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<b>Project Title:</b>	Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform (ECO.Georgia)
<b>Project/Activity Number:</b>	20.2275.4-007.00/C3A1
<b>Title of the assignment:</b>	Guideline and trainings for managing municipal green spaces

## 1. Brief information on the project

Climate change impacts and the demand for fuelwood from rural population put significant pressure on Georgia's forests: up to 90% of rural households (1.43 million people) rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that households use obsolete technologies, such as traditional stoves with a lifetime of two years and an efficiency of 35% or less. Fuelwood demand exceeds sustainable harvesting levels, considering reduced productivity of many forests in the country because of extensive forest degradation. This forest degradation leads to a loss of carbon absorption capacity which is projected to decrease by five times between 1990 and 2030.

In order to address this negative development, the project "Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform - ECO.Georgia" supports the Government of Georgia to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the framework for sustainable forest management (SFM). It will do so by supporting the establishment of a nation-wide SFM system (Component 1) and in parallel promoting market development for energy efficient appliances and alternative fuels (Component 2) to address the main driver of forest degradation. The project will safeguard the reform implementation by diversifying livelihood opportunities and strengthening local self-governance in forest adjoining rural communities (Component 3).

The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) with GIZ being the project's accredited entity. The German contribution is part of the wider German support in the priority area "Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the South Caucasus", which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and climate protection, particularly for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly, both the share of renewables in the energy composition as well as the energy efficiency levels will increase.

Especially rural households using firewood as their source of heating energy will benefit from improved air quality and reduced fuelwood demand through eased access to energy efficient stoves. Forest-related small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees will receive support to improve economic efficiency and environmental sustainability of their business activities. Additionally, staff members of relevant public institutions (National Forestry Agency NFA, Department of Environmental Supervision DES, Environmental Information and Education Center EIEC, Rural Development Agency RDA, municipalities) will receive direct support through human capacity development measures and grant finance.

ECO.Georgia primarily contributes to achieving the SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) of the 2030 Agenda of the UN, but also to achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

The duration of ECO.Georgia is from April 2021 until June 2028.

## 2. Description of the Assignment

### 2.1. Context

GIZ has been supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and its main implementing partners, Biodiversity and Forestry Department (BFD), National Forestry Agency (NFA), Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), Rural Development Agency (RDA), as well as Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC), in different directions dealing with forest sector reform, with a strong focus on introducing Ecosystem-based Sustainable Forest Management in Georgia.

In addition to ECO.Georgia's Component 1 ("Sustainable Forest Management") and Component 2 ("Market Development for Energy Efficiency and Alternative Fuels"), the third component funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) aims to ensure a socially balanced transition to the new forest management approach, taking into account the needs of rural households (the "SDC project" hereafter). The overall goal of the SDC project entitled "Strengthening Livelihoods and Social Inclusion in Georgia's Forest Sector Reform" is to diversify the livelihood opportunities and strengthen local self-governance in forest management to increase incomes and reduce socio-economic disparities.

To ensure that municipal authorities and citizens have the relevant technical and human capacities to participate in the sustainable management of forests, the SDC project helps to develop and introduce municipal-level tools, practices, plans and necessary capacities for participatory sustainable forest management and conservation. Additionally, mechanisms at the local level to better protect the interests of adversely affected stakeholders will be developed, promoted and tested.

To address the current unsustainable forest management and harvest practices, the Government of Georgia (GoG) has initiated an extensive forest sector reform in 2013, followed by the National Forest Concept, the official forest policy approved by the Parliament of Georgia in 2014. A new Forest Code was approved in 2020, while policy-level Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM) were adopted in 2022. Based on the current legislation all wood-related commercial activities in state forests fall under the exclusive responsibility of public forest management bodies. Additionally, the New Forest Code introduced the principle of participatory forest management and the possibility for municipalities to manage forests of local importance themselves.

Despite the renewed forest legislation, there are green areas in the country that are not yet regulated by the relevant legislation. In particular, "green areas" in the territory of municipalities, which is not managed by the forest management body and is not covered by forest legislation, regardless of whether it meets the definition of forest or not. There is currently no clear methodology and guidelines on how municipalities should manage such areas. Their proper management is also relevant to the rest of the forest as it can be a reason of spreading fires or pests and diseases.

