

Terms of Reference

Consultancy on Impacts and Dependencies of Private Sector Operatives within the Atewa Landscape

Organization	A Rocha Ghana
Project	Protecting Atewa Critical Ecosystem through Biodiversity Assessments and Participatory Monitoring
Position type	Short-term consultancy
Assignment	Consultancy Assignment for identification, assessment and valuation of dependencies and impacts of private sector activities on natural resources and ecosystem services of Atewa Forest Reserve and landscape
Position location	Ghana, Eastern Region - Abuakwa South, Fanteakwa South, Atiwa West, Ayensuano and West Akim Districts.
Duration of assignment	14 days, starting as soon as possible
Application deadline	4th October, 2021
Contact Persons	Daryl Bosu: daryl.bosu@arocha.org Theophilus Boachie-Yiadom: theophilus.boachieyiadom@arocha.org Mina Pokua Agyemang: mina.agyemang@arocha.org

A Rocha Ghana is a not-for-profit national environmental conservation organization in Ghana. Established in 1999, A Rocha Ghana is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and also a member of the A Rocha International Network. A Rocha Ghana recognizes the inextricable link between modern man and the survival of the earth's flora and fauna and therefore work to inspire and empower people for natural resource management through livelihood, advocacy, and interfaith dialogue that hinges on research and education. A Rocha Ghana's work focuses on providing practical conservation interventions aimed at contributing to the sustainable management of important ecological habitats and initiating programmes aiming at facilitating target community's ability to adapt to current trends in climate change and impacts of a changing natural environment.

1. CONTEXT

The Atewa Forest Reserve, located in the Eastern Region of Ghana and 90km north of Ghana's capital, Accra; forms part of the Upper Guinean forests of West Africa. It covers an area of approximately 236 km². It is one of only two reserves with upland evergreen ecosystem forest classification in Ghana. The forest consists of a core zone designated as 'Atewa Range Forest Reserve' and a surrounding buffer zone delineated at 200 m altitude and composed of farmlands and communities. The Atewa forest reserve is fringed by about 48 communities.

Atewa Forest forms the headwaters of three major rivers: the Ayensu, the Densu and the Birim which are the source of drinking water for millions of Ghanaians - approximately five million people in Eastern, Central and Greater Accra regions of Ghana, including over one million people

in Accra alone. A primary objective for the reservation of the forest in 1926 was to protect the headwaters of these major rivers and their tributaries.

Ecologically, the Forest Reserve retains a very high diversity of species, many of which are of global significance. Notably among them are *Mylothris atewa*, *Anthene helpsi* and *Conraua derooi* which are all endemic.

Socio-economically, communities fringing the forest have over the years benefitted from the production of high-end agro-commodities like cocoa, palm oil and several food crops and vegetables with varying impacts positive and negative in the landscape. The forest landscape also provides significant Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as bush meat, medicinal plants, food, fibre, fruits and spices which contribute significantly to local livelihoods.

However, in the last one and a half decades, miners have taken siege in the landscape to explore the considerable gold deposits found in the area. It is also worth mentioning that agriculture is the main livelihood of the fringe communities. They have strategically settled around the forest because of the conducive micro-climate it creates for farming. A number of other private businesses including those in the agro-commodity produce buying sector and manufacturing that depend directly or indirectly on natural resources and ecosystem service have also been attracted to this landscape.

Assignment Summary

A range of private sector companies are active in the product value chains of the Atewa landscape, directly or indirectly. These private sector companies play a critical role in determining how ecosystem services and biodiversity is used and conserved. In some areas where there is little awareness around biodiversity, business and biodiversity platforms have been established in order to help companies understand the importance of investing in and protecting biodiversity and securing ecosystem services. Besides encouraging companies to collaborate on conservation projects, platforms also give companies the opportunity to build their awareness and capacity for sustainability. These platforms ultimately inspire and help companies to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their core business operations.

In the Atewa Landscape, private sector activities depend on the natural resources and ecosystem services of the Atewa Forest and surrounding areas in varying degrees and have impacts on them. These dependencies and impacts have not been examined or evaluated extensively as yet.

A research into the dependencies and impacts of private sector activities on natural resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity is necessary to contribute to identifying and valuing the importance of Atewa Forest for sustaining these private sector activities, as well as highlighting how companies could be undermining the sustainability of their own businesses or otherwise by a deplorable and unsustainable forest landscape

Outcomes of this research will help to engage the private sector to support protection and sustainable management of Atewa Forest. A landscape business platform will be established targeting private sector companies in the Atewa landscape.

