



Request for Expressions of Interest

International Consultancy to develop a study on “optimizing landscape-scale restoration through filling of knowledge gap(s) on restoration and protected areas”

Location:	Desk-based, with virtual meetings with staff and partners in Washington DC and elsewhere
Languages required:	English
Starting date:	November 20, 2019
Duration of contract:	No more than six months from starting date
IUCN Contact:	Joshua Schneck, Programme Manager, Multilateral Environmental Funds Programmes and Projects, Forest Conservation Programme, Joshua.schneck@iucn.org

1. Overview

The international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Washington DC Office seeks a qualified International Organization/Consultant to undertake development of a study on the role of protected areas in landscape-scale restoration. This work is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-supported project, “*Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration*,”¹ implemented by IUCN.

2. Background

Nature-based Solutions are at the forefront of climate change debates over how best to achieve the Paris Agreement. Current estimates suggest that some 30% of the mitigation outcomes needed by 2050 can potentially come from the forest and the land use sectors. In addition, science on the harmful impacts of deforestation and degradation supports the urgent calls for political action to reduce deforestation, reduce forest degradation and natural ecosystems’ conversion, as well as deploy accelerated action for carbon removals through afforestation/reforestation, improved forest management, agroforestry, and restoration of forests, coastal wetlands and drained peatlands, among other landscapes.² As practiced by IUCN and other partners, measures to conserve forests are interlinked with and supported by measures to restore forest and broader landscapes through restorative activities that follow best practice Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) principles³.

There is a great opportunity to advance FLR in countries through alignment of FLR and Protected Area (PA) policies and integrated planning for protection and restoration. However, effective policy responses are limited by lack of knowledge and understanding on optimal approaches to FLR of landscapes that include a mosaic of both protected and non-protected areas. For example, while it is known that protected areas play an important role in the provision of many ecosystem services in a landscape (e.g., pollination, water provision/purification, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, recreation, etc.), little is known about strategies for optimizing the flow of ecosystem services through alternative spatial arrangement of PAs within a landscape, different restorative and management actions on both protected and non-protected areas in the wider landscape, or the types of governance regimes and policies that support sustainable outcomes.

¹ <https://www.thegef.org/project/fostering-partnerships-build-coherence-and-support-forest-landscape-restoration>

² Roe, S. et al. *Contribution of the land sector to a 1.5 °C world*. Nature Climate Change volume 9, pages 817–828 (2019)

³ <https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration>

The proposed study will address these gaps by developing an analytical framework for understanding and providing policy recommendations on the management and distribution of protected and non-protected areas in a mosaic landscape under restoration, so as to support achievement of alternative objectives. The analytical framework will be informed by examination of published studies profiling different aspects of landscape-level restoration, and that include information on the relationship between protected and non-protected areas.

The framework and case studies will be presented in a report with recommendations for mainstreaming FLR into national protected area policy frameworks, and practical suggestions for policy and management approaches within landscapes under restoration that support alternative objectives such as species conservation, enhanced provision of ecosystem services, etc.

Potential benefits include enhanced productivity of restored lands, reduced pressure on protected areas, and improved biodiversity outcomes in diverse restoration strategies. Opportunities also exist for this joined up approach to be integrated with NDCs and LDN targets. Outputs will be disseminated through IUCN and partner platforms and at high-level communication events/opportunities.

For the Global Environment Facility, the study can potentially help support greater linkages and capture of synergies within and among project- and program-supported work that is financed with contributions from the GEF *Biodiversity* and *Land Degradation* focal areas, as well as inform ongoing and future support for restoration work.

3. Responsibilities and Key Deliverables

The selected organization/consultant will be responsible for delivering the following work:

1. **Analytical framework** on the role of protected areas in landscapes under FLR, the interactions between protected and non-protected areas in a landscape under FLR, and the concept of a “Restoration Continuum”⁴ of restorative approaches that inform policy and management approaches within landscapes under FLR. Factors assessed would include:
 - a. size, shape and spatial distribution of protected and non-protected areas in a landscape
 - b. management regimes of protected and non-protected areas in a landscape
 - c. balancing objectives of different sets of land users
 - d. the concept of a “Restoration Continuum” of restorative approaches that inform policy and management approaches within landscapes under FLR
2. **Case studies** of landscape-level restoration of mixed-use landscapes that include both protected and non-protected areas, to better understand the kinds of design and management approaches to FLR and protected areas that generate positive and sustainable environmental and social outcomes. The case studies will be the product of desk-based research and should consist of 3-5 case studies of approximately 3-4 pages in length each, with findings to be incorporated into the Report (see below).
3. **Report** presenting the Analytical framework, findings from case studies, and recommendations. The Report should include key findings on role of protected areas in landscapes under FLR, recommendations for mainstreaming FLR into national protected area policy frameworks, and practical suggestions for policy and management approaches within landscapes under restoration that support alternative objectives such as species conservation, enhanced provision of ecosystem services, etc. The Report should also indicate further areas and questions for follow-up research. The Report should be no more than 50 pages in length, including case studies and annexes.

4. Timeline for Deliverables

⁴ See <https://www.ser.org/page/SERStandards/International-Standards-for-the-Practice-of-Ecological-Restoration.htm> for the concept of a “restorative continuum” as developed by SER.

- Development of Analytical framework: November 2019 - January 2019. Draft Analytical frameworks due January 1st, and finalized version incorporating and addressing any comments from IUCN and identified partners due February 1, 2020.
- Assessment of case studies and development of Report: February 2019 – April 2020
 - Draft report due February 28, 2020
 - 2nd Draft report due on March 30, 2020 addressing first round of comments
 - Finalized Report incorporating and addressing any comments from IUCN and identified partners due April 30, 2020

5. Supervision and Collaboration

The Consultant will work under the supervision of the IUCN Programme Manager for the project “*Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration*,” based in IUCN’s Washington DC office.

In developing the Analytical framework, the organization/consultant will draw upon relevant published materials and consult with key partners involved in related work, including:

- IUCN Secretariat and identified focal point(s) on the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and Commission on Ecosystem Management
- GEF focal point supporting the GEF project that is a source of funds for this consultancy

6. Criteria for selection of the International Organization/Consultant

- Recognized expertise in conservation ecology, including a masters or PhD in Ecology, Botany, Forestry, or related areas of expertise;
- Good understanding of restoration approaches, terminology, concepts;
- At least 10-years experience in delivering high-quality analyses and reports on conservation issues;
- Demonstrated ability to deliver results on-time, and on-budget;
- Excellent coordination and problem-solving skills;
- Strong technical writing skills, with published examples;
- Fluency in English

7. Documents to be submitted:

- A motivation letter to the Programme Manager, Multilateral Environmental Funds Programmes and Projects, Forest Conservation Programme,;
- Updated CV showcasing similar experience to the one needed in this consultation;
- A brief methodological note detailing the approach to be followed in carrying out the tasks assigned and achieving the expected results of this consultation;
- Financial offer specifying the total remuneration for the consultation in USD, including all taxes.⁵

8. APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION

Applications containing the documents noted in section 7 above must be sent by e-mail to:

Joshua.schneck@iucn.org. The e-mail should indicate in the subject “Consultancy on Restoration and PAs”.

The deadline for sending the applications are 15 November 2019. Applications arriving after this date will not be considered.

⁵ We estimate that this work should take no more than 50 days.