Kigali,.....11 SEP 2025.....

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

TRANSMISSION SYSTEM REINFORCEMENT AND LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY (TSRLMC)

ENERGY SECTOR

Financing Agreement reference: 2100150042645

Project ID No.: P-RW-FAO-009

Ref No: 001/C/2025-2026/OCBI/TSRLMC-ADF

The Government of Rwanda has *received* financing from the *African Development Fund hereinafter* called the **Bank** toward the cost of the Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the Contract for ***Consulting Services for Environmental and Social Safeguard Compliance Audit***.

The services included under this project are to carry out Environmental and Social Safeguard Compliance Audit of the works contracts under the Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity Project in collaboration with Rwanda Energy Group (REG). Specific tasks that will be performed and completed over a three-year contract period on an annual basis will include:

a. Ensure compliance with environmental laws, Bank ISS, and project ESMP.
b. Assess management of environmental impacts, resource use, and pollution prevention.
c. Verify compliance with social safeguards (GBV/SEAH, forced labor, child labor, etc.).
d. Assess stakeholder engagement, compensation, livelihood restoration.
e. Evaluate effectiveness of grievance redress mechanisms
f. Assess occupational health & safety (OHS) compliance

The Energy Development Corporation Limited (EDCL) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's ***Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations Approved in October 2015***, which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org.

Detailed Terms of Reference is published on REG's website.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (from 0900 to 1700 hours)

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by ..29...../..09.../2025, at 10:00 a.m Local time and mention **Consulting Services for Environmental and Social Safeguard Compliance Audit**

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Energy Development Corporation Ltd

KN2 ST 3, Nyarugenge District, Kigali City,

P.O. Box 3855 Kigali, Rwanda;Tel.: (250) 787172265,

Kigali City Tower (KCT), 2nd Floor, Procurement Office

Website: www.reg.rw

E-mail: procurement@edcl.reg.rw, copy to gndayisaba@edcl.reg.rw

Sincerely,

Gentile UMUSHASHI
Head Procurement Management Services

Félix GAKUBA
Managing Director

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD COMPLIANCE AUDIT

PROJECT: RWANDA TRANSMISSION SYSTEM REINFORCEMENT AND LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

September 2025

1. Background and Justification for the Audit

1.1 Project Background

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) envisages transforming the country from a developing country to a middle-income country and believes that universal access to electricity constitutes a determinant factor to achieving this goal by 2030. Successive documents set out this strategy in increasing levels of detail, running from Vision 2050, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST II), the Energy Sector Strategic Plan, the Rural Electrification Strategy, and the National Electrification Plan 2018- 2024 (NEP) developed by Energy Development Corporation Limited(EDCL) and Rwanda Energy Group (REG) to guide the investments in electrification and how to achieve the access targets within the framework defined by NST II and ESSP II.

In the implementation of these strategic plans, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) through the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) EDCL, with the funding from the World Bank Group (WBG) and other Development Partners (DP) namely African Development Bank (AfDB), European Investment Bank (EIB), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Saudi Fund for Development, Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) , is implementing a program titled "Rwanda Universal Energy Access Program (RUEAP) which comprises two main projects namely Rwanda Energy Access and Quality Improvement Project (EAQIP)" financed by World Bank and is co-financed by AFD (joint co-financing), the OFID (parallel co-financing), SFD (parallel), and the Korean Fund for International Development (parallel) and the Rwanda Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity Project (TSRLMCP) financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) under parallel co-financing. These terms of reference are prepared for the Environmental and Social Safeguard Compliance Audit (ESA) of the TSRLMCP.

The TSRLMCP' s development objective is to improve network reliability/stability countrywide and increase electricity access for productive users and households in the Southern region of the country as well as to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from the energy sector.
TSRLMCP has the following components:

Component A: Last Mile Grid Access
Component B: Distribution Network Reinforcement
Component C: Transmission Lines & Associated substation
Component D: Project Engineering and Supervision, Feasibility Study & Project Audit
Component E: Project Implementation
Component F: ESMF and RAP Implementation

The TSRLMCP has been under implementation since 2022, and construction works for many sub-projects have begun. It is within this framework that an Environmental and Social Audit of the project was found to be appropriate at this stage.

In framework of complying with national and international environmental regulations including environmental and social standards from different international partners such as the AfDB, WB, EIB, to name a few, the EDCL through RUEAP is planning to hire a consulting firm that will work on a framework contract basis to provide services related to Environmental and Social Audits of electrification activities implemented under the TSRLMCP.

