



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DEFORESTATION REGULATION (EUDR) ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF YOUTHS AND VULNERABLE FOREST COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA

AUGUST 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Established in 2007 as a non-political, non-governmental, objective, independent and not for profit international organization, the African Forest Forum (AFF) is an association of individuals and institutions with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment. The AFF exists to voice the concerns of African forestry stakeholders, and to use science, indigenous knowledge, and experience to advocate for the increasing relevance of forests and trees outside forests to peoples' livelihoods, national economies and the stability of the environment. In this regard, AFF provides independent analysis and advice to national, regional and international institutions and actors on how economic, food security and environmental issues can be addressed through the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests.

AFF in partnership with the Alliance for Agricultural Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is implementing a project entitled "Scaling Youth-Led Climate Innovations for a Greener Africa: Enhancing Compliance with European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) through Sustainable Land management and Landscape Restoration".

The project, in collaboration with stakeholders, including youths, seeks to contribute to scaling up of youth-led climate innovations through empowering African youths to engage and comply with trade regulations, including the due diligence requirements of EUDR. This will be achieved through the co-production/co-creation of knowledge, capacity building for actors in trade compliance, business development, and the creation of an enabling policy and institutional environment.

2. BACKGROUND

The European Union through its Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament, and of the Council of 31 May 2023 bans making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation. This regulation aims to ensure that products consumed by EU citizens do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation, thereby mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss. It mandates that only products that are legal in the country of production and are not linked to deforestation and forest degradation may be placed on the EU market or exported from Europe. The EUDR is heralded as an important step towards creating deforestation-free supply chains and reducing carbon emissions.

While the regulation presents long-term opportunities, and is supported by the majority of African nations, as it enhances their market access and competitiveness in the European market, many stakeholders are facing pressure due to the limited preparation time. Given the established capacity constraints and the stringent requirements imposed by the regulation, particularly the necessity for establishing a robust traceability system, it is essential to understand the capacity requirements and the impact it may have under the prevailing conditions.

Evidence shows that unless sufficient preparation put in place, the implementation of EUDR poses a direct threat to thousands of jobs and informal enterprises operated or supported by African youth. These include roles across commodity value chains such as smallholder farming, tree seedling nurseries, charcoal and timber trade, forest product processing, agroforestry, sustainable land restoration, and ecosystem monitoring. Many of these jobs exist in unstructured settings without formal compliance systems.

Therefore, without urgent investment in building youth capacity for traceability, sustainability certification, and EUDR-aligned enterprise development, these livelihoods are at serious risk of exclusion from global markets, particularly the EU.

Moreover, while youths leading the way in climate innovation and sustainable land management and nature-based enterprises, they are under-resourced and disconnected from broader policy and regulatory shifts such as the EUDR. Without strategic scaling and capacity support, the risk is that youths may be excluded from future trade and investment opportunities. Further, preliminary evidence suggests that hastily implementing it has adverse socio-economic impacts on smallholder farmers, youth entrepreneurs, and forest-dependent communities. Therefore, it is essential to enhance broad participation of stakeholders across the entire supply chains of palm oil, cattle, soybeans, coffee, rubber, cocoa, wood, and products derived from these commodities. In Ghana, Ethiopia, and Kenya, youth and vulnerable communities depend on forests for livelihoods, including on small-scale timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), cocoa, coffee, and other land and forest-based resources. There is limited evidence on how EUDR compliance requirements such as traceability, deforestation-free certification, and market access restrictions affect these groups.

It is in this context that this study is designed to examine the impact of the regulation on African youths and the needs for capacity building and development of compliance guidelines to mitigate the adverse impacts and improve the gains from the EUDR on youth livelihoods and vulnerable forest communities in Ghana, Ethiopia, and Kenya, while also identifying opportunities to empower local actors, safeguard livelihoods, and facilitate equitable participation in sustainable, deforestation-free value chains.

