|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Programme: | Intergrated Biodiversity Management in the South Caucasus |
| PN: | 15.2101.2-006.00 |
| Assignment: | Support in statistical analysis and data management of forest inventory data in Georgia |
| Period: | **16 July 2018 – 30 November 2018** |
| Brief project information The biodiversity of the South Caucasus is of global importance, but the huge variety of species and the proper functioning of the ecosystems are under threat. There is considerable pressure from the exploitation of natural resources by the local population, private industry and governments.  In each of the three countries of the South Caucasus – Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan –National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and initial sectoral strategies for managing biodiversity and ecosystem services are in place. Up to now, however, those are unable to withstand the challenges posed by the conflicting interests of different sectors (forestry, pasture farming, agriculture, nature conservation and tourism). There is a lack of coordination between the various state and non-state actors and population groups (e.g. shepherds and farmers). In addition, there is not enough reliable data available on the different sectors to support sound planning and decision-making processes.  Within the framework of the Caucasus Initiative of the German government, the programme cooperates primarily with the ministries of environment in the three different countries of the South Caucasus. The programme follows a multi-level approach. At national level, it promotes the development or revision of biodiversity strategies and regulations, particularly in forest and pasture management, and in erosion control. The experiences gained from pilot measures at district, municipal and local levels are incorporated into this process. As part of these pilot measures, relevant actors are provided with the skills needed to implement integrated approaches for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.  The module objective of the programme is to promote better coordination of biodiversity and ecosystem services management across sectors on the basis of solid data. The programme comprises four areas of intervention with the following objectives:   * Instruments and coordination processes for the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services at local level are tested. * The implementation capacity of line ministries, their subordinate bodies and of training institutions regarding the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is improved. * The perception of the general public towards the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services is more positive. * The regional exchange on sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is improved.   IBiS follows up on the achievements of the “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus” programme, and is due to run four years (from December 2015 to November 2019). The programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with co-funding of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) in Armenia and Georgia. Context The availability of valid robust data on forest is crucial for informed policy and strategic descision making as well as for planning of forest management activities. To this aim, the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEA) is aiming to set up a modern forest monitoring system. A Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Planning Working Group (FIMP-WG) was set up in MoEA which is responsible for the planning, implementation and evaluation of a National Forest Inventory (NFI), which will serve as base-line for forest monitoring and provide planning data for more detailed Forest Management Inventories (FIMs) in Georgia.  As field data acquisition is planned to start in 2018, support in statistical data management, data analysis and reporting of the NFI and FMI is needed to ensure the acquired data provides the desired information.  For data acquisition, management, analysis and reporting, the software modules of Open Foris, which are provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), are used. The software (Open Foris Collect and Open Foris Calc) is based on a Postgres database. Visualisations are realized with an integrated component (Saiku). A first architecture of the database and analysis procedures has been developed. Data aggregation and calculation is conducted via the R software environment and will require writing complex custom R-scripts.  The expert will work closely together with the FIMP-WG, where basic technical know-how on these issues has been built-up. However, as the details of this assignment can be seen as novelties for the forestry sector of Georgia, the expert is expected to display a strong willingness to learn and to continually acquire and share related know-how. Support from national and international experts shall be made available, e.g. FAO provides extensive technical support on the software modules, statistical and other issues. Additional trainings can be provided as applicable. Objectives and tasks The objective of the assignment under this contract is to support the data management and analysis processes as well as the provision of expertise in statistics. In particular, the expert shall fulfill the following tasks:   1. **Support the design and development of a data management system for the inventory**   Optimize the relevant database structure with regard to data management and analysis procedures in cooperation with FAO experts  Support in defining management procedures, queries and visualizations   1. **Data analyses, visualization and result calculation**   Define analysis procedures for cluster-based sampling design (NFI)  Define analysis procedures for stratified sampling designs (FMI)  Translate the defined information needs in R-scripts and relevant queries  Translate the relevant estimation designs into R-scripts  Aggregate data to different strata levels  Visualize results in Saiku and other relevant formats (MS Excel, etc.)  Provide analysis schemes for design optimization (inter-cluster variance, etc.)   1. **Institutional memory and capacity development**   Conduct trainings in general statistics, statistical sampling design strategies, data analysis with the FIMP-WG and/or other relevant target groups  Provide hands-on trainings on querying and visualization using the relevant software and data to an extended group of experts  Liase with FAO and national and international research institutions to exchange experiences and approaches and build-up of technical support  Elaborate extensive documentation of principles and approaches in statistical sampling and data analysis (and user manuals for the applied software packages) Expected outputs are the following: Expected outputs are:   * Optimization of database structure for analysis * Configuration of the analysis software (R and Saiku) * Basic and continuous trainings for inventory experts within the given time frame * Documentation of the software modules and analysis procedures | |

# Time frame and work schedule

|  |
| --- |
| Up to 90 days from 16.07 to 30.11.2018. The expert will sit in the Forest Inventory and Management Planning Working Group. |

# Miscellaneous

Required expertise of the expert:

* Expertise in statistics and R
* Expertise in Database management (Postgres, SQL, etc.)
* Experience in analysis of large datasets is an asset
* Basic knowledge of environmental science, forestry, nature management is an asset

Pronounced willingness to learn and work in an international team and working environment

Strong networking skills

Languages: Georgian and good command in English

Handicapped persons will be given preference to other equally qualified applicants. As an equal opportunity employer, we highly encourage applications from women.