

Terms of Reference – International consultant

Assignment title: Textile (bamboo transformation) consultant

Contract duration: ASAP until July 2020

Duty station: International

Travel: Democratic Republic of Congo (at least 2 missions to DRC)

Background:

The Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) is a flagship programme of the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint development agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. ITC's mission is to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development by contributing to the internationalization of MSMEs in transition and developing economies and by doing so to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. EFI connects marginalized artisan communities with global lifestyle brands operating in the field of fashion, interior design and food. By producing for these international brands, artisans and micro-entrepreneurs can improve their lives through ethical work that values their craft and heritage. EFI's unique business and development model is centred on the private sector and enables the production of luxury goods in some of the most challenging and remote locations.

As part of its project, called "Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Adding value to bamboo, plastic waste and lifestyle goods for sustainable livelihoods", EFI will aim to create a bamboo spinning and weaving unit in the Virunga National Park in DRC. Poor communities living in and around the park would plant, harvest and sell the bamboo to the unit for transformation. By doing so, these local communities would benefit economically from the spinning and weaving facility. At the same time, the natural habitat of mountain gorillas would be expanded, which will also contribute to fighting climate change given bamboo's capacity to sequester carbon.

It is within this context that EFI is seeking to hire a textile (bamboo transformation) consultant to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a bamboo spinning and weaving unit in the Virunga National Park. Based on this feasibility study, EFI will draft in close collaboration with the textile (bamboo transformation) consultant a business and investment plan to define whether such a unit can be set up in the Virunga National Park and if it would be commercially viable in the long-term.

Description of Duties/Responsibilities:

- 1) In collaboration with the staff of the park (who will supply indications on bamboo available now) identification of technology, equipment, energy and labour force required for the establishment of a bamboo spinning and weaving facility with minimal acceptable economies of scale (to transform the bamboo currently available in the Park);
- 2) In collaboration with the staff of the park (who will indicate the pattern of growth of quantities of bamboo available for transformation in the next 3 to 8 years) Identification of technology, equipment, energy and labour force required for the scaling up of the bamboo spinning and weaving facility in the long term (to transform the bamboo that will be planted over the next 5 to 10 years).
- 3) In close collaboration with EFI, identification of a commercial partner operating in the bamboo fabric sector to partner EFI and the Park's team in drafting the business and investment plan;

Expected Deliverables:

- 1) A full feasibility study detailing the methodology to spin bamboo into fibre and weave it into fabric in the Virunga National Park. This report will include all points presented in the description of duties/responsibilities of this job description and should enable EFI to draft a business and investment plan;
- 2) After signature of the contract, a general work plan detailing how the feasibility study will be conducted.

Competencies:

- Proven expertise in the textile sector and in bamboo transformation.

Education:

- Undergraduate degree (BA/BSC or other) in textiles, chemistry or related field.
- Significant experience in this field accepted instead of the degree.

Experience:

10 years of experience in textile production, bamboo transformation or similar field.

Languages:

Fluency in written and spoken English.