Call for Expression of Interest to provide Short-Term Consultancy/Technical Support

Project Summary

Project title: "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Productive Sectors: Responsible Sand Value Chain for Coastal Resilience in West Africa"	
Project number: GEFID: **12029**	
Project executing partner: Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia; National Environmental Agency of Gambia; UNEP –Industry and Economy Division	
PPG implementation period: December 2025 – August 2026	
Consultancy Type & Title: National Consultant – Environmental Expert	
Consultancy Duration: 10 Weeks	
Duty Station: Liberia	
Report to: The Executive Director of EPA	
Application to: Submit Cover Letter, CV, Technical and Financial Proposal to Pescee Doe, Assistant Director for Procurement, EPA, Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia or Email to: **ptdoe@epa.gov.lr**	
Deadline for Application: March 19, 2026 at 5pm Liberian Time, Female candidates are encouraged to apply. **Only short-listed candidates whose applications correspond to the criteria will be contacted for an interview.**	

Project Background

The proposed 36-month regional project, led by UNEP under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation into productive sectors by addressing unsustainable sand extraction in Liberia and The Gambia. Recognizing sand mining as a major driver of coastal erosion, habitat loss, pollution, and biodiversity decline in the West African marine ecoregion, the project adopts a source-to-sea approach to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks, enhance institutional and technical capacity, promote nature-based solutions, and foster market transformation along the sand value chain. Through baseline assessments, regional knowledge-sharing platforms, regulatory reform, private sector engagement, and support for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to transition toward biodiversity-friendly livelihoods, the project seeks to reduce ecological degradation while promoting sustainable economic resilience. With a total GEF financing envelope of approximately USD 4.9 million, the initiative aligns with national biodiversity strategies and GBF Action Areas 3 and 6 to

integrate biodiversity safeguards into governance, markets, and investment decisions across the region.

The project (GEFID 12029), to be executed by the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, the National Environmental Agency of The Gambia, and UNEP's Industry and Economy Division, is currently in its Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase (December 2025–August 2026). The PPG process is supporting detailed baseline assessments, stakeholder consultations, spatial and market analyses, and the preparation of the CEO Endorsement Request package to ensure a technically robust, inclusive, and nationally aligned full proposal for submission to the GBFF.

Objective of the Assignment
To provide expert environmental and hydrological inputs to the project design and preparation process, including ecological and biophysical baseline assessments, data gap analysis, stakeholder and institutional capacity assessments, and recommendations for project activities on sustainable sand management, biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience.

TYPE	TASK TO BE ACCOMPLISH
Scope of Work	**A. Institutional and Technical Capacity Assessment** • Analyze technical capacity and data availability across institutions and communities involved in sand licensing, monitoring, biodiversity protection and coastal resilience (availability of GIS and remote sensing tools, coastal surveillance capability, staff skills in enforcement and biodiversity assessment). • Review the availability of specific technical tools, including GIS and remote sensing tools, coastal surveillance capability, and staff skills in enforcement and biodiversity assessment. • Identify training and institutional capacity-building needs for local universities, businesses and banks or research centers on sustainable sand management, biodiversity risks and nature-based coastal protection. **Baseline Ecological and Biophysical Assessment** • Evaluate existing databases on coastal ecosystem conditions, including beaches, dunes, estuaries, mangroves and marine protected areas, assessing the already documented ecological functions, biodiversity values and the impacts of sand extraction on habitats, erosion, sediment flows and water quality. • Assess baseline biophysical data on erosion rates, sediment budgets, vegetation cover, fish nursery areas and species at risk, including documented impacts on turtles, migratory birds, manatees and fisheries and conduct a gap analysis of hydrological data to determine if sufficient information exists to calculate replenishment rates.

	• Conduct a gap analysis of existing hydrological and sedimentological data to determine if sufficient information exists to calculate the replenishment rates for priority river/coastal systems **Mapping and Spatial Analysis** • Map sand extraction sites and biodiversity hotspots around the country and collect available data regarding sand extraction volumes and locations. • Identify and map priority coastal areas where the project will intervene through restoration, monitoring, or regulatory measures to provide spatial data for planning outputs. **Research, Science and Life Cycle Assessment Support** • Identify scientific institutions working on sand alternatives with the capacity to facilitate life cycle assessments during the project phase. • Develop recommendations for project activities (including description, primary responsibilities, estimated budgets) to support the future elaboration of life cycle assessment studies for alternative construction materials and to quantify the environmental and economic impacts of policy interventions **Stakeholder Engagement – Academia and Science Community** • Must participate in the Project's Inception Workshop. • Identify key stakeholders for the sand value chain in the private sector and academia. • Develop a stakeholder engagement plan for academia and the science community based on roles and projects related to sand governance and biodiversity conservation. **Policy Alignment and Project Justification** • Description of the project's alignment with countries' priorities, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans. • Summarize the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and Socio-Economic Benefits to complete the Project Rationale. • Define project Environmental and Social Risks and corresponding risk mitigation measures
Main Deliverable	• A **National Environmental and Biophysical Baseline Assessment Report**, including ecological status, hydrological and sediment gap analysis, spatial mapping of extraction sites and biodiversity hotspots, definition of Environmental & Social Risks, Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), and technical recommendations for

	project design.
Education	- Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Hydrology, Ecology, Natural Resources Management, or a closely related field. - A degree in Civil Engineering with demonstrated specialization/experience in hydrology, coastal engineering, erosion or related disciplines is highly desirable. - Additional training in GIS/remote sensing, biodiversity assessment, coastal zone management or environmental safeguards is an asset.
Professional Experience	Minimum of 7–10 years of relevant professional experience in: - Environmental assessment and management in coastal and/or riverine systems; - Hydrology, erosion and sediment transport, and related biophysical analyses. - Proven experience conducting ecological and biophysical baseline studies, including use of GIS and remote sensing for mapping and analysis. - Experience with assessment of coastal ecosystems (beaches, dunes, estuaries, mangroves, marine or coastal protected areas) and biodiversity impacts of infrastructure or resource extraction. - Demonstrated experience working with government agencies, research institutions and/or international organizations on natural resources, biodiversity or coastal management. - Experience contributing to project design for international development or environmental finance (e.g., GEF, Green Climate Fund, multilateral/bilateral donors) is an asset.
Specific Technical Expertise Required	Strong technical expertise in: - Hydrology, erosion processes and sediment dynamics; - Coastal and riverine ecosystem functioning and biodiversity; - Environmental impact assessment and data gap analysis. - Proven skills in using GIS and remote sensing tools for: - Mapping extraction sites and biodiversity hotspots; - Analyzing coastal change, erosion patterns and land cover. - Familiarity with concepts and methodologies related to: - Nature-based solutions and coastal ecosystem-based adaptation; - Life cycle assessments (LCAs) and environmental-economic impact analyses (desirable).

	- Knowledge of national and international frameworks on biodiversity conservation, coastal zone management and environmental safeguards. - Strong analytical and report-writing skills, with the ability to provide clear, evidence-based recommendations.
Competence	Technical and Professional Competencies - Demonstrated ability to conduct rigorous environmental and hydrological analyses and synthesize complex technical findings for non-technical audiences. - Capacity to design and implement ecological baseline assessments and data gap analyses in data-poor environments.