



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS ON: The Impact of Charcoal Production on The Ecology and Economy of South Sudan

1. Introduction

1. Ebony Center for Strategic Studies (ECSS) is an independent, non-partisan, and not-for-profit organization that was established in November 2011 in Juba, South Sudan. It started operations in January 2012 with the main objective of assisting, through frontier research, the people of South Sudan to leapfrog into the 21st Century.

2. The Center has received a grant from the Royal Kingdom of Norway to conduct policy-oriented studies in the key areas of economic policy and natural resource management. Evidence-based public policy formulation will become central in the government's strategy to consolidate peace and stabilize the economy of South Sudan during the second transitional period. In this regard, the role of the research centers, such as Ebony Center, is to conduct studies that would inform the design and implementation of appropriate policy measures within the overall framework of consolidating peace and stabilizing the economy.

2. The Call for Proposals

3. One of the consequences of violent conflict is vividly captured by the delay in the payment of wages and salaries of the public sector employees. This is further complicated by a triple digit inflation, which has in turn eroded the purchasing power of the South Sudanese pound (SSP). It is this desperate situation that has led many people to destroy finite natural resources for survival, threatening the environment and its diversity. Tree cutting and wood burning for economic survival, for instance, have increasingly become prevalent in South Sudan. This is all evident by ongoing production and trading of charcoal in major towns in the country, including the capital city of Juba. Other policy surveillances point to the fact that charcoal from South Sudan is now getting traded internationally, informally exported mainly to the Middle East. While the ecological troubles of charcoal trade are readily discernible, little is understood about its impacts on the local economy.

4. Hence, this call for proposals is to study the impacts of charcoal production on the ecology and economy of South Sudan. The exercise is aimed at an in-depth analysis of those involved and motivations, production techniques used, supply chains, locations, types of trees used in the production process, environmental remedies, licensure, and economic contributions (e.g., employment, taxes, license fees). Please, see the following requirements:

- i. **A brief statement of the specific objectives** of the study.
- ii. **A methodology and data.**
- iii. **Expected outputs:** a high-quality publishable paper, a policy brief of not more than 5 pages, and a working paper of not more than 10,000 words;
- iv. **Statement of qualification** and recent CV (s) of the study team – qualified women will be given priority.
- v. **Work program and timeline:** a brief description of the activities and timeline needed for each activity, but the study period should not be more than 3 months.
- vi. **Budget:** estimated expenditure by major line item, e.g. research assistance, travel, data processing & analysis, sectorial support, honorarium, and so forth. Total budget must not exceed US\$6,000.
- vii. **Where to send Proposals:** Please, email your proposal (s) to Dr. Benjamin Apai: benjaminapai@ebonycenter.org
- viii. **Cutoff Date for receiving proposals:** No proposal shall be received after the closed of business (COB) on **Thursday 31 January 2019**.