considered. Only applicants who meet the requirements as outlined will be considered for evaluation. Eligibility criteria and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) law and amended regulations.

**Attention:** ptdoe@epa.gov.lr copying jcammue@epa.gov.lr