Request for Proposals (RfP)

International Consultancy supporting IUCN and The Restoration Initiative Programme with Land Cover Mapping and Analysis Using Remote Sensing Imagery, Field-Based Data, and Tools

Forest Conservation Programme

Issue Date: February 28, 2020

Closing Date and Time: March 15, 2020, 11:59pm EST

IUCN Contact:
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PART 1 – INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS AND PROPOSAL CONDITIONS

1.1. About IUCN
IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 950 staff in more than 50 countries.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people’s well-being.

www.iucn.org
https://twitter.com/IUCN/
1.2. Summary of the Requirement

IUCN invites you to submit a Proposal for the International Consultancy supporting IUCN and The Restoration Initiative Programme with Land Cover Mapping and Analysis Using Remote Sensing Imagery, Field-Based Data, and Tools. The detailed Terms of Reference can be found in Part 2 of this RfP.

1.3. The procurement process

The following key dates apply to this RfP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RfP Issue Date</th>
<th>February 28, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RfP Closing Date and Time</td>
<td>March 15, 2020, 11:59pm EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Contract Award Date</td>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1.4. Conditions

IUCN is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with any Proposer as a result of issuing this RfP. IUCN is under no obligation to accept the lowest priced Proposal or any Proposal. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time prior to contract award. By participating in this RfP, Proposers accept the conditions set out in this RfP.

1.5. Queries and questions during the RfP period

Proposers are to direct any queries and questions regarding the RfP to the above IUCN Contact. No other IUCN personnel are to be contacted in relation to this RfP.

Proposers may submit their queries no later than March 12, 2020, 11:59pm EST

As far as possible, IUCN will issue the responses to any questions, suitably anonymised, to all Proposers. If you consider the content of you question confidential, you must state this at the time the question is posed.

1.6. Amendments to RfP documents

IUCN may amend the RfP documents by issuing notices to that effect to all Proposers and may extend the RfP closing date and time if deemed appropriate.

1.7. Proposal lodgement methods and requirements

Proposers must submit their Proposal to IUCN no later than 11:59pm EST on March 15, 2020 by email to: Joshua.schneck@iucn.org.

The subject heading of the email shall be RfP – “Consultancy on Land Cover Mapping and Analysis supporting STAR” - [Proposer Name]. Electronic copies are to be submitted in PDF and native (e.g. MS Word) format. Proposers may submit multiple emails (suitably annotated – e.g. Email 1 of 3) if attached files are deemed too large to suit a single email transmission.

Proposals must be prepared in English and in the format stated in Part 3 of this RfP.

1.8. Late and Incomplete Proposals

Any Proposal received by IUCN later than the stipulated RfP closing date and time, and any Proposal that is incomplete, will not be considered. There will be no allowance made by IUCN for any delays in transmission of the Proposal from Proposer to IUCN.

1.9. Withdrawals and Changes to the Proposal

Proposals may be withdrawn or changed at any time prior to the RfP closing date and time by written notice to the IUCN contact. No changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the RfP closing date and time.
1.10. **Validity of Proposals**

Proposals submitted in response to this RfP are to remain valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the RfP closing date.

1.11. **Evaluation of Proposals**

The evaluation of Proposals shall be carried out exclusively with regards to the evaluation criteria and their relative weights specified in part 3 of this RfP.
PART 2 – THE REQUIREMENT (Terms of Reference)

Overview

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Washington DC Office seeks a qualified Firm/Consultant to undertake design and implementation of a landcover assessment of 5 five project landscapes¹ averaging around 1,000 square kilometres each in size, using remote-sensing tools and imagery, complemented by localized data collection and materials. The work is supporting development and piloting of a new tool, the Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) metric, that seeks to provide quantifiable information on the contribution that abatement – through restoration and other actions – of specific threats in specific places can make to the improvement of species survival probability.

Where possible, the methodology shall make use of readily available tools such as SEPAL and others that are part of the OpenForis² free and open source software tools, as well as other readily available datasets and products, to facilitate inexpensive replication. Moreover, the methodology shall seek, where possible, to be consistent across all 5 landscapes, while accounting for differences in data availability and landscapes.