1.2. Project Description

1.2.1. Brief Description of the Project Sites and Major Environmental Challenges

The project is composed of the following powerline and substations:
Transmission and substation

S/N	Project Name	Description
1	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 110kV Rwinkwavu-Kirehe, Gabiro – Nyagatare and Rulindo – Gicumbi Transmission Lines	The project comprises 50 kilometers 110kV line and 2 Substations in Rwinkwavu and Kirehe area. The project crosses three districts: Kayonza, Ngoma and Kirehe of the Eastern Province and Rulindo and Gicumbi districts in Northern Province.
2	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of Kihere New Substation and Extension of Rwikwavu and Huye Subsation and Extension of Rukarara, and Upgrade of Kibogora Substation	Extension of Existing Kigoma substation by installing 220kV/110kV, 75MVA power transformer and 220kV/110kV line and Transformer bays.
3	Plant Design, Supply, Installation of 110/30kV Nyagatare Substation and Extension of 110/30kV Gabiro and 110/30kV Gicumbi Substations	The project comprises 26.7 kilometers 110kV line and associated substations. The project crosses 3 districts respectively Gatsibo and Nyagatare of

		the Eastern Province and Gicumbi District in Northern Province
5	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 45.8KM, 110 kV Double circuit Rukarara – Huye-Gisagara Transmission Lines	The project comprises 40.71 kilometers 110kV line and 2 substations in Gisagara and Huye area. The project crosses three districts respectively Gisagara, Huye and Nyamagabe in the Southern Province
5	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 110/30kv Bugesera Industrial Park Substation and 110 kV Transmission Line	The project comprises 18 kilometers 110kV line and 3 substations in Bugesera area. The project crosses three sectors respectively Gashora, Rilima and Juru in Bugesera District of the Eastern Province
6	Supply, And Installation of Low Voltage and Medium Voltage Lines and Service Connections in Nyanza, Ruhango, Huye and Gisagara Districts, in Southern Province	Consists of design, installation of MV and LV lines and service connections
7	Upgrade and Extension of Different MV Lines for Improved Substation and Upgrade of Karisimbi 6.6 kV Line to 30 kV.	The project comprises different contracts under distribution network reinforcement in Kigali City, Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern Provinces as well upgrade and rehabilitation of substations and cabins across the country.
8	Engineering Design and Installation of LV Underground Cables and Renovation of MV/LV Cabins in Nyarugenge	The project is meant for reinforcement of the electricity network in Kigali City Centre (Nyarugenge District) of Rwanda. It consists of the Design and installation of Low Voltage Underground Cables & Rehabilitation of MV/LV Cabins in Nyarugenge District.
9	Upgradation of Nyamata 30/30kV Switching substation and rehabilitation of distribution substations in Rubavu, Muhanga and secondary cities, Upgrade of Gikondo, Nzove, Gahanga Substations	The project consists of Construction of new 30kV switching substations and associated MV lines (overhead & underground) and rehabilitation of old cabins and MV line links (U.G & O.H) located in the different secondary cities of Rwanda.

10	Design, Supply and Installation of Musanze Industrial Park substation and associated Transmission Line & MV Feeders.	The project will consist of Supply, design and Construction of Musanze Industrial Park, associated Transmission Line and feeders
11	Rwamagana: Supply, design and Construction of Rwamagana industrial park, associated Transmission Line and feeders	The project will consist of Supply, design and Construction of Rwamagana industrial park, associated Transmission Line and feeders

Since some contracts are yet to be signed at the moment these ToRs are being developed, the contract will be executed through service orders on a regular basis or depending on the needs and requirements of the DP throughout the project's course.

The project areas are located in the different parts of the country and enjoy the country's climate pattern, i.e. an equatorial climate tempered by altitude, characterized by mild, stable temperatures and moderate precipitations according to a cycle of four seasons with two dry seasons (January – February / June – August) and two rainy seasons (March – May / September – December).

These areas are part of transformed landscape by agricultural activities. No transmission line should cross directly any legally protected area. There are, however, several patches of eastern savannah vegetation and marshlands areas which are crossed by the transmission lines. The characteristic habitats that are crossed by the different lines are mainly the woodlands of eucalyptus and grevilleas trees, coffee and banana plantations, fields of other crops (maize, beans etc), as well as a few of marshlands and streams.

There is generally a right of way of 25 meters in which no other permanent structure is allowed. Outside this band within the right of way, all vegetation exceeding 4-5 meters in height should be cleared including trees outside the right of way, which represent a potential risk of falling onto the lines. However, several crops, which do not exceed a height of 4-5 meters, banana trees in particular, and compatible activities such as agriculture and livestock grazing shall be permitted in the right of way area.

Area of Influence

Figure 1: Map of Rwanda districts showing location of the projects.

1.2.2. Location criteria

The general location criteria considered for the location of transmission lines and the establishment of substations within the framework of this project, and which were selected for the establishment of corridors, are presented below. They were technical, environmental and socioeconomic based, and some can be classified in more than one category:

- To seek the most direct orientation between the starting point and the terminal in order to reduce the length of the line, thus reducing disturbances caused to the biophysical and social environment and reducing the project costs;
- To avoid the fragmentation of the territory and the creation of residual spaces by seeking an orientation of the corridor that would comply with the landscape's general structure;
- To exploit the territory's structural elements, such as administrative boundaries and their linear infrastructure (roads, electric lines, railways, etc.), as well as interfaces among the different land use types, to minimize anticipated impacts, limit the new right-of-way and foster visual integration of the line. In addition, the existence of roads offers real advantages for the construction and maintenance of the lines;
- To avoid visually highly exposed sections, whether on mountains summits or on exposed hillsides;

- To surround villages and areas where there is a concentration of households that are less compatible with the presence of electrical infrastructure and that would require to move a lot of people and high costs for compensations;
- To avoid sensitive areas (natural reserves, wetlands, flood-prone areas, reforestation areas, industrial crops, etc.) and to use rather sections with lesser sensitivity likely to host the line with a minimum anticipated impact;
- To avoid sections with rugged landform and steep slopes where access is more difficult for site machinery and where erosion risks are higher and can threaten the safety of the network.

