



## **ANTI-CORRUPTION COALITION UGANDA**

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### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **SIMPLIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ACT CAP 181 AND NATIONAL TREE PLANTING ACT CAP 160 (AS AMENDED)**

### **1.0 ACCU Background:**

Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) was established in January 1999 and officially registered as an NGO in 2004. ACCU unites like-minded individuals and organizations dedicated to raising awareness, exposing, and advocating for the reduction of corruption in Uganda. Since its inception, ACCU has been committed to fostering an accountable and corruption-free society through diverse initiatives, often with support from various development partners. At the national level, ACCU collaborates with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in the accountability sector while on the local front, ACCU works with and through Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions (RACCs) distributed across the country, as well as grassroots member organizations.

### **2.0 Project Background:**

To complement government efforts, ACCU with support from the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Uganda Country Office, is implementing the Participatory Natural Resource Governance (PNRG) project. The project aims at: Strengthening the capacity of CSOs to effectively advocate for rights-based, inclusive conservation and enhance their organizational maturity, operational effectiveness, and resilience; Enhancing the capacity and resilience of CSOs to effectively navigate, expand, and safeguard civic space while protecting fundamental freedoms and; Strengthening the capacity of duty bearers to enact and implement inclusive, rights-based laws and policies that empower indigenous peoples and local communities to actively lead, sustain, and participate in equitable climate and environmental governance and natural resource management.

The project is implemented in the districts of Bushenyi, Rubirizi Buhweju, Ibanda, and Kitagwenda. The project utilizes existing community structures and groups, such as Collaborative Forest Management groups and citizens adjacent to Kalinzu and Kashoya Kitomi Central Forest Reserves in the districts of Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Buhweju, Ibanda, and Kitagwenda, as well as Collaborative Resource Management groups adjacent to Queen Elizabeth National Park, to monitor the management processes of the forests, wetlands, and wildlife resources and engage duty bearers on transparency and accountability violations within the sectors.

### **3.0 Justification for the Assignment:**

Uganda has made significant progress in establishing a legal framework for environmental protection and natural resource management, notably through National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended). The legal frameworks provide a foundation for environmental governance, conservation and restoration initiatives.

However, despite their importance, these Acts remain complex in structure, volume and language, limiting their accessibility and understanding by the public. This complexity has contributed to gaps in compliance, enforcement and underutilisation of the legal provisions intended to protect the environment and as a result, Uganda has lost 113,876 hectares of forest cover between 1900 and 2023 (EMLI Report 2025), both in Central and Local Forest Reserves, and 334,425 hectares on private and customary land.

Premised on this background, ACCU intends to engage a consultant to simplify the National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended) into user friendly version for citizens to monitor and follow –up on the management process of forests and environment in general.

### **4.0 Objectives of the Consultancy:**

To undertake simplification of selected environmental laws into useable formats, for dissemination to citizens and other stakeholders.

#### **4.1 Specific Objectives:**

1. To simplify the National Environment Act Cap 181 and the National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended) into citizen-friendly useable formats.
2. To support the dissemination of simplified laws to citizens and other stakeholders.

### **5.0 Nature of the Assignment:**

The Consultant is expected to develop a clear methodology detailing how the assignment will be accomplished. Specifically, the Consultant is expected to:

- Simplify National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended) highlighting key information/provisions related to the roles and responsibilities of the different actors.
- Simplify the technical meaning of key terms, sections and penalties as highlighted in the National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended), into user friendly versions understood by rights holders.
- Use tools and any other agreed upon methodology that will deliver the assignment in a more efficient and effective manner.

### **6.0 Key Deliverables:**

The successful consultant is expected to produce the following:

- a) An inception report detailing understanding of the terms of reference and statement of methodology as well as financial breakdown.

- b) A first draft of the simplified version of the National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (as amended).
- c) Produce final simplified version of the National Environment Act Cap 181 and National Tree Planting Act Cap 160 (in soft and hard copies) after incorporating all comments from ACCU.

### 7.0 Timeframe for the Assignment:

| No. | Task  | Date          | Responsibility      |
|-----|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 1.  | Publication of the terms of the reference                             | May 7, 2026   | ACCU                |
| 2.  | Delivery of Expression of Interest/ Technical and Financial Proposals | May 15, 2026  | Consultants         |
| 3.  | Conclusion of contract process  | May 20, 2026  | ACCU and Consultant |
| 4.  | Submission of inception report  | May 29, 2026  | Consultant          |
| 5.  | Delivery of the first draft of the simplified versions                | June 20, 2026 | Consultant          |
| 6.  | Delivery of the final simplified versions                             | June 29, 2026 | Consultant          |

### 8.0 Qualifications:

The suitable candidate for this assignment is expected to possess;

- Graduate training in Law, Environmental Studies, Forestry, or any other related qualification.
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting similar assignments (samples of previous work and referees should be attached to the technical proposal).
- Excellent knowledge of Uganda’s accountability processes and systems.
- Knowledge of policy analysis is required.
- Excellent knowledge and skills in document and data analysis.
- Strong research skills including analytical and report writing skills.

### 9.0 Reporting and Supervision:

The Consultant shall work closely with the Project Officer at ACCU.

### 10.0 Place of Performance:

This assignment will be conducted in Kampala.

### 11.0 Submission of Proposals:

Interested individuals or organizations should submit their Technical and Financial Proposals to the Executive Director, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda on [info@accu.or.ug](mailto:info@accu.or.ug) with a copy to [amarlon@accu.or.ug](mailto:amarlon@accu.or.ug) not later than May 15, 2026 at 05:00pm.