The final outputs of this assignment will be:

- A methodology, written up in the form of a brief report, for performing a landcover assessment in support of STAR Baseline Ex-Ante Assessments for 5 identified landscapes, classifying the extent of land degradation using factors assumed to be relevant to survival of identified threatened species.
- Application of this methodology to generate a set of GIS raster layers classifying extent of land degradation of identified project landscapes, and presented in a series of accompanying maps.

Background

Conservation of threatened biodiversity is often limited by a lack of readily available information: information on where threatened species are found; the types of threats facing individual species and their significance; and the impacts that different actions and investments can make on conservation outcomes. Moreover, as funding is limited and biodiversity conservation often competes with other land use objectives, conservation actions and investments typically must be weighed against alternative options. To date, these conservation and investment decisions have been made in absence of a quantitative, comparable, scalable, and verifiable measure of the conservation gains from alternative actions.

In response to this need, a new metric and approach is being developed by IUCN, in partnership with Newcastle University, Birdlife International, and others. Called the Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) metric³, the tool uses data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species⁴ to generate both ex-ante (potential) and ex-post (achieved) estimates on the impacts of actions and investments to reducing threats to species loss at a range of scales and over a range of timelines. These actions and investments would include restoration interventions.

The methodology for STAR, is presently being finalized for publication in a scientific journal and will be shared with the identified Firm/Consultant. The STAR metric is calculated in three phases:

1. Estimated Ex Ante. The estimated ex ante calculation is based only on existing published information. This enables users to gain a preliminary evaluation of the potential of a site to contribute

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¹ Projects are participating in the IUCN-led GEF-supported GEF-6 Programme, The Restoration Initiative (TRI), implemented in partnership with FAO and UNEP. More information on TRI available here: https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/projects/restoration-initiative-tri. Note, for some of the participating TRI projects, the project landscape is located in a single contiguous area. For others, the project landscape consists of several distinct areas.
² http://www.openforis.org/home.html
⁴ https://www.iucnredlist.org
to threatened species conservation. The analysis is automated and therefore rapid, and provides an estimate of the species present at the site, the estimated/suspected/inferred proportion of each of the species current habitat that the site represents, the known threats affecting those species that may be operating at the site, and the proportion of those species historical habitat that has been converted and therefore could be restored at the site. The ability to calculate STAR scores using globally available data is what gives STAR its strong policy context, as the estimated ex ante score provides a preliminary indication of the relative contribution that a site could make to global species conservation. The analysis can also be used – with limitations borne in mind – to compare estimated scores between sites.

2. **Baseline Ex Ante.** The baseline ex ante phase produces a refined STAR score for the site based on site-specific information. The baseline phase uses best available data to verify the presence of threatened species and the presence and severity of threats to species operating at the site. The baseline ex ante score can be used during intervention planning to quantify and compare the expected benefit to species of alleviating different threats and of restoring habitat at the site. Conservation goals and monitoring can be established during the baseline ex ante phase, informed by the site-specific data collected, as part of the planning process.

3. **Ex Post.** The ex post phase enables users to measure progress against delivery of conservation benefits through management processes implemented. Assessment of progress must be undertaken after sufficient time has passed to establish that threat abatement and/or habitat restoration efforts have been successful. This analysis requires development of a counterfactual scenario to compare conservation progress against the expected conditions at the site in the absence of conservation action. The ex post phase allows reporting of conservation benefits accrued and can be utilised as part of the adaptive management of the site.

This Consultancy is supporting the development of 5 Baseline Ex-Ante STAR assessments of project landscapes in 4 countries: Cameroon; Central African Republic; Kenya (two projects/landscapes); Myanmar. At the same time, it is anticipated that outputs from this Consultancy will help in developing Ex-Post STAR assessments

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The selected Firm/Consultant will be responsible for delivering the following work:

- In consultation with IUCN and other project partners, develop a methodology, written up in the form of a brief report, for performing a landcover assessment in support of STAR Baseline Ex-Ante Assessments for 5 identified landscapes, classifying the extent of land degradation using factors assumed to be relevant to survival of identified threatened species. Factors likely to be relevant to the survival of identified threatened species would include (these are subject to change pending analysis):
  - % tree cover
  - Type of vegetation present
  - Habitat fragmentation and connectivity
  - Human disturbance
  - Large-scale changes in natural systems (e.g., change in water regime due to construction of dams)

- Application of this methodology to generate a set of GIS raster layers classifying extent of land degradation of identified project landscapes and presented in a series of accompanying maps.