A local optimization of the layout was also carried out during the field study, which helps to avoid or surround some of the most sensitive or binding elements on the crossed territory.

1.2.3. Power line

The width of the ROW must be at the maximum 25 meters and 30 meters for 110 kV and 220 kV transmission lines respectively and 12 meters for distribution lines. The design was determined by the extreme sag of connectors due to maximum wind effect as well as the environmental limitations such as audible sounds, electric field and radio and TV interferences. The complete clearance of the ROW where the line crosses forested areas must be limited to a strip of 5 to 10 meters of width along the corridor in order to allow the stringing of conductors. Out of that strip, but within the ROW, all the vegetation higher than 4 to 5 meters must be cleared including trees with potential threat outside the ROW. Moreover, when the final positioning of towers is well done, it is a factor that may even reduce the need for clearing. Notwithstanding what is previously stated, crops that do not exceed 4 to 5 meters, particularly banana trees, will be authorized as well as livestock grazing or other compatible activities. That prescription will be maintained all along the operational life of the line.

The land acquisition should be limited to towers and substation locations. Since agriculture is based on one plantation and one manual harvest a year, the production loss will be small. Even though the area of tower base may reach 225 m² (15m x 15m), under normal circumstances, the lost area is limited to four concrete legs of the base, that is, in total 6.25 m² (2.5 m X 2.5 m). On soils with lower bearing capacity, each base can be between 0.5 and 1.0 m larger. Generally, soils are excavated at a depth of 3.5 m maximum. However, all soil taken by the tower base ($225m^2$) will be compensated to prevent people from entering the unsafe area.

Storage space for building materials and equipment should be used along the ROW. In addition, access roads should have be constructed by the Works Contractor for the lines. The location and the length of such roads is not known for the time being, only general impacts related to them are described here.

1.2.4. Substation characteristics

For the 110 kV Substations, the feasibility study proposes the following technical design:

- General Provisions;
- Provisions relating to electrical equipment;

- Directive for the construction of new HV / MV substations;
- Civil Engineering of substations;
- Emergency Diesel Groups;
- Optical fiber equipment;
- Earthing resistors, if applicable;
- Power Transformers;
- Measurement Transformers;
- MV surge arresters;
- MV circuit breakers;
- Sectioning equipment;
- MV substations;
- Distribution of AC auxiliaries;
- Distribution of DC auxiliaries;
- Metal Works and Miscellaneous Supplies;
- Lighting and Power Outlets;
- earthing system;
- Cables;
- Control, Control and Measurement Equipment;
- counting and protection equipment;
- Radio, Telecom, Power line and Fiber Optic equipment.

