

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OFFICER

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MARAGOLI HILLS

The County Government of Vihiga invites the Expression of Interest (E.O.I) from interested consulting firms of repute for the Development of a Participatory Management Plan for Maragoli Hills. The Participatory Forest Management Plan will provide a sequence of events for the rehabilitation of Maragoli Hills.

Scope of Work

1. Identify the local forest adjacent community and verify the forest resources
2. Assess the forest area and the resources
3. Facilitate the formation of a local planning/review team
4. Developing and writing the PFMP (to be approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests—KFS)
5. Negotiating and signing of a forest management agreement (FMA)
6. Review, revise and improve the plan on the basis of experiences gained within the plan period
7. Monitor, evaluate, consolidate and expand the forest management plan
8. Print and Publish the final document of the PFMP

Specific tasks

- a) The service provider will be expected to undertake the following specific tasks:
 - Guide the local forest adjacent community in stages i) to v) of 1.1. above on the PFMP development/review cycle

- Explain to the stakeholders on the need to have a PFMP in a workshop organized in collaboration with KFS
 - Explain to the stakeholders on the PFMP development/review process with clear roles and responsibilities
- b) Support formation and capacity building of appropriate institutional structures for PFM process
- Facilitating formation of a local planning team, building capacity on plan development/review process and assigning tasks
- c) Undertaking detailed socio-economic survey at Maragoli Hill forest station and adjacent zones for search and adoption of viable sustainable use practices of natural resources and local/indigenous conservation strategies
- By conducting assessment of the prevailing socio-economic status of the local communities in relation to prevailing utilization of forest resources
 - Sampling households in terms of demography, education levels and other forest related socio-economic characteristics and access to production resources (land, labour & capital etc.)
 - Characterizing farming systems in forest adjacent zones in terms of on and off-farm enterprises
- d) Undertake a detailed inventory of forest resources
- Identifying & documenting the forest's biophysical features including flora & fauna, stating which resources are found where and local names of the various parts of the forest
 - Providing baseline information on the status of Maragoli forest reserve in terms of flora, fauna, their utilization and values to the forest user communities
- e) Analyzing findings and presenting to communities and stakeholders, documenting feedback and critique
- Data review & compilation of additional information
 - Developing and agreeing on the common vision and management objectives and the forest multiple use zoning criteria

- f) Undertaking digital and participatory mapping of the forest reserve and producing digital maps showing the management zones, drainage systems and types of vegetation cover/ physical features and areas of degradation/threats to the hill forest
- g) To undertake stakeholders', livelihoods and threat analysis
- Assessing the level of involvement of the community and other partners in forest management, focusing on how existing structures will impede or impel the success of PFM in the locality
 - Identifying forest dependent groups and individuals impacted on by the forest and negotiating their respective roles, responsibilities and benefits through use of forest resources
 - Assessing the extent of gender mainstreaming in forestry activities and equity in representation of women, youth, men and special interest groups including those physically challenged
- h) To ensure adoption of a common approach to forest management and livelihoods related issues in a participatory nature by forest adjacent communities under the PFM principle
- Support the Maragoli hill forest CFA to review their constitution to align to reviewed relevant statutes and government blue prints e.g. Devolution Act 2012, Vision 2030, relevant sectoral policies and legislative frameworks
 - Support formation and registration of CBOs as forest users where necessary and formulate or review by-laws to accommodate vulnerable segments of the forest community into active conservation and forest management
- i) Assist the target local communities to re-package their ideas on forest conservation into a participatory forest management plan approach that will attract funding and enhance sustainable utilization of natural resources in the long term
- Develop forest management programs consistent with sustainable forest management that addresses livelihood and conservation issues
 - Develop appropriate governance structures for implementation of the forest management plan based on existing and proposed social and government structures
- j) Prepare and submit draft PFMP to participating stakeholders in the plan development process

- k) Prepare and submit final edition of the developed PFMP for Maragoli hill forest reserve to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Kenya Forest Service) for approval
- l) Print and Publish 100 copies of the PFMP

Interested consultants should express their interest by providing their organization profile, statutory documents (certificate of registration/ incorporation, tax compliance, previous similar works including contacts of referees among others), audited accounts for the last three years and CVs of key personnel.

Please include the following as part of the statement of qualifications:

- i. Understanding the assignment.
- ii. Experience in similar assignments.
- iii. Human resource base and individual specialization.
- iv. Final capabilities and commitments.
- v. Proposed delivery methodology.

Interested consultancy firms may contact the **Chief Officer (CO) for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources** for further clarification.

Drop the Expression of Interest at the Chief Officer's Office tender box at Maji House.

Chief Officer
Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 344-50300
Maragoli