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TERMS OF REFERENCE

(To be uploaded on the WCS Uganda Program website)

RESTORATION PLANTING IN BUGOMA AND MOUNT KEI CENTRAL FOREST RESERVES (CFRs) IN BUDONGO SYSTEMS AND WEST NILE RANGES RESPECTIVELY

The contractor will undertake activities under three (A-B) broad categories namely, Baseline Assessment, Management Plan for Area to be restored and Restoration Planting. WCS and NFA expect to award the contract to a professional forestry contractor/s. The selected company will be required to use majority of local labour from the adjacent community, including members of CFM groups, where applicable.

Roles and responsibilities of the contractor.

A. Management plan for area to be restored:

1. In partnership with NFA and WCS, develop a costed restoration management plan for the area to be restored.

B. Restoration planting:

- 1. Slash a strip of one-meter-wide from the external boundary
- 2. In areas where the external boundary of the site is contiguous with the forest boundary, the contractor will plant boundary markers in a 5-metre strip using species that will be agreed with NFA.
- 3. Lining out and marking the spots where indigenous species will be planted, at 5mx5m intervals.
- 4. Pitting: A pit of one foot deep and one foot wide while separating the top soil from subsoil
- 5. Spot weeding around the pit to ensure that a radius of 1 (one) meter is established near the spot where the seedling is planted
- 6. Identifying seedlings sources in partnership with WCS and NFA and transporting the seedlings to field sites.

- 7. Based on preliminary assessment from baseline assessments, the contractor will procure appropriate seedlings from designated nurseries to be recommended by WCS and NFA. The WCS and NFA will inspect and approve the seedlings prior to loading to designated locations for quality control and assurance purposes.
- 8. Moving seedlings from where the vehicle can reach to the planting sites.
- 9. Planting the seedlings after removing the polythene bags by first replacing the topsoil and subsoil last and firming the soils appropriately.
- 10. The seedling/s should be planted in the upright position.
- 11. The collection of tree survival and growth data from project site/s for the first 3 months.
- 12. The payment for services (local labour, etc.) and the management of planting operations.
- 13. Work with WCS and NFA to carry out sensitization of the adjacent communities to highlight the restoration benefits.

C. Environmental protection measures:

- 1. Ensure all existing native trees on site are protected from harm during the operations
- 2. The polythene bags from seedlings and any non-biodegradable waste will be removed from site on completion of the work and should be collected and disposed of properly without compromising the environment cleanliness

D. Health and Safety (H&S) protection measures:

- 1. The contractor will conduct a H&S risk assessment of the work prior to engaging activities.
- 2. H&S risks will be documented with appropriate mitigation measures noted.
- 3. Employees and workers will receive a safety briefing at the start of each workday to highlight risks and appropriate mitigation measures.

E. Reporting

The contractor will be responsible for producing and submitting the following reports to WCS and NFA:

- 1. Standard operating procedures for restoring sites based on NFA restoration guidelines.
- 2. Management plan for the area to be restored with clear management objectives, targets, costed activities and monitoring indicators. The adjacent local people should be consulted during the drafting of the restoration plans for both sites to help define goals, their roles in the restoration process, and benefits.
- 3. Progress report on restoration planting.
- 4. Final report on restoration planting and handover sheet with a description of immediate operational requirements.

F. Modus operandi

The contractor/s will be issued a fixed service contract by WCS. A work plan will be agreed covering the period of the contract, and payments will be made on completion of specific deliverables and submission of reports in the work plan.