- Where mapping and analysis requires the addition of field-based data collection, the Firm/Consultant will work with project partners to develop guidance and if needed, surveying tools in the form of a Collect Mobile Survey and/or another sampling regime, for collecting information relevant for refining the land cover assessments. Support may include help in developing training (potentially through a
webinar, for how to administer field-based surveys and capture and utilize this information in developing the above maps and analysis.

- Wherever possible, all underlying data used and analyses generated will be freely accessible and available without restrictions on use to IUCN and partners, so as to facilitate replication and sharing of work.

**Timeline for Deliverables**

1. Draft Methodology – by May 30, 2020
2. GIS layers and maps – by August 31, 2020

**Implementation and Execution Arrangements**

Work will be coordinated and overseen by IUCN DC office.

**Criteria for selection of the International Organization/Consultant**

- Recognized expertise and extensive experience in development and application of geospatial tools and analysis of landcover status and change, for environmental monitoring, decision making, and communications.
- Excellent understanding of conservation biology, land degradation dynamics, ecosystem health and degradation dynamics, particularly those operating in semi-arid savannah landscapes as well as tropical forests.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver results on-time, and on-budget
- Excellent coordination and problem-solving skills
- Strong technical writing skills
- Fluency in English
- Quality of Technical Proposal, including demonstrated understanding of the assignment and objectives, clarity and feasibility of proposed approach
- Cost of proposed services

**APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION**

Applications containing the documents noted above must be sent by e-mail to: Joshua.schneck@iucn.org. The e-mail should indicate in the subject, “Consultancy on Land Cover Mapping and Analysis supporting STAR”. The deadline for sending the applications is 15 March 2020. Applications arriving after this date will not be considered.

Questions pertaining to this Request for Proposals may be submitted via email to Joshua.schneck@iucn.org no later than March 12, 2020, 11:59pm EST.
PART 3 – THE EVALUATION MODEL

The responses to the Screening Questionnaire will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria and associated relative weights as indicated in the table below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevant and fully validated experience and expertise of team member(s) and firm (where applicant is not an individual), demonstrated by past work and training</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical proposal shows clear understanding of the objectives of the assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches suggested in the Technical proposal are well-defined, relevant and correspond to the assignment of this TOR</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches suggested in the Technical proposal, including work plan, are feasible and provide clear path for successful, on-time, on-budget completion of the work</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrated excellent communication ability, and ability to work under tight timelines and manage and resolve issues and problems as they arise</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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PART 4 – INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY PROPOSERS

By participating in this RfP, Proposers are indicating their acceptance to be bound by the conditions set out in this RfP.

This Part details all the information Proposers are required to provide to IUCN. Submitted information will be used in the evaluation of Proposals. Proposers are discouraged from sending additional information, such as sales brochures, that are not specifically requested.

Each of the following must be submitted as a separate document, and will be evaluated separately.

4.1. Technical information/Service Proposal

Documents to be submitted:

- A brief cover letter noting motivation for submitting a proposal and suitability to provide requested services, to the Programme Manager, Multilateral Environmental Funds Programmes and Projects, Forest Conservation Programme;
- Updated CVs of all technical staff proposed to support this Consultancy, showcasing relevant experience and training;
- A brief Technical proposal, detailing your proposed methodology and approach to be followed in carrying out identified tasks for achieving the expected results of this Consultancy;
- Financial offer, submitted as a separate document (a Word doc or spreadsheet is fine), specifying the total remuneration for the consultation in USD, and breakdown in services, including all taxes. Note – it is estimated that the work will require no more than 50 days of consultancy/staff time.

4.2. Pricing information

Prices include all costs

Submitted rates and prices are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Requirement. Any charge not stated in the Proposal as being additional, will not be allowed as a charge against any transaction under any resultant Contract.

Applicable Goods and Services Taxes

Proposal rates and prices shall be exclusive of Value Added Tax.

Currency of proposed rates and prices

Unless otherwise indicated, all rates and prices submitted by Proposers shall be in USD.