



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO MODEL A NATION-WIDE COCOA TRACEABILITY SYSTEM FOR CAMEROON, FROM FARMGATE TO PORT OF EXIT.

Ref:00521_TRCM

Background.

Cameroon is currently the fourth largest cocoa producer in the world, with a production level between 280,000 and 290,000 Metric Tons (MT) per year in the last two years¹. The cocoa sector is an important source of job creation, with an estimate of around 400,000 jobs generated by the cocoa value chain: 293,000 farmers, 2,800 formal workers, 73,000 rural workers at full-time equivalent, and 29,200 family jobs. Moreover, cocoa is an important source of State revenue². The cocoa value chain in Cameroon generates a total (direct + indirect) value added of €400 million and contributes 1.2% to the national GDP and 8.2% to the agricultural GDP. When considering the €7,8 million invested in public subsidies and several projects, the cocoa value chain generates a balance of around €37 million per year contributing to the public finances of the country². The Cameroonian government recognizes the importance of the cocoa sector for its economy and announced ambitious goals to expand cocoa production to 600 000 MT by 2025 and doubling this quantity by 2030¹

The importance of the agriculture sector to the country's economy is marked by its significant contribution of 76.38% of GDP in 2017, up from 68% in 2016. However, the agriculture sector has been identified as a driver of deforestation and forest degradation². The principal agents behind the drivers were identified to be small and medium holder farmers. Sub-sector identified were cocoa, rubber, coffee, cotton, oil palm, etc. Some studies have reported agriculture activities within protected areas, but this has not been clearly articulated by the government as a threat to the permanent forest domain.

The rainforests in Cameroon cover approximately 46% of the national territory and account for 11% of the Congo Basin forests. Therefore, Cameroon has the 3rd largest forest range in the Congo Basin, after the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon. According to recent studies, the country is however

¹ 2020-2030 national development strategy for Cameroon.

https://minepat.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=262-national-development-strategy-2020-2030&category_slug=strategies-de-developpement&Itemid=380&lang=en

² MINEPDED. 2018. Stratégie nationale de réduction des émissions issues de la déforestation et de la dégradation des forêts, gestion durable des forêts, conservation des forêts et augmentation des stocks de carbone

grappling with the adverse effects of climate change and increasing pressure on the forest with an annual deforestation rate of 0.27%, or about 55,000 ha/year (CIFOR, 2021), which places Cameroon among the countries of the Congo basin most exposed to deforestation³.

At the consumer end, following the European Commission's Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests (July 2019), the European Union (EU) is currently preparing two legislative proposals (to be published by the end of 2021) that will strengthen transparency and traceability requirements for cocoa: a directive on human rights and environmental due diligence for EU-based companies and a regulation on minimizing risks of deforestation and forest degradation of commodities imported in the EU.

In response to economic, environmental, and social concerns in the sector, and to ensure alignment with national and international sustainability standards, the government of Cameroon and actors embarked on the Roadmap to Deforestation-Free Cocoa initiative, a process facilitated by IDH. With institutional funds from IDH, the actors elaborated as one of the tools of the Roadmap, a Joint framework for action for Deforestation-Free Cocoa which was signed in January 2021. This was done under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE), Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). By signing this framework, actors commit to protect and restore the forest, promote sustainable production and commercialization of cocoa and improve livelihood of farmers and their communities. Among the commitments, The ministry of Trade was to ensure that the National cocoa traceability system is put in place to enable signatories meet up with the 100% traceability of Cameroon cocoa by 2025 from farmgate to port of exit.

Within the framework for the Roadmap to Deforestation-Free Cocoa initiative and under the leadership of the National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC) with support from IDH, a national technical workshop to elaborate the terms of reference for a national cocoa traceability system was organized in April 2021. During this workshop, cocoa actors including government, industries, farmers, NGOs, international organisations, and certification bodies aligned on the level of data needed that will enable the system to give a full picture of the Cameroon cocoa production and trade. To complete these terms of reference, there is need for an understanding on the model and cost of the traceability system to be put in place. Therefore, the National Cocoa and Coffee Board needs a consultant/consultancy or a consortium to model a national cocoa traceability system.

