 Republic of Liberia

 **National Investment Commission (NIC)**

 M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive

 Monrovia, Liberia



**Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)**

**(Individual Consultancy Service)**

**Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICE “RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN (RAP) CONSULTANT FOR THE (LIBERIA) SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ZONE (SAPZ), BUCHANAN CITY – GRAND BASSA COUNTRY - LIBERIA”**

**Sector: Agriculture/Industry**

**Financing Agreement Reference: 2100150042703**

**Project ID: P-LR-AA0-009**

**1. Background**

The Government of Liberia through the National Investment Commission has received funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) towards the preparation and implementation of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project. The Project Development Objective is to facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth and sustainable value-added agricultural development in Liberia. The Project aims to reduce unemployment gap/rate, decrease staple food imports, and providing required infrastructure and enabling economic environment for expansion of the private sector investment in the agriculture and Agro-industry.

The SAPZ Project has three components namely, Component 1; Strengthening institutional capacity and support the development of climate resilient enabling infrastructure to attract investment into agricultural value addition; Component 2; Enable skills and climate-smart agricultural value chain development and strengthen farmer coordination; and Component 3; Project coordination and Management. The produce of priorities for the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Project include; rice, aquaculture, cocoa, coffee, cassava, oil palm, fruits, rubber, vegetables etc.

The proposed Special Economic Zone is located in the City of Buchanan, capital of Grand Bassa County. The SAPZ project will utilize 200 ha of the designated Special Economic Zone (631 ha) land space situated in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The proposed sites for construction and operation of the Agricultural Transformation Centers (ATCs) include Madina, Grand Cape mount, Gbartala, Bong and Sanniquille, Nimba County, respectively.

**2. Objective of the Consultancy**

The primary objectives of the consultancy are to carryout social and economic assessment of the project areas; determine the number of potentially affected population, demographic and alternative livelihood leading to a full Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) or an Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP). These studies shall identify, predict and propose management strategies and implementation plans relevant to address potential social, and gender sensitive risks and impacts within the project area of influence. These studies shall additionally provide detail methodologies for the field assessments and address the following key objectives:

* Conduct public consultations to be termed as scoping to identify, inform and receive input from affected stakeholders and interested parties at project sites and project sub-activities communities and propose mitigation measures to address these impacts; All consultations and stakeholder engagements in the field assessments will ensure equitable engagement of males and females;
* Assess the physical, biological and socio-economic baseline of the project environment and identify the potential risks associated to the project implementation;
* Conduct land assessment and feasibility for resettlement at all project sites;
* Engage with the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) to determine the most appropriate approach for addressing resettlement issues at the Buchanan, 631-hectare site;
* Conduct demographical survey to determine the number of exiting infrastructures, households including existing farm and agricultural fields within the Buchanan 631 hectares of SEZ land space, the proposed 5km linked road, & transmission line corridor;
* Collaborate actively with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to ensure that Property valuation is unbiased for all trees, crops, infrastructure within the site;
* Lead, plan and execute all public dialogues and consultations and prepare detailed reports;
* Collect information on the number of persons with special needs, including people living with disability, and vulnerable population in the project area;
* Prepare and submit comprehensive reports on risk assessments conducted at the three Agricultural Transformation Centers, the Proposed sites for the Buchanan University Agriculture Equipment (Rice Mill) and (Palm Expeller) facility, the Proposed transmission line & linked road, the 631 ha SEZ/SAPZ site, etc.;
* Lead the digital mapping and geo-tagging of all the project sites require assessment; and
* Prepared well-defined estimates for Resettlement Action Plan where applicable in close collaboration with the MPW, LLA & the MOA respectively and provide clear recommendations for addressing resettlement issues.

**3. Scope of Work:**

The scope of services will include but not limited to the following:

Under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator, the Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. Conduct a 100% census and inventory in each of the project sites that will;
2. Determine the number of persons (sex disaggregated) affected directly by the project (persons whose property including economic trees/crops, shelter or means of livelihood will be destroyed, relocated or restricted by the implementation of the project); and

Enumerate and classify the number and type of properties on the project sites (crops, farmland, structures, traditional sites (graveyards, shrines etc.).