In 2013-14, with the support of GIZ SMBP, a tree-care document was developed for the city of Tbilisi, based on which the document was sent by the Ministry to all municipalities as a type of recommendation. The company that won the tender should use this document and reflect on its important aspects (Annex 1).

### 2.2. Objective(s) of the assignment and work packages/tasks

The objectives of the assignment are to develop guidelines for managing municipal green

spaces with a focus on ecological friendly phytosanitary measures, the scope of the guidelines cover all municipalities of Georgia (based on ecological principles).

***Definition of the green spaces:***

- The area covered with woody species – a minimum area of land of 0.5 hectares and not less than 10 m in width, which is covered with one or more woody plant species and where the tree density is not less than 0.1 per unit area
- The area located within the municipality's territory (e.g., belongs to municipality, the Ministry of Economy or Road department etc.) that does not fall under a forest category and is likewise not managed by a forest management body

In particular, the consultants shall fulfil the following tasks:

**I. Stakeholder consultation and revision of the relevant documents:**

Conducting consultation workshops with BFD (under MEPA), NFA and relevant local governance (from 8 municipalities) and other local stakeholders to identify needs, problems and scope and agree on definitions.

Review international best practices with a particular focus on ecological aspects, such as Ecosystem-based Sustainable Forest Management and biological pest control, as well as guidelines for tree tending developed with support of GIZ in the years 2013-2014 (Annex 1)

**II. Development of the guidelines document**

Developing the content of the document and agreeing with GIZ and MEPA

Developing the first draft of the guidelines and submitting it to the National Forest Programme platform

Developing the final draft of the guidelines with close involvement of MEPA and local governance

**The guidelines shall cover the following aspects:**

***Phytosanitary aspects***

Criteria for assessing the phytosanitary condition and the procedures / rules for their further maintenance/management based on environmentally friendly approaches

Methods and procedures how to use biological methods against pests and – only in exceptional cases with strong technical justification – procedures of spraying chemical insecticide to damaged plants (while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and human health)

Criteria for evaluation and selection of trees to be cut and cutting methods

Further maintenance procedures for cut trees and logs, to avoid damaging other places

***Ecological aspects***

During restoration or transformation (from artificial to natural) of green areas priority should be given to support of natural regeneration (e.g., support of native/local tree and bush species and provenances)

While planting of new trees (afforestation), the priority approach must be the selection of local, site-adaptive species/provenances

While cutting of damaged trees, damages to the soil and the condition of the remaining stands/trees and their regeneration have to be minimized

Preference/priority shall be given to the use of biological methods while fighting against pests (such as use of pheromones, support of predator populations etc.)

***General aspects***

The guidelines shall lay out ways to involve the local population in the decision-making process

Social and gender dimensions such as inclusion of women in the consultation workshops, as well as planning, document development and decision-making processes need to be considered in a gender-sensitive manner; during consultations with local communities at least 30% of the participants shall be women

Training materials are gender-sensitive in terms of language and content. Participation of women is encouraged.

**III. Capacity development (8 target municipalities)**

Develop and agree on training modules, materials and schedules

Conducting 2 trainings of up-to 4 days for 8 target municipalities to increase knowledge and understanding on Municipal Forest Management (MFM) and management of green areas. The audience shall include:

- Municipal authorities – most relevant body for management of green areas and as well as potential MFM
- Local NGOs - which potentially ensure the participation in the decision-making process and in general - public participations
- Local working groups, including members of NFP working group dealing with MFM

***In total 3-5 person from each municipality.***

To ensure proper understanding on MFM and management of green areas the training materials should include:

- Importance of the SFM, requirements on the MFM etc.
- Management of green areas in general (inc. parks and squares)
- Importance of the public participation in forest and green areas management
- Social and gender dimensions during planning and implementation

The 2 trainings each of up-to 4 days, shall be organised in two groups; suitable locations for the trainings should be selected in consultation with the project team:

Group 1: Guria (Chokhatauri, Ozurgeti and Lanchkhuti)

