

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A VALUE CHAIN & MARKET ASSESSMENT OF TREE SEEDLINGS AND AGROFORESTRY PRODUCTS IN CENTRAL, MT. ELGON, WESTERN AND KARAMOJA SUB REGIONS OF UGANDA FOR RESTORE AFRICA PROJECT.

Date of this Advert:	Friday, 31st March 2023
Closing Date for Receipt of proposals	Friday, 14th April 2023, 1:00 PM
Reference No.:	UG4324

1. Introduction:

Catholic Relief Services –United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (“CRS”), a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, United States of America (“United States”), with offices at 228 West Lexington Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, United States, registered under the laws of the Republic of Uganda (“Uganda “or the Host Country”) and acting through its offices located on Plot 577, Block 15, Nsambya Road, of P. O. Box 30086, Kampala, Uganda.

The Restoring Landscapes and Livelihoods Program in Uganda with Climate Asset Management is a component of the large-scale Restoring Livelihoods and Landscapes in East and Southern Africa aiming to restore 560,000 hectares of land and improve livelihoods of 352,500 small-scale farming and pastoral households in Uganda. The restoration process, however, is not about just planting trees. Across the 35 districts, the restore Africa technical support teams will work with farming communities to upgrade and improve existing agroforestry practices and integrate trees into various farming systems to improve soil and water management and contribute to improved livelihoods. Through the Restore Africa (RESAF) Program, CRS, and partners (World Vision, CARE, ICRAF, ECOTRUST, Uganda Landcare network and Caritas) focus on increasing farmers’ participation in climate resilient value chains that support evergreening practices.

Relatedly, over the years, the raising of tree seedlings in some of the proposed project areas has become a popular income generating activity at small, community scale as well as large and commercial scale, yet the market for the tree seedlings is not clear. Furthermore, little is known about the availability of quality seed stock for indigenous and commercial non-timber trees, and the viability of these enterprises and their sustainability after the withdrawal of collaborating organizations (NGOs, concessional investors, and others). Consequently, RESAF proposes a value chain analysis of the tree seed and seedling enterprise as well as its viability to establish the existing and potential demand for tree seedlings and other agroforestry products. A consultant will be contracted to undertake a value chain analysis of the tree seed and seedling enterprise in addition to identifying two other promising agroforestry products that are likely to enhance community income. In this regard, CRS and partners are undertaking a value chain and market assessment to among other things:

2. Purpose:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Uganda invites eligible consultants to participate in the procurement of consultancy services for a value chain & market assessment of tree seedlings and agroforestry products in Central, Mt. Elgon, Western and Karamoja sub regions of Uganda.

3. Objectives and Scope:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Uganda invites eligible consultants to participate in this bidding exercise in which the selected consultant will specifically carry out a market assessment for tree seedlings and target agroforestry products across targeted areas of project implementation. The specific objectives of the assessment will be to:

- Determine constraints, opportunities, key actors, factors (price, transport, distance from markets, seasonality, marketable tree species, competition, promotion, and market infrastructure).
- Determine relationships between market intermediaries.

Using assessment findings, the consultant shall analyze data collected from the field and, prepare a report incorporating a value chain approach for linking RESAf participants to profitable markets for seedlings and targeted agroforestry products. The Consultant's report shall recommend two specific agroforestry products that CRS and consortium partners should support program participants with over the next 4.5 years (2023-2027). The consultant will also suggest different marketing strategies (for recommended tree seedlings and agroforestry products) for the RESAf program.

4. Solicitation Period:

Tender Package Available from: (Friday, 31st March 2023)	Tender Package Pickup Location: Request for tender package by Email: ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org
Deadline for Offer Submission: (Friday 14th April 2023, 1:00pm)	Submit Offers by Email: ug_procurement@crs.org EMAIL SUBMISSIONS ONLY: Hard Copy submissions will not be considered
Deadline for receipt of queries or inquiries pertaining this procurement: (Wednesday, 5th April 2023, 5:00PM)	If any, submit questions or inquiries in writing to: ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org Questions will be answered through: ugignorereply@crs.org
***NOTE: Only bids from consultants who requested the tender package through Catholic Relief Services tender email: ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org will be considered. Ensure to indicate procurement reference # UG4324 in your email subject as you submit bids.	

Catholic Relief Services Reserves the right to accept or reject any late offers.

5. Accessing tender documents:

All eligible consultants **MUST** request for tender documents using the procurement reference number, **UG4324**.

***CRS reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the solicitation process.