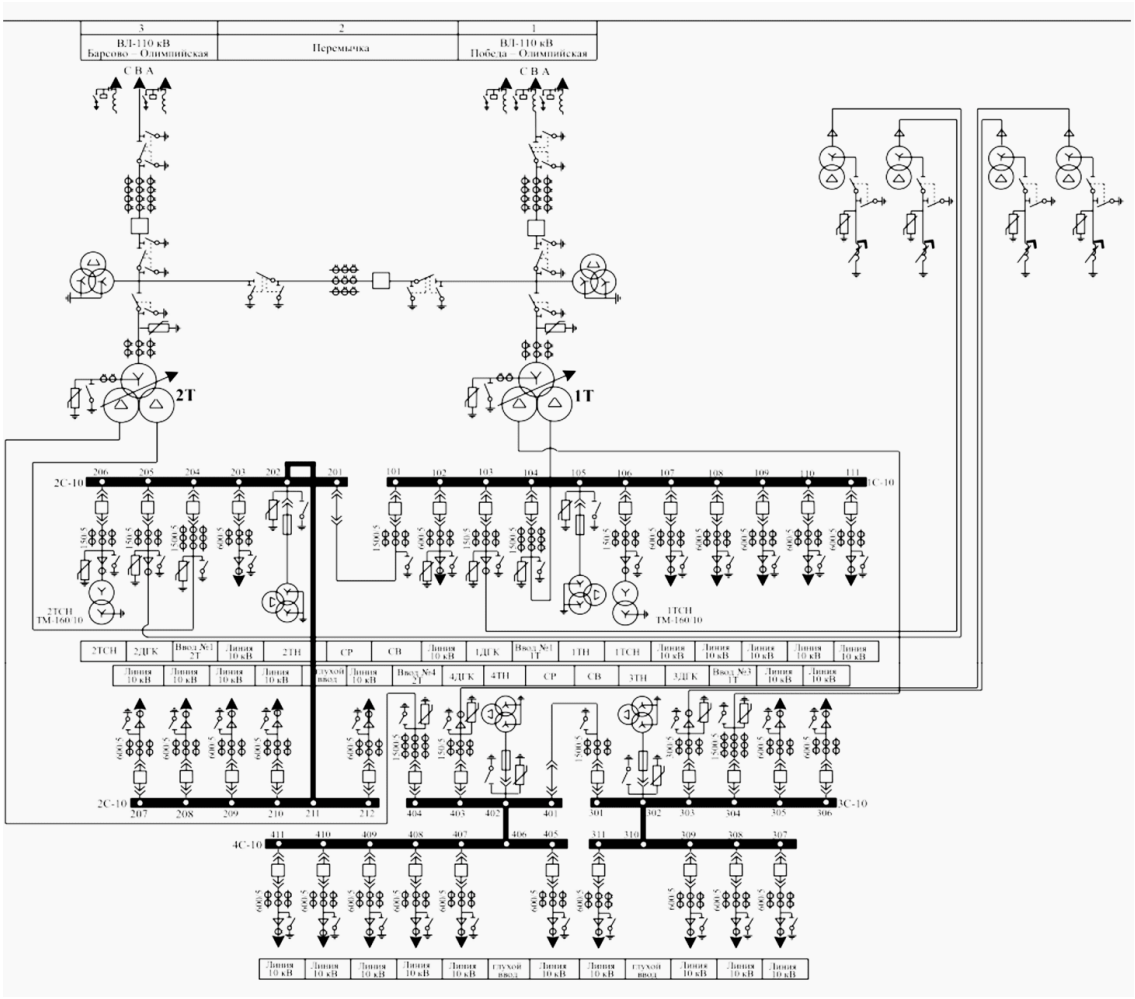

Figure 2: Schematic diagram of 110kV double circuit

1.2.5. **Detailed Scope of 110 kV or 220 kV Substation Works**

1. General Preparatory Works

- Topographical and geotechnical surveys of the proposed site.
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and securing relevant approvals.
- Land acquisition and site clearing, including any resettlement or compensation (if needed).
- Access roads construction or rehabilitation.
- Site fencing and security installation.

2. Civil Works

- Levelling and grading of the substation area.
- Construction of control building (housing control panels, SCADA systems, relay panels).
- Foundations and plinths for transformers, circuit breakers, gantries, disconnectors, etc.
- Cable trenches and duct banks for control and power cables.
- Drainage system and oil pits (for transformer oil containment).
- Firewalls and blast walls (especially for power transformers).
- Internal roads and pathways within the substation yard.

3. Electrical Equipment Supply and Installation

A. Primary Equipment

- Power transformers (e.g., 220/110 kV or 110/30 kV) with suitable ratings.
- High-voltage circuit breakers (SF_6 or vacuum type).
- Current transformers (CTs) and Voltage transformers (VTs/PTs).
- Disconnect switches with/without earth switches.
- Surge arresters for overvoltage protection.
- Busbars and insulators, including gantry structures.
- Earth switches and grounding grid.

B. Secondary Equipment (Control, Protection & Metering)

- Protection relays (distance, differential, overcurrent, etc.).
- Control panels and mimic diagrams.
- SCADA and RTU systems for remote control and monitoring.
- Metering equipment (energy meters, multifunction meters).
- Communication equipment, including fiber-optic or microwave links.

4. Auxiliary Systems

- AC and DC auxiliary power systems, including:
  - AC distribution panels,
  - DC battery banks and battery chargers (typically 110V or 220V DC).
- Earthing and lightning protection system.
- Substation lighting (internal and yard lighting).
- Fire detection and suppression system.
- HVAC system for control room cooling.
- Public address and alarm systems.

5. Testing and Commissioning

- Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) for major equipment.
- Site Acceptance Tests (SAT) for all installed components.
- Protection system testing (relay settings and coordination).
- Functional testing of SCADA and communication systems.
- Integrated testing of the complete substation.
- Grid synchronization and energization process.

6. Documentation, Training, and Handover

- As-built drawings and schematic diagrams.
- Operation and maintenance manuals.
- Spare parts and special tools delivery.
- On-site training for utility or client staff.
- Final handover certificate and warranty coverage.

7. Optional / Special Scope Items

- GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) installation if the substation is GIS type.
- Hybrid switchgear (for compact stations).
- Bay extension works at existing substations for grid connection.
- Integration with renewable energy sources, if applicable.
- Control system integration with national or regional Load Dispatch Centre (LDC).

1.2.6. Project costs

The project total cost established in April 2020 including a provision of 10% for contingencies is 103,060,680 USD being distributed as follows:

Table 1: Total all projects Investment cost in USD

NO	Project Name	Investment cost in USD
1	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 110kV Rwinkwavu-Kirehe, Gabiro – Nyagatare and Rulindo – Gicumbi Transmission Lines	17,340,000
2	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of Kihere New Substation and Extension of Rwikwavu and Huye Subsation and Extension of Rukarara, and Upgrade of Kibogora Substation	24,870,000
3	Plant Design, Supply, Installation of 110/30kV Nyagatare Substation and Extension of 110/30kV Gabiro and 110/30kV Gicumbi Substations	13,670,000
4	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 45.8KM, 110 kV Double circuit Rukarara – Huye-Gisagara Transmission Lines	13,120,000
5	Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 110/30kv Bugesera Industrial Park Substation and 110 kV Transmission Line	29,950,000
6	Supply, And Installation of Low Voltage and Medium Voltage Lines and Service Connections in Nyanza, Ruhango, Huye and Gisagara Districts, in Southern Province	33.610,000
7	Upgrade and Extension of Different MV Lines for Improved Substation and Upgrade of Karisimbi 6.6 kV Line to 30 kV.	46,140,000
8	Engineering Design and Installation of LV Underground Cables and Renovation of MV/LV Cabins in Nyarugenge	14,400,000
9	Upgradation of Nyamata 30/30kV Switching substation and rehabilitation of distribution substations in Rubavu, Muhanga and secondary cities, Upgrade of Gikondo, Nzove, Gahanga Substations	17,990,000
	TOTAL	177,480,000

It should however be noted that several adjustments have been made and will be made on the project scope and financial package over time.