Conduct a Social Survey of the project sites:

Describe the Social environment (socio-cultural characteristics; various communities, languages, cultural beliefs/practices, occupation, means of livelihood, settlement pattern, gender issues, etc.) of the project area;

b. Identify any vulnerable groups, such as women and people with disabilities, who may need special assistance or support;

c. Establish how the various communities above are affected by the project,

d. Identify the owners of the properties in above (complete Bio-data capture),

e. Establish the exact cost/worth of the properties owned by each person in above,

f. The local law does not provide policies for PAPs without legal entitlement. However,

since there is no provision to prohibit assisting or compensating non-title holders, abiding the AfDB policies, the non-title holders are also eligible for compensation. Moreover, describe specifically the appropriateness of the state government compensation procedures to PAPs and its effectiveness in compliance with the provisions of AfDB OS 2 and provide a way forward for overall accountability and transparency of the compensation process,

h. Determine, through appropriate procedures concurrent with Operational Safeguard (OS) 2 (prior and informed consultation and well represented negotiations) and how each Project Affected Person (PAP) will be compensated,

i. Organize stakeholder consultations before, during and at the close of the project to capture the concerns of the various stakeholders (especially the PAPs) about the project: - this shall include but not limited to distribution of questionnaires and other information gathering techniques),

j. Document the results of the consultations for each of the project sites and recommendations,

k. Establish a gender responsive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the construction phase of the project in line with the Project’s existing GRM, and

l. Prepare ARAP detailing all the aforementioned. The template for the ARAP report is shown in **Annex1**.

**KEY DELIVERABLES:**

1. Conduct Consultation & Engagement with Project Affected Communities, Baseline Assessment & Feasibility Studies for the two proposed sites for operation of Rice Mill & Palm Expeller in favor of the Buchanan University Agriculture College; Grand Bassa County, Liberia;
2. Conduct Consultation & Engagement with Project Affected Communities, RAP Feasibility (Enumerate the potentially affected structures, determine the magnitude and level of encroachment) at the SAPZ 200 hectares situated in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia;
3. Conduct Consultation & Engagement with Project Affected Communities in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County and Present the Approved Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) & gender responsive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and Establish the GRM Committee of the Project;
4. Conduct Consultation & Engagement with Project Affected Communities along the Proposed 5km Linked Road & Conduct Risk Assessment & RAP Feasibility /Screening along the corridor;
5. Conduct Consultation & Engagement with Project Affected Communities along the 6km Proposed Transmission Line Corridor & Conduct Risk Assessment & Feasibility/Screening along the Corridor;

The consultancy assignment shall be carried out over a period of **(ninety (90) days, three months)**.

The National Investment Commission invites eligible individual consultant (s) to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultant (s) must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, (i) information detailing their existence and areas of expertise, (ii) a list of similar assignments and experience in similar conditions, (iv) evidence of past performance if any, and (v) any other relevant information that might be useful.

**QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS OF KEY EXPERT**

The consultant must meet the following qualifications and skills for the assignment:

* Master’s Degree in Environmental Science, Social Science, Environmental Management, Land Administration, Rural Development, Agriculture, or a closely related field.
* Minimum of 5 years of practical experience in environmental management, environmental government, social/ inclusive development, land administration and/or rural development and infrastructural projects in Africa.
* Consultant should have prepared at least three (3) RAPs for the AfDB or other MDB/DFI)
* Proven experience in digital mapping and geo-tagging technologies relevant to land management.

Excellent communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills.

* Fluency in English and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders, including local communities.
* Females are encouraged to apply.

Demonstrated experience working and reporting results for AfDB, including familiarity with AfDB reporting requirements and indicators with understanding of working in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s ***“Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations” (BPM),*** dated October 2015”, which is available on the Bank’s website at http://www.afdb.org.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monrovia Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in hardcopy or by email to the address below and clearly marked **“EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN (RAP) CONSULTANT”** on or before 3:00 pm Local time Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

All communication shall be addressed to:

**Hon. Melvin S. Sheriff**

**Executive Director**

**National Investment Commission**

**M&E Professional Building**

**Sekou Touré Ave. UN Drive Tel: +231 777 544 842**

**Email:** **msheriff@investliberia.gov.lr**

**Monrovia, Liberia**

With Attention to:

**Mr. Andrew Anderson**

**Project Coordinator**

**National Investment Commission**

**M&E Professional Building**

**Sekou Touré Ave. UN Drive Tel: +231 886 976983**

**Email:** **aanderson2024@gmail.com/****aanderson@investliberia.gov.lr**

**Monrovia, Liberia**

**Mr. Boimah Gibson**

**Procurement Officer**

**Email: boimahgibson@gmail.com**