

## Terms of reference (ToR) for the procurement of services

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**Project Title:** Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform (ECO.Georgia)

**Project/Activity Number:** 20.2275.4-002.00 (70%) and 20.2275.4-007.00 (30%)<sup>1</sup>

**Title of the assignment:** Backstopping gender mainstreaming – period: 11.2023-06.2025

### 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

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<sup>1</sup> Cost will be split among all activities of the component 1, component 2 and component 3 of the project.

(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 March 2029.

## 2. Description of the Assignment

### 2.1. Context

Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and is indispensable for a peaceful, prosperous, socially just, and sustainable world. Gender equality is at the forefront of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The latter include a Goal aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5).

ECO.Georgia is required to ensure adherence to and implementation of the GCF's Gender Policy, which reinforces the responsiveness of GCF to the culturally diverse context of gender equality to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change and aims at enhancing gender equality within its governing structure and day-to-day operations, as well as promoting women's empowerment through its decisions.

In addition, the project is expected to take findings from the Gender Assessment aimed to provide an overview of the gender situation in Georgia and implement Gender Action Plan (GAP), designed to ensure that the project:

- Lowers gender inequality;
- Addresses the needs and constraints of women, girls, men, and boys;
- Avoids any risks of adverse gender impacts;
- Ensures women's participation, promotes their leadership qualities;
- Ensures women are included as planners, co-implementers and agents of change
- Contributes to reducing the gender gap of climate change-exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

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

The objective of the assignment is to support mainstreaming of gender equality within ECO.Georgia, more specifically to:

- Mainstreaming of gender aspects in the Forest Management Plans and their respective business plans.
- Ensure that the concepts, policies and recommendations, manuals and all other documents developed under the ECO.Georgia project are gender-sensitive.
- Make sure that all training materials at the knowledge management and training platform are gender-sensitive in terms of language and content.
- Conduct trainings on gender-equality.
- Conduct gender impact assessment and provide gender-specific advice.
- Ensure that communication and outreach materials are gender-sensitive.

In particular, the consultant shall fulfil the following tasks:

#### **Work packages 1: Ensure that the concepts, policies, rules and regulations, manuals and all other documents developed under the ECO.Georgia project are gender-sensitive**

- Review and based on the findings update the predefined conceptual/legal/operational documents (max. 5) to ensure that they are gender-sensitive;

- Provide concept/methodology/recommendations on mainstreaming gender-sensitive dimensions (including in terms of language and content) in concepts, policies, rules and regulations and manuals to be developed within the project activities.

#### **Work packages 2: Ensure that the training materials are gender sensitive**

- Review all training materials at the knowledge management and training platform<sup>2</sup> to ensure they are gender-sensitive in terms of language and content.
- Develop content on gender-sensitive issues regarding SFM and related topics to be included in the training modules of knowledge management and information platforms for MoEPA, NFA (plus forest private sector companies) and DES.
- Develop training module on gender equality for DES for the knowledge management and training platform.
- Review one module on gender-related issues in forest management for vocational trainings at the VET colleges and ensure that the overall curriculum has been adequately gender-mainstreamed (module "Women's role and influence in the nature use").
- Conduct gender-differentiated assessment of training needs (including gender-specific training needs) among local entrepreneurs in forest-related value chains (ecotourism, NTFPs, TFPs) and demand for short-term courses and ensure that all curricula and programs developed under the project are gender-sensitive.

#### **Work package 3: Gender sensitive communication and outreach**

- Develop gender related section and strategies to engage women for the community outreach and communication campaign for TVET college activities.
- Review and update project communication materials and elaborate recommendations on development of gender-sensitive communication materials and mainstreaming gender in awareness raising campaigns.

#### **Work packages 4: Conduct gender-related trainings**

- Provide trainings for DES trainer pool on gender-equitable and sensitive training and management.
- Support strengthening of capacities of TVET professor and teachers (training of trainers), including on gender-equality and social inclusion.

#### **Work package 5: Gender impact assessment and gender-specific advice**

- Conduct 2 rounds (spring 2024 and spring 2025) of gender impact assessment of viability of financing schemes for EE stoves to ensure that loans and micro credits are accessible to women, especially women-led households and single parents. This task will be conducted based on the data of participation in voucher programmes. Based on the results, develop recommendations for the project and for financial institutions providing loans to households for EE stoves and/or alternative fuel producers.
- Provide advice for participatory planning and implementation of social safeguards (including gender and social inclusion as a cross-cutting theme), including for municipal authorities, district NFA staff. Develop guidance on best practices for supporting such

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<sup>2</sup> An online e-learning Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP) for the forest sector is currently being developed by Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC) in close cooperation with NFA and DES, funded by ECO.Georgia. It is envisaged that any future training in the forest sector shall make best use of the platform, which will be accessible also to private service providers and NGOs.

processes with project executing agencies, local government authorities, and local forest users.

