

Consultancy: Land use & Forest Finance Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean

Location: Panama or home-based

Context:

WCMC works in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on UN-REDD Programme support to nationally led REDD+ processes, promoting the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

Given the challenge that Latin American countries are facing with respect to halting deforestation, forestry and other land use practices in order to meet climate and biodiversity targets and the need to scale up sustainable public and private finance and investment to make this a reality, WCMC is seeking an experienced Land Use and Forest Finance Specialist to actively support activities that are taking place and/or being planned in Latin American countries, in collaboration with UNEP's Office for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC) and its UN-REDD team, as well as with the UNEP Climate Finance Unit.

Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

ACADEMIC

The consultant should have an advanced academic degree (master's or Ph.D.) in environmental management, finance, economics, social sciences, or a closely related field. Additional work experience will be accepted in lieu of master's degree.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

At least seven years of professional experience working with governments, agribusinesses, non-governmental organizations, or financial institutions on forests, land-use and/or agricultural finance (ten years for those without advanced degree).

It would be an asset if the consultant has experience with government agencies in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay or other countries in the region, and/or with agribusinesses, traders, banks and investors.

The consultant should be self-motivated and computer literate in standard software applications; have excellent written, communication and analytical skills, particularly as related to sustainable land use and green finance; and have good interpersonal skills. Although, he or she will work in a small team, it is essential that the chosen candidate can work in an independent manner to complete the given assignments.

Languages

For this position, oral and written fluency in English and Spanish is required. Being able to speak, write and communicate in Portuguese is a distinct advantage.

Duration

The consultant will work for 12 months between July/August 2022 and July/August 2023.

Funding

The maximum total costs for this consultancy are USD 60,000, with the selected candidate being paid based on monthly assignment reports documenting deliverables and progress against the work plan and key targets.

Workplan

The consultant will act as focal point for a number of activities that aim to catalyze private finance towards REDD+ activities, sustainable forest and landscape restoration, working in close collaboration with UNEP's Office for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC) and its UN-REDD team, as well as with the UNEP Climate Finance Unit, including on projects such as: a) AGRI3 Fund; b) &Green fund; c) Responsible Commodities Facility; d) Restoration Seed Capital Facility; e) Restoration Factory; f) Restoration Marketplace; g) IFACC / Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco.

Main activities:

- Support the implementation of the UNEP UN-REDD work programme and Technical Assistance in LAC, including activities within the +Bosques ALC initiative, on finance and private sector engagement;
- Lead engagement with private sector / finance partners in LAC, tracking and documenting the degree of private sector engagement per country and any key results achieved on a monthly basis in assignment reports;
- Lead engagement with government agencies and country partners in the UN-REDD Technical Assistance Programme countries in LAC, contributing to objectives and targets that governments have set to catalyze sustainable private finance that seeks to stimulate economic growth while meeting climate, nature and restoration objectives;
- Gather intelligence from political decisions, agribusinesses, traders and financial institutions about developments relevant for forestry and agriculture in Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil (and/or other countries in the region). Produce at least 3 short (2 page) briefs about key developments; and
- Propose innovative mechanisms for leveraging the participation of small agriculture producers and local and indigenous communities for income diversification, including microfinance tools;
- Identify synergies and engage with other UNEP-managed projects taking place in LAC region; and

- Identify opportunities for new projects and funding on sustainable land use in Latin America.

Deliverables

Monthly report detailing progress and activities, with deliverables attached, which will be approved by WCMC, in collaboration with the UNEP UN-REDD LAC Coordinator.

How to apply

Please send a short e-mail indicating your relevant experience, as well as a CV, to judith.walcott@unep-wcmc.org by 31 July 2022. Documents can be received in Spanish or English.