Group 2: Kakheti (Akhmeta, Kvareli, Telavi and Dedoplistskaro) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (Tianeti)

**Location – Trainings should be conducted in municipality venues (additional cost is not required). Lunch is required during the training days.**

### 2.3. Outputs/deliverables

Expected outputs are:

1. Identified list of participants and minutes of meetings of consultation workshops
2. Comprehensive report summarizing the analysis of existing documents (incl. strategic local documents) and the experience with current practices (including experience from Tbilisi municipality), as well as the proposed method and content of the guidelines
3. First draft of the guidelines
4. Final draft of the guidelines
5. Training modules, materials and schedules
6. Trainings conducted for 8 municipalities

### 2.4. Schedule and timeframe<sup>1</sup>

Outputs and experts	Deadline	Number of days per expert (including travel days/working outside of Tbilisi)	Number of travel days* (training, meetings)
Output 1-2	31.07.2023		
Output 3	15.09.2023		
Output 4-5	20.10.2023		
Output 6	30.11.2023		
<b>Expert 1</b> - experience in ecology and capacity development		<b>25</b>	8
<b>Expert 2</b> - experience in forest management		<b>30</b>	8
<b>Training (catering) for Capacity development up to 8 days</b>			8

*\*Experts are to travel by (own or rental) car; for reimbursement of the cost, lump sum rate per day can be agreed, but this applies only for one car. It is expected that the experts travel together in one car.*

## 3. Company and Experts' profiles

**Company** - Required competences

- (1.1) 5 years of experience in nature conservation and/or environmental projects
- (1.2) 3 years of working experience with governmental and/or international organization in Georgia

<sup>1</sup> The schedule is seen as the maximum number of days required for the delivery of the expected results. Thus, to be applied in the financial proposals of the tenderers.

**Expert/Field of expertise:****Expert 1 - Ecology and capacity development**

- (5.1.1) At least a master's degree in forestry, ecology, environmental or natural resources management;
- (5.1.1) 7 years working experience;
- (5.1.2) 5 years working experience in forestry or environmental management sector particular with state and international organisations
- (5.1.2) Teaching experience or working experience as a trainer
- (5.1.4) Language skills: excellent level of written and oral English is required

**Expert 2 - Sustainable Forest Management**

- (5.2.1) At least a master's degree in forestry, ecology, environmental or natural resources management
- (5.2.1) 7 years working experience;
- (5.2.2) 5 years working experience in forestry, botany or nature conservation, ideally with state and international organisations
- (5.2.2) Teaching experience or working experience as a trainer
- (5.2.4) Language skills: good level of written and oral English is required

**4. Timing and duration**

Between June 2023 and Dec 2023

**5. Place of assignment**

Tbilisi and 8 municipalities, Georgia

**6. Reporting**

- The consultant shall report to Lasha Dzadzamia, Advisor - ECO.Georgia
- The consultant is expected to work very closely with MEPA, BFD and local government
- Reports and materials must be delivered in Georgian and in English. Report should also consist of developed training modules

**7. Other provisions****7.1 Tender Procedure**

The technical evaluation will take place in accordance with the assessment grid. As the grid indicated, the tenderer shall make a technical proposal. Technical proposal should consist of the following parts (2):

- interpretation of the ToR/assignment (2.1)
- strategy for the implementation reflecting other alternatives (2.1)
- implementation method (2.1)
- a work plan (2.2)

Along with the technical proposal, tenderer shall provide CVs of proposed experts meeting the requirements listed in Art. 3.

## **7.2 Budgeting and payment**

Travel expenses shall be included in the financial proposal.

Please calculate your price bid based exactly on the costing requirements. The specifications for pricing are defined in the attached price schedule which is required to be used for the preparation of the financial offer.

Payments can be made in two instalments. The contractor can issue an interim invoice upon submission of deliverables 1-4 for which maximum of 43 working days can be claimed.

Final payment can be effected after provision of Output 5-6.

### **Annex:**

- GIZ publications and advisory reports on tree tending developed (GIZ 2013-2014)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> To be shared upon conclusion of the contract