- Provide advice for forest-related value-chain associations under component 3 to make sure that their activities are gender-sensitive.

**Work package 6: Ensure that target municipality FMPs (including business plan) are Gender Sensitive**

- Ensure that target municipality FMPs, including business plans are in compliance with the requirement of ECO.Georgia’s GAP, and GCF gender conditions are well reflected and mainstreamed in the final document.
- For this purpose, the contractor will:
  - Conduct consultation meetings with target municipality representatives and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the objectives and collect the ideas.
  - Revise and update target municipality (Akhmeta) FMP and business plan to ensure that GAP considerations and GCF gender policy requirements are reflected in the final documents.
  - Develop concept/methodology on mainstreaming gender-sensitive dimensions into FMPs/business plans.
  - Support project team in revising the rest 7 FMPs, including business plans.

The consultant should have close liaison, consultation, feedback loop with GIZ throughout the assignment.

**2.3. Outputs/deliverables**

Expected outputs are:

**Output 1:** Reviewed and updated conceptual/legal/operational documents (5 in total) and concept/methodology/recommendations on mainstreaming gender (including in terms of language and content) in concepts, policies, rules and regulations and manuals.

**Output 2:** Gender-sensitive training materials.

**Output 3:** A gender related section and strategies to engage women for the community outreach and communication campaign and recommendations on development of gender-sensitive communication materials and mainstreaming gender in awareness raising campaigns.

**Output 4:** Gender-related trainings.

**Output 5:** Reports on gender impact assessment of viability of financing schemes for EE stoves and advice for participatory planning and implementation of social safeguards (including gender and social inclusion as a cross-cutting theme).

**Output 6:** Gender equality dimensions integrated in the target municipality FMPs (incl. Business Plan) and concept on Gender mainstreaming for FMPs developed.

## 2.4. Schedule and timeframe

	Deadline	Number of experts	Number of days per expert
Output 1	December 31, 2023	1	15
Output 2	February 29, 2024	1	35
Output 3	October 31, 2024	1	10
Output 4	December 31, 2024	1	3
Output 5 (I and II)	May 31, 2024 (I round of assessment and recommendation)	1	7
	May 31, 2025 (II round of assessment and recommendation)	1	8
Output 6	May 31, 2025	1	22

## 3. Concept

In the tender, the tenderer is required to submit a technical proposal showing how the objectives defined in Chapter 2 are to be achieved and if applicable under consideration of further method-related requirements (technical-methodological concept).

The technical proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the assessment grid which consists of followings:

### (2.1) Concept

- a. interpretation of the objective /assignment (2.1)
- b. strategy for the implementation reflecting other alternatives (2.1)
- c. cooperation during the implementation (stakeholders in the implementation, reference projects etc.) (2.1)
- d. a work plan in a visual form (2.1)

### (2.2) Conceptual options (for WPs 1 and 6)

## 4. Experts' profile

The tenderer is required to provide personnel who are suited to filling the positions described, on the basis of their CVs, the range of tasks involved and the required qualifications.

The CVs of the personnel proposed meeting the requirements below must be submitted using the format specified in the terms and conditions for application. The CVs shall not exceed 4 pages each. They must clearly show the position and job the proposed person held in the reference project and for how long.

### Expert 1

- (5.1.1) General qualification: **Education:** Master's degree in Gender Studies, Human Rights, Psychology, Development Studies or other related disciplines is required.
- (5.1.2) Specific qualification: **Professional experience:**

- Gender, Gender Mainstreaming, Safeguarding, Conflict Resolution (at least 5 years' experience).
- Experience in conducting of trainings (at least 3 years' experience)
- (5.1.4) **Language skills:** Fluency in Georgian and English.

## 5. Timing and duration

From 1<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.

## 6. Place of assignment

Georgia

## 7. Reporting

- Reports are to be prepared according to the GIZ template to be provided by the project;
- All documents shall be delivered electronically (text files,PPT) in English and in Georgian;
- The consultant shall report to the ESS and Gender advisor, GIZ/ECO.Georgia.
- The consultant is expected to coordinate very closely with the ESS and Gender advisor, GIZ/ECO.Georgia.

## 8. Other provisions

### 8.1 Budgeting and payment

Interim payments can be initiated as follow:

First interim payment upon submitting of outputs 1, 2 and written confirmation from the GIZ.

Second interim payment upon submitting of outputs 3 and 5 I round and written confirmation from the GIZ.

Final payment upon submitting of outputs 4, 5 II round and 6 and after provision all reports given above.

Participation expenses in the workshops, meetings, study tours requested by GIZ is not included in the contract and will be covered by GIZ.

Travel expenses shall be included in the financial proposal.

The attached price schedule is required to be used for the preparation of the financial offer.