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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>	Development of instruction on tree origin and capacity building for municipal authorities

## 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 March 2029.

## 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.

To develop the proper technical and human capacities for sustainable forest management in eight municipalities GIZ carried out the study and have determined for each municipalities the existing human, technical and financial capacities and their administrative and political interest (the document can be shared). Subsequent actions included an agreement on the toolbox concept for decision-making related to MFM, the definition of required tools, and the commencement of the toolbox development process. The study has yielded that almost all municipalities have interest to engage in forest management, however there are needs to increase the necessary capacities to fulfil MFM requirements.

Subsequent actions included an agreement on the toolbox concept for decision-making related to MFM, the definition of required tools, and the commencement of the toolbox development process. The toolbox and its tools should ensure the creation of necessary knowledge, understanding and competence in eight target municipalities.

Considering the existing situation in the municipalities, their needs and the necessary instruments for better managing green spaces and individual trees, GIZ will support

municipal authorities to improve their skills and knowledge related to the green space management.

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

Currently, municipal representatives have limited mandate in the context of forest, green space management or individual tree care. One of the most important is the preparation of documents on the origin of trees from private lands. The assignment aims to strengthen the capacity of municipal representatives to better manage green spaces.

Therefore, the objectives of the assignment are:

1. Development of a clear and easy-to-understand instruction on the origin of trees under private land
2. Conducting physical trainings for municipal representatives on the document of origin of trees
3. Conducting physical trainings for protected landscape administrations in Georgia on the forest operations

In particular, the consultants shall fulfil the following tasks:

### Work Package 1: Development of the instruction of “tree origin”:

- Analysing existing legislation related to the topic
- Development of clear and easy-to-understand instruction on the origin of trees under private land
- The instruction should consist with illustrations to better understanding and visualization

### Work Package 2: Conducting Physical trainings for municipal authorities

- Conducting one day training for 6 municipalities: Lanchkhuti, Chokhatauri, Ozurgeti, Telavi, Kvareli and Dedoplistskaro
- Each municipality will have up to 10 participants (in tot. 60 participants)
- Trainings will be conducted in the conference room of the municipal properties
- Training should be conducted in the facility of the respective municipality

### Work Package 3: Conducting physical trainings for protected landscape administrations (PLA)

- Conducting five-day training for 3 protected landscape administrations: Akhmeta, Tana and Aragvi protected administrations
- Each municipality will have up to 5 participants (in tot. 15 participants)
- Training facilities, including conference room, accommodation and food will be organised and **covered by GIZ**.

## 2.3. Outputs/deliverables

Expected outputs are:

- **Output 1** - Instruction of “tree origin”
- **Output 2** - Training on tree origin for municipal authorities are conducted
- **Output 3** - Training for PLA are conducted

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

Outputs and experts	Deadline	Number of experts	Number of working days
Output 1	One week after the contract concluded		5 WD
Output 2	Three weeks after the contract concluded		10 WD
Output 3	Five weeks after the contract concluded		9 WD
<b>Expert</b> - Experience in Forest or natural resources management		1	24 WD
Travel expenses		Number of experts	Number of days/nights per experts
• Overnight allowance		1	<b>Up to 13 nights</b> 8 overnights for expert in 6 municipality under output 2. 5 overnights for expert under output 3.
• Travel costs (train, private vehicle)		1	<b>Up to 6 trips</b> – travel in target municipalities for output 2 and 3. Following route: Tbilisi - Guria - Tbilisi - 2 days (output 2); Tbilisi - Kakheti - Tbilisi - 2 days (output 2); Tbilisi - To be selected - Tbilisi - 2 days (output 3);
Other cost			Fixed Budget / GEL
Flexible remuneration item <sup>2</sup> <i>The use of the flexible remuneration item must be approved in text form by GIZ before the costs in question are incurred.</i>		1	2,000.00

<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.

<sup>2</sup> See detailed: The General Terms and Conditions 3.1.3.2 Flexible remuneration item.

### 3. Company and Experts' profiles

**Expert/Field of expertise:**

#### ***Expert 1 – Forester/Nature resource manager***

- (5.1.1) General qualification **Education:** At least a master's degree in forestry or Natural resource management or a similar field.
- (5.1.2) Specific qualification **Professional experience:**
  - 7 years of work in the field of consulting of public administrations, companies or other organizations
  - 5 years of work in the field of forest management, forestry legislation, forest operations. Working experience in institutional development, governance, finance and process management
  - 2 years' experience in carrying out training
- (5.1.4) Language skills: Sufficient level of written and oral Georgian and English is required.

### 4. Timing and duration

Between August 2025 and September 2025

### 5. Place of assignment

Target municipalities, Georgia

### 6. Reporting

- Reports are to be prepared according to the GIZ template to be provided by the project.
- The consultant should report to the Advisor - GIZ/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 the summary in English.
- The consultants shall keep a time sheet (8 hours = 1 working day).

### 7. Other provisions

#### **7.1 Budgeting and payment**

Final payment will be effected after provision of timesheets for accomplished working days and provision of the outputs/deliverables outputs/deliverables 3

Travel expenses shall be included in the contract.

#### **7.2 Tender Procedure**

##### **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)

**Personnel concept**

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.