



Scope of Work

Social Monitoring Survey to Assess Community Perceptions and Household Income from Participation in BCP REDD+ Projects

Background and Rationale:

BCP works hand in hand with local communities to create long term conservation projects that raise environmental awareness in an effort to reduce deforestation and halt biodiversity loss while improving the quality of life for communities within our project areas. Our mission is to “Make Conservation of Wildlife Habitat Valuable to People”. We have launched two REDD+ projects, The Luangwa Community Forests Project (LCFP) and The Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project (LZRP). Community understanding, approval, and consent to REDD+ activities are key for our projects to be put into action as well as to ensure that we keep our Triple Gold certification of Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). Our social monitoring protocol refers to the company’s policies concerning monitoring and evaluating the impacts that these projects have on communities, particularly on their livelihoods and perceptions towards the projects’ conservation goals.

Partnering with communities to protect forest areas has a social and environmental implication on the livelihoods of the communities within these REDD+ project areas. BCP’s Social Monitoring Program holds a central position in BCP’s overall Community Engagement Strategy to ensure that our projects minimize social risks and all items are compliant with relevant international standards and safeguards concerning REDD+ implementation. Our strategy for REDD+ impacts must mitigate deforestation and create value for people, both short and long-term. In line with our "Beyond Subsistence" livelihoods strategy, we expect the wealth per household to increase. Thus, recurring surveys are needed to track socio-economic impacts and perceptions that emerge while implementing REDD+.

Objective:

The overall objective of this survey is to implement an annual socio-economic monitoring strategy to assess the perceptions and socio-economic well-being of community stakeholders, particularly regarding BCP’s livelihood intervention projects in LCFP and LZRP.

Scope:

1. This is a follow up to surveys done in 2012 and 2017 for LZRP and 2014 for LCFP, thus to get quantifiable trends. The consultancy will be guided by existing tools.
2. The sample size should be between 100 and 150 households for each of LCFP and LZRP and:
 - a. LZRP should target the same households interviewed in 2012 and 2017
 - b. LCFP households need to be randomly drawn and their identities kept confidential.
3. The surveys need to be structured and conducted in such a way as to quantify these main indicators:
 - a. Project approval ratings
 - b. Household total income, assets, and food security changes since initial participation in project, including diversity of sources of the income.
 - c. Changes in community perceptions towards conservation since project implementation
4. The surveys need to be structured and conducted in such a way as to solicit and document community feedback regarding areas that BCP needs to improve on.
5. The survey should include an assessment of BCP’s cash dividend pilot project in one LZRP zone and inform about the differences in community benefits through conventional conservations fees projects versus cash dividends. The sample size should be 50 households drawn from approximately 200 participating households.



6. The information on actual households interviewed needs to be kept confidential so that BCP cannot manipulate the survey process and results.

Methodology:

The proposed methodology should enable the collection of gender-disaggregated data in a statistically and academically sound manner. The sampled households should be representative of the project areas both numerically and spatially. We also expect the consultancy to use contemporary electronic survey platforms such as Open Data Kit. For continuity purposes, the survey should replicate the earlier surveys in LCFP and LZRP while creating a solid baseline for the cash dividend pilot survey in one LZRP zone. More information will be provided to the winning bidder, who will be required to incorporate BCP's feedback on the proposed method before the survey is implemented.

Qualifications required:

We seek credentialed social science researchers to conduct the survey. Minimum requirements include:

- A solid background in rural appraisal projects
- Proven statistical skills pertaining to rural social surveys
- Relevant national experience in Zambia or regional experience in Africa
- Demonstrated experience evaluating and analyzing community livelihoods.
- Demonstrated experience evaluating and analyzing women's rights and gender equality initiatives.
- Exemplary interview skills with a clear understanding of safe and ethical best practices, and capability to flexibly adapt to diverse audiences and cultural contexts
- Familiarity with REDD+ principles and projects
- Fluent in English and a few local languages, to be able to conduct interviews with local communities
- Excellent written skills and a demonstrated ability to produce an interesting, concise, and user-oriented report.

Final evaluation report:

Consultant/s will provide a final report that analyses the interview findings and evaluate BCP's compliance with Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards. The report should also make recommendations regarding the level of approval of BCP's REDD+ projects and quantify trends in stakeholder livelihoods. Among others, the report needs to have solid and defensible answers to the following 4 main questions:

1. Are BCP's approval ratings increasing with time since the start of REDD+ projects?
2. Are BCP's livelihood projects resulting in net-positive impacts on women?
3. Are communal people's forestry and wildlife conservation perceptions changing for the better since the introduction of REDD+ projects in their communities?
4. Are household incomes and assets increasing following participation in REDD+ projects?
5. Are sources of household income more diversified following participation in REDD+ projects?
6. How do cash dividends compare with conservation fees in motivating communal people to conserve forests and wildlife habitat?

The expectation is that the report will be approximately 10 - 15 pages in length, not including annexures detailing the structure of communities interviewed, interview questions, etc. but not disclosing names. The audience for the evaluation report is primarily BCP but will also be shared with our stakeholders and verification auditors, as well as Verra. A first draft evaluation report is to be submitted to the BCP Impact Monitoring (IM) team by an agreed deadline, after which the IM team will provide feedback on the draft so that the consultants can incorporate the feedback before submitting the final report by the deadline specified below.



Timeline:

The evaluation/survey should be conducted over 3 months, in BCP's Q3 period i.e. beginning 1 July 2020 and ending 30 September 2020 with the submission of the final report in Q4.

Request for Proposals Schedule:

Proposals are due to BCP on 31 May 2020. Proposals that do not comply with the above schedule will not be considered. Award decisions will be communicated by June 30, 2020. BCP reserves the right to not offer a contract should none of the proposals submitted meets its expectations.

Intellectual Property:

Ownership and copyright of all data, drafts and final products will be the sole and exclusive property of BCP.

Conflict of Interest:

Bidders whose private interests may be incompatible or in conflict with their responsibilities as personnel on this project will not be accepted. BCP staff, board members, their spouses, spousal equivalents, dependent children, parents or siblings are not eligible to bid on this project.

Other:

BCP will not fund the preparation, submission or presentation of proposals in response to this request. BCP does not bind itself to accept the lowest bid submitted in response to this call and does not bind itself to accept any of the proposals received.

Proposal requirements:

Interested bidders should submit their proposals clearly indicating their background and knowledge of the subject area, how they meet the required skills, their experience, and availability. Selections will be done based on the strength of the qualifications provided by bidders as indicated in their:

- Proposal (technical and financial)
- CVs of team members
- If available, an example of a previous evaluation report for a similar scope of work.

Proposals should be a maximum of 2-3 pages, not including expression of interest/cover letter, CV, and sample evaluation report.

All submissions should be sent to info@biocarbonpartners.com with **Social Monitoring Survey** in the subject line.