1.3. Project Environment and Social Instruments

The AfDB Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) classified the Project as Category 1 due to enormous impacts posed by Transmission lines. Category 1 projects are likely to induce significant and/or irreversible adverse environmental and/or social impacts, or to significantly affect environmental or social components that the Bank or the borrowing country considers sensitive. In some cases, projects are included in Category 1 because of their potential cumulative impacts or the potential impacts of associated facilities. Any project requiring a Full Resettlement Action Plan (FRAP) under the provisions of the Bank's policy on involuntary resettlement is also deemed to be Category 1. Similarly, the project falls under the ministerial order No 001/2019 of 15/04/2019 establishing the list of projects that must undergo environmental impact assessment, instructions, requirements and procedures to conduct environmental impact assessment in Rwanda. These projects also require an Environmental and Social Audit as per the prepared ESIA. In this regard, two safeguard as part of the project appraisal. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and a Resettlement Action Plan was prepared in 2020 encompassing all transmission Lines and substations, it was cleared and disclosed by AfDB.

The ESIA was also cleared by RDB and EIA license was issued by the same institution. 1RAP was also prepared and cleared and disclosed by the Bank in 2020. These project include (1)Kayonza - Kirehe 110 KV line, 110 KV substations(Upgare and New), (2) Nyamagabe-Huye-Gisagara line, 110 KV Substations (Upgare and new), (3) Bugesera industrial park substation, Bugesera IP-BIA Cut-in Cut-out , Bugesera International Airport substations, (4) Nyagatare-Gabiro 110 KV line, Nyagatare-Gabiro 110 KV substation , (5) Rulindo-gicumbi Transmission line, Rulindo-gicumbi Substation, (6) Musanze Substation and (7) Kigoma Substation. Furthermore, different ESIA were prepared for other project components. Thus, 4 ESIAs for Distribution Network Reinforcement were prepared one for each province of Rwanda namely North, South, West and East as well. ESIAs were also prepared for the upgrade of Kalisimbi MV line from 6 kv to 30kv, Nyamata 30kv switching substation and rehabilitation of distribution substations/switching substations in secondary cities (Muhanga, Gicumbi, Rubavu,Huye,Nyagatare , Rusizi) Districts, ugrade of Gahanga, Gikondo and Nzove substations and Network Reinforcement in Kigali. In total, 9 ESIAs have been prepared under the project. under Distribution, one RAP for EPC Nyanza-Ruhango has been prepared and currently.

These studies indicated that construction activities will negatively affect *physical environment* (topography, landforms, geology, soils characteristics, water table levels, groundwater and surface quality, air quality, hydrology, etc.), b*iological environment* (i.e., flora and fauna types and diversity, etc.), *Social environment* (social economic characteristics, sources of income, land use patterns, etc.), and *Cultural environment* (cultural properties, graves, sites etc.). As the projects are being implemented, it is essential to conduct the Environmental and Social Audit to evaluate how well a project complies with environmental and social standards, laws, and commitments as it was planned in the ESIA and RAP prepared and thereby where defects are found to propose the corrective actions required.

Therefore, an Environmental and Social Audit is required to ascertain the project performance in relation to compliance with the national legal and regulatory obligations as well as AfDB's safeguard requirements and ensure that all proposed interventions, materials, measures and procedures detailed in the ESIA and RAP studies are adequately addressed. This audit exercise

will also serve as an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Contractor's Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP).

The following Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Annual Environmental and Social Audit (ESA) for the Rwanda Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity Project by independent ESA consulting firm to conduct external and independent Audit is purposely for review and assessing project performance against environmental, social, health and safety requirements and report findings to Energy Development Corporation Limited (EDCL).

1.3.1. Relevant National E&S requirements for E&S Audit

The National environment and climate change policy (2019) sets the main goal of having a clean and healthy environment resilient to climate variability and change that support a high quality of life for its society. This policy requires strengthening the use of environmental assessment including periodic environmental audit in productive investment and enforce their implementation.