Objectives

The overarching objective of this assignment is to provide a visual and operability of a national cocoa traceability system which will aggregate farm level data, mobility and trade data of cocoa at a national scale.

Specific objectives of this assignment are

- Assess the state of traceability systems existing in Cameroon

³ https://cameroon.panda.org/our_work/sustainable_wildlife_management/protected_area_management/

- Elaborate a model of national cocoa traceability system from farmgate to port of exit, precisising the intervention of different actors and the possibility of a blueprint. The system must have a public phase and a backscreen phase.
- Outline tools and technologies to be employed by the system and the feasibility its operation in the national context, taking into consideration the rural setting of Cameroon.
- Demonstrate alignment with local and international requirements for a cocoa traceability and transparency.
- Demonstrate its interoperability with other existing individual and national systems.
- Analyze the cost of the entire system (technologies, setting up, human resources equipment and maintenance (per year))

Key deliverables

The following deliverables are expected from the consultant

- An inception report outlining the method of executing the assignment. (20 pages max)
- A report on the state of existing traceability systems in the cocoa sector in Cameroon (15 pages max)
- A report on the different tools and technologies required for the smooth functioning of the system.
- A cost analyses of setting and maintaining the system
- A well elaborated model of a national cocoa traceability system demonstrating how it inter operates with other systems (20 pages) and a blueprint (soft). The consultant will be expected to present this to the project team.

Qualifications of consultant

- The consult can be individual or Firm or a consortium of firms, national or international
- The consultant should have exclusive knowledges and at least 6 years in digital technology and system building.
- Should have a mastery of the cocoa supply chain and a good knowledge of the Cameroon cocoa sector
- Should have experience in developing traceability system for commodities sectors

The team should constitute

- 1 Natural Resources Expert
- 1 Software engineer
- 1 System engineer
- 1 Market analysist
- 1 Economist

Technical and financial offer

A technical offer should contain the background of the consultancy or consortium, demonstrating the capacity of the consultancy to deliver on the assignment, at least 2 references of similar assignment, a methodology and workplan for executing the assignment, and the team to carry out the assignment.

A financial offer will be submitted as a separate file from the technical offer. The financial offer will contain: the professional fee of the experts, travel cost (national and international), and other costs that will

be incurred in completing the assignment. The consultant will bear all the cost of all taxes involved in the execution of this assignment.

Duration of the assignment

The is a 30 professional days assignment expected to start by November and the final report will be submitted not later than December 2021. There will be no flexibility to extend the assignment beyond the expected completion date.

Timeframe

DELIVERABLE	DURATION
An inception report outlining the method of executing the assignment. (20 pages max)	1 week after contract establishment
A report on the state of existing traceability systems in the cocoa sector in Cameroon (15 pages max)	3 weeks after contract establishment
A report on the different tools and technologies required for the smooth functioning of the system. A cost analyses of setting and maintaining the system	4 weeks after contract establishment
A well elaborated model of a national cocoa traceability system demonstrating how it inter operates with other systems (20 pages) and a blueprint (soft). The consultant will be expected to present this to the project team.	5 weeks after contract establishment

Supervision of the assignment.

The day-to-day monitoring of this assignment will be done by the National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC) and IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative. This assignment will be validated by signatories of the Joint Framework for Deforestation Free Cocoa and other relevant government and private institution during a national workshop, under the leadership of ONCC, to be organized by IDH as the facilitating organ for the Roadmap to Deforestation-Free Initiative in Cameroon.

Submitting details

Due to covid-19 pandemic restrictions, only electronic versions of the proposals should be submitted to the following address: mndoping@yahoo.com and CC ngwa@idhtrade.org and MvaMva@idhtrade.org. submissions will be closed by 5PM WAT on 12th of November 2021. The subject of the Email should be: **NAME OF CONSULTANCY, 00521_ TRCM**. Submitting a technical and financial offer does not guarantee selection.