The main objectives of the consultancy are to

- Develop innovative participatory monitoring system for sustainable management of critical ecosystems
- Strengthen the knowledge base for international designation for Atewa
- Engage the private sector to support protection and sustainable management of Atewa Forest

Target area: Private businesses within the following MMDAs (Abuakwa South, Fanteakwa South, Atewa West, Kwaebibirim, Denkyembuor, West Akim and Ayensuano)

2. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THIS ASSIGNMENT

2.1 Purpose

This consultancy seeks to assess the direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on Atewa Forest's resources and ecosystem services (water, food security, climate, biodiversity and habitats) of private sector entities operating in the landscape, and how these impacts (positive and negative) affect communities' access to resources and services they depend on, and how the companies' own sustainability can be affected by their impacts on Atewa's natural resources and ecosystem services. The research will also identify how businesses may be affected by a planned bauxite mining in the Atewa Forest, both on their existing activities and future plans, due to their dependencies on Atewa's resources and services that will be damaged by bauxite mining.

2.2 Main Tasks of the Consultant

The specific tasks of the consultant shall include the following:

- Identify all private businesses within the landscape whose activities directly or indirectly depend and/or impact on the natural resources and ecosystem services of Atewa Forest Reserve (including water bodies).
- Assess the extent of dependency/impact of each business
- Assess the level of awareness of their dependency/impacts on the natural resources and ecosystem service
- General description of each company/business
- What are their contribution back to the environment
- Rank the first ten who heavily depend on the ecosystem services
- Divide the companies into mining, processing, produce buying and manufacturing.
- Assess the number of employees and turnover..
- Level of business's community engagements and Corporate Social Responsibility.

- Perception and relationship with regulators and information regarding regulatory issues that companies had to contend with.
- Ownership, whether Ghanaian or Foreign or if both what percentage share holdings.
- Connect the impacts of the organisations operations to the ecosystem services to understanding their sustainability performance.

2.3 Expected outputs

The consultant is expected to produce one report in English and submit to A Rocha Ghana.

- List of all private businesses within the landscape whose activities directly or indirectly depend and/or impact on the natural resources and ecosystem services of Atewa Forest Reserve. (the first ten businesses who heavily depend on the ecosystem services ranked)
- SWOT analysis of businesses contacted for the development of a landscape business and nature development platform
- A comprehensive report detailing the methodology, key findings, recommendations and conclusions drawn from the assessment
- A Power point presentation to summarize the findings (with less text and good pictures) and present to the partners in a review and validation workshop to be organized by the contracting organizations
- How companies will be impacted by bauxite mining revealed
- Importance of Atewa Forest for sustaining private sector activities identified and evaluated

3. Report Outline and deliverables

The report outline for the value chain should contain at least the following parts:

- i. Executive summary
- ii. Introduction
- iii. Methodology (including limitations)
- iv. Findings from the Study
- v. Database of businesses with detailed profile data in excel format
- vi. SWOT analysis and risk factors
- vii. Also the report in a power point presentation format to submitted
- viii. Recommendations
- ix. Conclusions
- x. Appendices (list of interviewed informants, socio-economic information and analysis, questionnaires, pictures, maps of studied areas, etc.).

4. TIMELINE

	Activity	Milestones	Date
1	Submit proposals (technical and financial)	Full proposal	04/10/2021
2	Selection of consultant team; signing contract with the selected team	Contract signed	15/10/2021
3	Carry out and complete field work and provide first draft of report for review	Field work completed, and first draft of the report submitted	08/11/2021
4	Revision of the first draft and organize a consultation workshop with the project team	Revised draft submitted and discussed at the workshop	12/11/2021
5	Finalization of the report and submission of the final report	Final report submitted and approved by project team	16/12/2021

5. QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY

This call for application is open to national consulting firms, organizations and individual consultants with sound experience in the services outlined above.

Lead Consultant

- At least a first degree in Environmental Studies or especially Development Economics or any other related field. A master's degree would be an added advantage.
- At least 10 years of practical experience in the above-mentioned field.
- Proven record of program/project development experience.
- Knowledgeable of the study areas and/or in Ghana
- Outstanding inter-cultural communication, networking and coordination skills.
- Excellent written and oral English.

6. Available Budget

The total budget available for this assignment is **\$3,540**. All costs should be included in the quoted price of the consultant (including Withholding Tax).

Evaluation Criteria

A selection committee of 3 members will be set to evaluate the applications and reach out to short listed applicants by 18/10/2021

Proposals will be evaluated considering the best quality and price ratio. The criteria below will be used in the evaluation of the proposals.

Criteria	Score
Cost and competitiveness (Is the budget matching the available budget?)	/30
General understanding of the assignment	/20
Previous demonstrable experience in conducting similar assessment (references of assessment/ studies carried out in Ghana and/or elsewhere)	/20
Academic knowledge and competence	/10
Flexibility and adaptability (Availability of the Consultant at the required period, readiness to carry out the assessment within the requested timeframe)	/10
Clarity of the technical and financial proposals (Is the budget presented clearly to allow direct understanding? Is the technical proposal well communicated, in simple language, sufficiently detailed and clear to allow direct understanding?)	/10
TOTAL	/100

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested applicants must submit technical and financial consultancy proposals and updated curriculum vitae by email to the contact persons in the general information table above