In addition, there are several laws and regulations that need to be consulted while conducting environmental audit in Rwanda. The most critical are the law No 48/2018 of 13/08/2018 on environment and the ministerial order No 001/2021 of 08/02/2021 establishing the list of projects that must undergo Environmental audit, instructions and procedures for conducting environmental audit in Rwanda. The relevant articles to the environmental audit are:

- Law No 48/2018 on Environment: Article 32; Every project that may have significant impact on the environment must undergo an environmental audit during and after its implementation.
- Law No 001/2021 of 08/02/2021:
- Article 3: list of works, activities and projects that must undergo environmental audit and Chapter 3 provides the procedure for conducting environmental audit including among others the ToRs, choice of expert to conduct the environmental audit as well as the audit report.
- Law n° 32/2015 of 11/06/2015 relating to expropriation in public interest

2. Objective

The objective of the Annual Environmental and Social Audit (ESA) is to assess the level of compliance with the applicable E&S requirements. The audit will focus specifically on assessing the extent of compliance with the provisions of the project's financing agreement, including national legislation, regulations norms and procedures, the Bank's environmental and social requirements, and Good International Industrial Practices (GIIP) of the project's sector. The audit will also identify non-compliance and shortcomings, and the direct and root-causes of such non-performance and then recommend corrective actions. It shall be an independent evaluation of both the Borrower/Client and the Bank performances through the overall project E&S performance.

3. Audit requirements/criteria

The key criteria, but not the exhaustive list, to consider in conducting the audit are:

- The E&S requirements of the loan/grant agreements; in compliance section 5.03 on Environmental and Social Safeguards, and section 4.05 on conditions precedent to disbursement for works involving resettlement.
- The applicable national E&S legislations, regulations, norms, standards, and procedures;
- The requirements of the Bank's ISS,[1] and other relevant policies;
- The Approved and/or published project environmental and social documents, including ESIA, RAP, aide-memoires and project progress reports, etc.;
- The Good International Industrial Practices (GIIP) of the Project's sector,
- World Bank Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (sector Specific)

4. Tasks to be conducted and scope of Audit

4.1.Brief methodology

The Environmental and Social Audit (ESA) will be conducted by a qualified consultant appointed by the client, following a structured and comprehensive approach to assess the project's compliance with environmental and social (E&S) safeguards. The audit will focus on evaluating the project's adherence to national laws, AfDB Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) requirements, and other applicable policies and standards.

The methodology involves a thorough review of relevant legal frameworks, project documents, and E&S performance reports, coupled with consultations with key stakeholders, including project implementation units, contractors, affected communities, and regulatory agencies. Site inspections will be carried out to verify the implementation of mitigation measures and assess any residual or unforeseen E&S impacts.

Key areas of focus will include occupational health and safety, labor management, resource efficiency, pollution prevention, grievance redress mechanisms (especially for SEA/SH), compensation and resettlement processes, community engagement, and capacity building activities. The consultant will analyze the capacity of the project team and contractors in managing E&S risks effectively.

The audit will culminate in a comprehensive report presenting findings, root cause analysis, and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) outlining clear recommendations, roles, responsibilities, and estimated costs for addressing identified gaps. An opening and closing meeting with the client and key stakeholders will ensure shared understanding and alignment on audit outcomes and follow-up actions.

Table 2: ***Environmental, Social, and Health & Safety Audit Tasks & Objectives Table***

Audit Function	Objectives	Key Tasks

[1] The ISS consists of four interrelated components The Integrated Safeguards Policy Statement, the Operational Safeguards (OSs), Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (ESAPs), and the Integrated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (IESIA) – Guidance Notes/Materials

1. Environmental Audit	- Ensure compliance with environmental laws, Bank ISS, and project ESMP. - Assess management of environmental impacts, resource use, and pollution prevention.	- Identify and review applicable environmental legislation, permits, standards. - Analyze project reports related to environmental performance. - Conduct site visits to assess pollution control (oil spills, waste management, stormwater). - Review material sourcing, dumping sites, resource efficiency (reuse, recycle, storage). - Evaluate environmental management performance of contractors & supervising engineers. - Consult with environmental regulators and stakeholders. - Identify residual environmental risks. - Propose Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for environmental issues.
2. Social Audit	- Verify compliance with social safeguards (GBV/SEAH, forced labour, child labour, etc.). - Assess stakeholder engagement, compensation, livelihood restoration. - Evaluate effectiveness of grievance redress mechanisms.	- Identify and review Bank ISS social safeguard requirements and national social policies. - Analyze project documents (RAP/FRAP, consultation records, grievance logs). - Evaluate capacity building, community awareness, disclosure activities. - Assess Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), especially SEA/SH handling. - Consult with PAPs, local beneficiaries, civil society, government agencies. - Review compensation, resettlement progress, and livelihood restoration (incl. vulnerable groups). - Evaluate the project's capacity for social risk management. - Recommend CAP actions for social safeguard gaps.
3. Health & Safety Audit	- Assess occupational health & safety (OHS) compliance.	- Review national OHS regulations, Bank ISS requirements, and project-specific H&S plans.
	- Verify emergency preparedness & response.	- Inspect sites for worker safety, health, and living conditions (including campsites).
	- Evaluate labor management and workers' welfare.	- Assess emergency preparedness, incident prevention, and reporting procedures. - Evaluate OSH, first aid, GBV training for workers. - Analyze contractors' and supervision consultants' performance in H&S risk mitigation.

		- Include H&S findings and recommendations in the CAP.