3. TASKS

The consultancy will:

- Evaluate the understanding of EUDR, its requirements, and perceived implications among youth groups, smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and forest-dependent communities.
- Review Policies or initiatives (Youth engagement policies, traceability systems, tenure, public private partnership initiatives climate policies etc.) in relation to youths and on EUDR compliance and environmental sustainability and rooms for participation of youths and disadvantaged communities
- Map extent of livelihood dependencies and economic activities of youth and vulnerable communities that could be affected by the regulation and broader climate change impacts.
- Examine how EUDR affects income, employment, market access, production decisions, and youth entrepreneurship.
- Document approaches employed at government level and by youth and communities to comply with or mitigate negative impacts of the EUDR and key recommendations
- Examine the opportunities that the EUDR may throw up for youths and other stakeholders in terms of income, employment, market access, production decisions, and entrepreneurship
- Recommend interventions to support youth livelihoods, strengthen resilience, and improve compliance with EUDR without harming vulnerable communities.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will:

- Review EUDR text, EU guidance documents, and country-specific reports.
- Review country led initiatives at local, regional and national level including documents

produced, capacity building activities and policies and strategies and compare among countries

- Interview government officials, certification bodies, and private sector actors, youth representatives, community leaders about EUDR compliance and broader preparation for improved supply chain and reduced deforestation.
- Identify which livelihood activities are most impacted and potential consequences of EUDR
- Analyze and review results, draw lessons and compile evidence on the impacts of EUDR on youth livelihoods and employment to develop country specific guidelines
- Do a SWOT analysis of the EUDR on youths and relevant stakeholders.
- Draft a country-specific report and a synthesized regional report including actionable recommendations for policymakers, donors, and private sector actors

5. DELIVERABLES

- Inception Report (detail methodology and work plan)
- Three stand-alone EUDR Impact assessment draft report focusing on youth livelihoods and employment for each country and regional synthesis report
- Final EUDR country impact reports based on the ToRs for the three countries highlighting risks, opportunities and resilience strategies for youths and vulnerable communities and synthesized regional report with recommendations
- EUDR response guideline and factsheet for stakeholders in each country and product types

6. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Advanced Degree in Natural Resource Economics, Public Policy, Forestry, Environmental Studies, Development Studies, or related fields. A PhD will be an advantage.
- 10 years of demonstrated experience in policy impact assessment, the economics of relevant commodity supply chains (such as palm oil, cocoa, coffee, soy, meat,) including the role of chain of custody/traceability systems.
- Experience in performing thematic policy analysis and policy options assessment at continental level is desirable
- Demonstrated experience in forest policy, youth livelihoods and entrepreneurship, and socio-economic assessments in Africa particularly Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.
- Knowledge and experience working on EUDR or similar sustainability and standardization regulations.
- Strong report writing and analytical skills in English.

7. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The workload of this assignment is one and a half (1.5) man-months, commencing on **September 15, 2025**, and could spread over a maximum of two and half (2.5) months; the deliverables should be submitted no later than **November 30, 2025**. The expert will work from his/her own location but be in close consultation with relevant staff at the AFF Secretariat while keeping to an agreed delivery schedule.

8. DEADLINES

Applications must be received by the AFF Secretariat on or before **8th of September 2025**. Consultancy activities must begin no later than **September 15, 2025**.

9. **HOW TO APPLY**

Please email, quoting the title and number of this consultancy on the subject line and attach a proposal containing:

- Cover letter stating how you meet the above qualifications and experience requirements.
- A methodological note (of 4 pages max) indicating for each key result area, corresponding specific activities and methodology for executing them;
- A data matrix listing information needs plotted against data sources;
- A draft work plan (clear deliverables plotted against work weeks for each key result);
- A tentative table of contents for the technical report with corresponding number of pages; and
- An updated CV.

Please apply, with the subject line: “**CONSULTANCY SERVICES “Assessment of the Impact of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on the livelihoods of Youths and Vulnerable Forest Communities in Africa”**” and submit your application to Tefera Belay Endalamaw at t.endalamaw@CIFOR-ICRAF.org, Dr. Doris Mutta at d.mutta@CIFOR-ICRAF.org with a copy to exec.sec@afforum.org

Application deadline is **10 September 2025**. Only successful applicants will be contacted.