



## **CALL FOR THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY TENURE LAWYERS (CTL)**

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### **1. Background**

The clearance of forest, land grabbing and environmental degradation have been on the increase since food prices rose in 2018 in response to high demand for large-scale land for investments by multinational companies. In Cameroon, less than 10% of lands are titled, while more than 90% of the lands that local and indigenous communities live on are not recognized and managed by them, facing the risk of dispossession. Since 2019, with the rising demand for large expanses of land for mining and large-scale industrial agricultural projects, COMAID and GDA have each developed initiatives aimed at protecting the environment and improving secured tenure rights for local communities, including facilitating the creation of Regional Land observatories (RLOs) in 4 regions of Cameroon to monitor large scale land acquisition and its impacts to forest cover, biodiversity and the life of local and indigenous communities. Their work have been assisting local communities to have secured access to land, benefit from secured access to livelihood resources and protect the environment from the current multiple ecological and climate crisis. Despite the enormous work done by the RLOs, their members lack trained and qualified Lawyers to accompany communities in redress actions to protest against irresponsible land based investments especially during litigations in courts. Communities find it hard to pay qualified Lawyers to accompany them to legally fight land grabs from investors and politically influential persons perpetrating land grabs and climate raptures in Cameroon. Besides the unaffordable legal fee, the members of the RLOs are playing the role of land and environmental defenders (LED) but are unsecured and vulnerable to the wealthy investors and influential individuals. Most often their roles as LEDs are not recognized by government officials and are victimized (torture, arrest, and imprisonment), for opening the eyes of communities to fight for their rights. The land grabs and unsecured access to life resources have threatened the livelihood of traditional and indigenous communities causing widespread poverty and climate shocks that have a bearing to human life and the environment.

As a result of this setback, Community Assistance In Development (COMAID) and Green Development Associates (GDA) are implementing a project in four regions of Cameroon (North West, South West, South and Littoral) to reduce forest loss, protect the environment and improve on the security of LEDs.

### **2. Goal and specific objectives of the project**

The goal of the project is to halt forest loss and land grabbing, by supporting grassroots community defenders in four regions of Cameroon.

Specifically, the project seeks to:

- Promote Community Tenure Lawyers (CTL) to provide legal support to defenders and community accompaniment in 4 regions of Cameroon
- Enhance the protection of Land and Environmental Defenders (LED) to defend community rights and protect the environment in the 4 regions of Cameroon.
- Improve on fundraising initiatives in the 4 regions of Cameroon.

### **3. Purpose of the Terms Of Reference (TOR)**

This TOR defines the required qualification of the Community Tenure Lawyers (CTL), the application process, selection process, training process and active research process on the field and final placement with the secretariats of the RLOs. 10 graduates from a Law school, political sciences and related fields shall be identified and trained during the process.

#### **3.1 Qualification of a CTL:**

Minimum qualification for selection shall be a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Political Sciences or related fields. Those who have practiced in a chamber and demonstrate proof to have accompanied a community in redress process or litigation will have an added advantage. Candidates are expected to be bilingual, able to write and speak French and English fluently. Knowledge in land policy issues and advocacy skills is an added advantage. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

#### **3.2 Application Process**

Interested candidates should deposit their applications either physically or electronically to COMAID Office Bamenda, Vilen Pharmacy Building Ghana Street Nkwen, and email: [info@comaidcameroon.org](mailto:info@comaidcameroon.org) OR at GDA Office Yaoundé, Behind Camp Sic Tsinga, 4th Floor, Harmattan Building email [greendevadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:greendevadvocates@gmail.com). Candidates should prepare their CV and motivation letter to suit the purpose of the call. We encourage candidates to read the entire TOR and understand the goal, objectives and the entire process of selection before applying.

#### **3.3 Selection Process**

All applications received physically and electronically from COMAID and GDA shall be assembled. An independent selection Committee of experts shall be constituted to screen the applications and make a shortlist. Shortlisted applicants shall be invited for an interview and final selection of 10 suitable CTLs. A contract shall be signed between CTL and COMAID to guide the entire process of community accompaniment and RLOs.

#### **3.4 Training process**

The 10 candidates selected shall undergo an intensive training of 3 months to effectively defend the land and resource rights of communities, protect the environment, improve on the security of LEDs and accompany local communities in redress processes. Training topics shall be designed and tailored to meet the needs of the selected CTLs. Training Modules shall include the following:  
Use of MapMe mobile App, FPIC, Community accompaniment and trust building, Stakeholder Engagement, Rural Sociology and Anthropology, Carbon Markets, Social and environmental impact studies, Cameroon land tenure law of 1974, 1994 Forestry and Wildlife Law, 1996 Environmental Law, Forest concession process, Land concession process, Mining concession process, Law on terrorism in Cameroon, Human Rights, Protest writing, Advocacy campaigns, judicial and extra judicial mechanisms for the protection of LEDs, fundraising etc. Expert trainers shall be recruited to train the 10 CTLs.

#### **3.5 Active Research on the field**

The 10 selected CTLs shall carryout research on the field with communities currently experience land challenges or problematic projects, for a period of 4-6 months. This

research will enable the selected CTL to strengthen their capacities to carry out redress actions. They shall work in collaboration with the community leaders and members of the RLOs to build trust, collect data on the field, identify flaws and support the implementation of the laws practically on the field. At the end of the field research, the 10 CTLs shall write their field reports about their research. This shall be the basis for their final selection and placement with the RLOs.

### **3.6 Placement of CTLs**

8 CTLs shall finally be retained and placed to work in the secretariats of RLOs and local communities. A contract shall be prepared and signed between COMAID and the CTLs to work for a trial period of 10 months. During this period the CTL shall be trained on fundraising to secure more funding to sustain the work of RLOs and support to local communities.

## **4. Datelines for Application**

Applicants are expected to submit their physical or electronic applications latest the **30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 4:00pm** prompt to any of the following two addresses:

1. COMAID Office, Vilen Pharmacy building, Ghana Street Nkwen email [info@comaidcameroon.org](mailto:info@comaidcameroon.org) with the Title **“Call for the Selection of CTLs”**
2. GDA Office Yaounde, Behind Camp Sic Tsinga, 4th Floor, Harmattan Building email [greendevadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:greendevadvocates@gmail.com) with the Title **“Call for the Selection of CTLs”**