4 Cross-cutting Activities (Applicable to All Audits):

- Organize opening & closing meetings with client, PIU, contractors, Bank.
- Define audit scope, methodology, criteria in agreement with the Project Implementation Entity.
- Evaluate project team's capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts.
- Prepare a comprehensive Audit Report with findings, root causes, and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

5. Consultant qualifications and expertise requirements

The consulting firm must be registered with the Rwanda Association of Professional Environmental Practitioners (RAPEP) or its equivalent in the country of origin. It must have general experience in the area related to the assignment. Additionally, it should prove 2 similar experiences in projects that have been executed at least in last 6 years with good completion certificates and copies of the contracts. The similarity should be conducting environmental and social impact studies/environmental and social audits for at least one of the following:
Power plants, substations, power lines, factories, mining projects/mines and extensive civil works in general.

5.1.Required Key Personnel, Qualifications and Experience

Table 3: Personnel Responsibilities in Environmental, Social and Health & Safety Audit

Personnel	Audit Function	Responsibilities / Key Tasks in Audit	Desired qualifications
Environmentalist (Team Leader)	Environmental Audit + Oversight across all audit components	- Lead and coordinate the overall Environmental and Social Audit process. - Review environmental regulations, permits, AfDB ISS environmental safeguards. - Analyze ESIA, ESMP, and other environmental documentation. - Lead site inspections related to pollution control, resource efficiency, and waste management.	-At least Master's degree from a Recognized Academic Institution in Environmental sciences, Environmental Management, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Engineering and related fields with at least 5 years of practice/experience in the environment field/studies or bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Environmental sciences, Environmental Management, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Engineering and related fields with at least 10

		- Assess environmental compliance of contractors and supervising engineers. - Draft sections of the report related to environmental findings. - Supervise the team's methodology, timelines, and reporting. - Lead opening/closing meetings with stakeholders.	years of practice/experience in the environmental field/studies. -To have conducted at least 3 EAs, proven by service completion certificates and copy of REMA EA certificates of approval. -Must be registered in RAPEP as Lead Expert or Associate Expert, proven by a valid RAPEP certificate. -To have worked on at least 1 international donor funded projects such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank etc proved by 1 completion certificate.
Social Scientist	Social Audit	- Review AfDB ISS social safeguards and national policies (resettlement, labor, GBV/SEA/SH). - Assess GRM performance and SEA/SH handling protocols. - Conduct stakeholder consultations (PAPs, CSOs, vulnerable groups, government agencies). - Evaluate social risks (forced labor, modern slavery, gender issues). - Review resettlement, compensation records, and livelihood restoration efforts. - Draft social audit findings and contribute to the CAP for social issues.	-At least Master's degree from a Recognized Academic Institution in Social Sciences or related fields with at least 5 years of experience in social sciences or bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Social Sciences with at least 10 years of experience in the Social Sciences and related fields such as gender studies. -To have participated in preparation of at least 3 ESAs, proven by service completion certificates. -To have worked on at least 1 international donor funded projects such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank etc proved by 1completion certificates.
Electrical Engineer	Support across all functions (technical lens on energy infrastructure)	- Assess environmental and safety compliance in energy infrastructure works (transmission/distribution lines). - Support evaluation of electrical installations, including site safety and adherence to technical designs. - Ensure technical documentation aligns with E&S mitigation requirements.	-Bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Electrical Engineering with at least 5 years of experience working in the implementation of energy projects such as construction of transmission, distribution and access lines. -Must be registered at the national institution of engineers or other recognized foreign institutions (proven by membership certificates) -He/She must have a certificate of License (category) Z in electrical installation issued by RURA.

		- Identify safety or environmental concerns related to electrical works. - Participate in site visits, particularly in technical assessment of electrification works.	- Provide at least 2 certificates of good completion in electrification related projects.
Civil Engineer	Support across all functions (structural and construction safety)	- Inspect civil works sites (transmission foundations, access roads, substations). - Verify environmental safeguards in civil structures. - Review H&S performance related to structural works. - Support analysis of material sourcing and their environmental impacts. - Validate contractor compliance in civil engineering activities.	-Bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years of experience working in the implementation of energy projects such as construction of transmission, distribution and access lines. -Must be registered at the national institution of engineers or other recognized foreign institutions (proven by membership certificates) -Provide at least 2 completion certification of previous projects.
Health and Safety Expert	Health & Safety Audit	- Lead the review of occupational health & safety practices. - Evaluate emergency preparedness, risk response, and incident documentation. - Assess contractor performance in implementing OSH training, PPE usage, and site hazard controls. - Inspect worker accommodations and welfare facilities. - Review accident reports, first aid readiness, and compliance with standards. - Document gaps and recommend corrective actions in the CAP.	-Bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Environmental health sciences or related fields with at least 5 years of experience working in the implementation of energy projects such as construction of transmission, distribution and access lines. -To have worked on at least 2 international donor funded infrastructure projects such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, proved by 2 completion certificates.
Surveyor	Cross-cutting (supports Environmental & Social Audit)	- Verify boundaries of affected land and sites visited. - Support accurate valuation of PAP assets and resettlement site demarcations. - Assess spatial layout of dumping sites, borrow pits,	-Bachelor's degree from Recognized Academic Institution in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering with at least 5 years of experience in the field of Environmental and Social studies. -Must be a member of national association of surveyors.

		material storage. - Assist with mapping of key environmental and social features. - Confirm GPS locations and mitigation implementation. - Provide spatial data accuracy for audit validation.	-Provide at least 2 completion certificates of previous projects.

6. Audit timelines and deliverables

The duration of the contract will be Three (03) years.
The main deliverable from this exercise will be E&S audit report, including a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The audit report should provide information that will enable the Borrower (Government), Bank and clients to identify, evaluate and prevent environmental and social risks that are not sufficiently considered, with a view to their correction and the prevention of reputational risk. Clear recommendations (executable, measurable, cost, timelines, responsibilities) should be formulated to prioritize and develop the corrective action plan (CAP) for its efficient implementation. In addition, the report should be accompanied by an audit file containing all audit documentation/working papers and evidence.

The audit for specific project(s) is expected to be conducted for a period of three (3) months starting from the date of issuance of the service order. The consultant will provide one electronic/soft copy (word and pdf) through EDCL email, and 1 hard copy for each of the following deliverables:

a) **Inception report:** The consultant shall prepare and submit an inception report which comprehensively describes the detailed work plan, the methodology and approach of the environmental and social audit process, content of the audit, and key information required for achieving the objectives of the assignment. The consultant shall submit the inception report to the client not later than 15 days after receiving the service order.
b) **Draft report:** The Draft environmental and social audit report shall be submitted 45 days after receiving the service order.
c) **Final report:** The Final deliverable, environmental and social audit shall be prepared and submitted by Consultant after incorporating inputs and comments from client and stakeholders (including the Bank) not later than 60 days after receiving the service order. The Report will only be cleared and considered acceptable after satisfactory addressing of the comments.

All reports and communications related to this assignment shall be in the English Language and all reports shall conform to a format agreed with Client at inception stage, including an executive summary, a table of contents, standard cover sheet with date and project details, submittal letter showing those copied and actual date of submission (sample minimum table of content for the E&S compliance audit report is provided in appendix 4).

The audit process and reports must meet the minimum requirements set in the national regulations, AfDB requirements and other best international practices.

7. Payment Modalities

Table 4: Payment schedule

SN	Outputs	Payment
1	Inception report	10 % of the contract amount
2	Draft report	40 % of the contract amount
3	Final report approved by the AfDB	50 % of the contract amount
Total		**100**

8. Equipment, Logistics and Facilities

The Consultant shall be responsible for the provision of all the necessary resources to carry out the Services; and shall make own arrangements for the establishment of office, supporting office equipment and furniture, vehicles, accommodation, utilities, communications, and any other required resources.

9. Client Inputs

The client input will be as follows:

- Assist the Consultant to obtain all necessary access within the project including entry to project areas and other necessary access as appropriate.
- Avail relevant project data and reports including but not limited to the following.
    - ESIA report
    - Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)
    - Quarterly/Monthly E&S Reports to the Bank
    - Previous Mission Aide Memoire(s)
    - E&S Components/Requirements in Financing agreement
- Provide necessary liaison and introduction to supervising consultants, contractors, Government departments etc.
- Review drafts of the audit report to ensure all comments are satisfactorily addressed

10. Confidentiality And Data Ownership

The Consultant will protect the confidentiality of those participating in the exercise at all stages. All data and information received during the assignment, from respondents, EDCL, other stakeholders are to be treated confidentially and is the property of the EDCL. All intellectual property rights arising from the execution of these Terms of Reference are assigned to EDCL. No data or other information from this assignment will be released to third parties without the written approval of the agency.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Indicative Outline Of An Environmental And Social Performance Audit Report (ESPA)

I. **Name of Client**: Signatures of the audit team members and the representative of the auditee
II. **Audit Team:** xxxxx
III. **Executive Summary**: Summary of all significant environmental and social non-conformance and issues of concern and the conclusions and recommendations.
IV. **Contents**: The contents of the report should include the following sections:

1. **Introduction**
   Client and auditee
2. **Project Description**

Concise description of the project, the project institutional arrangement, the area / location and past and current operations. The description should focus on project components, activities and processes that are sources of environmental and social aspects/risks.

3. **Audit Objective, Scope, and Criteria**

4. **Audit Process and Methodologies**

Audit Plan: The date of the audit and brief description of the process e.g., pre-audit activities, on site audit activities including site inspection, interviews and document reviews and post audit activities. Exceptions and deviations from the audit plan.

5. **Findings**

List of Findings: This chapter contains the individual findings of the audit subdivided in:

- *Non-compliance*
- *Issues of concern*

The above sections (non-compliance, issues of concern) may be subdivided with headings based on the type of issues (environmental and social) or the type of criteria applied.

6. **Corrective Action Plan (CAP):** A comprehensive matrix, including the cost and deadline of each action**.**

7. **Conclusions:** Contains conclusions based on aggregated level, criticality, or significance of the individual findings in relation to the audit objectives, scope or criteria.
8. **Recommendations:** Contains (a set of) recommendations supplemental to the Corrective Action Plan.
9. **Annexes**

a) Project organization chart (auditee)
b) Area, location chart
c) Criteria (detailed list of the criteria)
d) Register of documents

e) Register of interviews
f) Register of observations
g) Any other key documents, photo's, notes e.g. that support the findings (evidence)
h) References (papers, standards, etc.)
i) List of interviewees.