Call for consultancy service as Private Sector Engagement and Conservation Finance Specialist for further development of the GEF-8 regional child project “Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program Regional Coordination and Technical Support”

IUCN Asia Regional Office
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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. Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of 1,400 Member organisations and some 15,000 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. Through its status as a Project Agency for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and an Accredited Entity for the Global Climate Fund (GCF), IUCN been entrusted to mobilise significant sources of multilateral funding and to use its global network of Members and experts to put this funding to greatest effect.

2. Background

Last year at the UN COP15 meeting in Montreal, Canada, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which includes a target to protect at least 30% of the planet under effective conservation. IUCN is closely supporting the implementation of the KMGBF across many countries and ecosystems. Framed by IUCN’s global agenda on forests, the IUCN Asia Regional Office seeks to combat deforestation and forest degradation in areas of high biodiversity and cultural significance and restore degraded forest landscapes, while ensuring that rights-based land use is enabled, and forest benefits are sustainably managed and equitably shared.

IUCN and FAO co-lead the GEF-8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programme (CFB IP). The CFB IP will contribute to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya ¹ to maximize multiple global environment benefits related to carbon and biodiversity and human well-being. The CFB IP consists of a regional coordination child project and three country child

¹ For the purposes of the Global Environment Facility-funded Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program, the biome is considered to comprise Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.
projects in Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand (with eight target landscapes). Additional country child projects are being considered.

The CFB IP will work with multiple partners to reduce threats to primary forest conservation, focus on expansion and effective management of protected and conserved areas, and improve practices for enhanced IPLCs’ resilience and benefits in primary forests outside PAs, including buffer zones. The program will also create an enabling environment for primary forest conservation and leverage incentives and finance for the conservation and sustainable management of primary forests. As part of its activities, the program will conduct a biome-wide diagnostic assessment focusing on primary forest conservation and develop an Indo-Malaya regional strategy specifically aimed at this crucial task. Furthermore, it will create a Primary Forest Investment Forum to stimulate investment and innovation in this area. To facilitate policy coordination, knowledge sharing, and learning, an Indo-Malayan Critical Forest Knowledge Hub will also be established.

3. Overview of the consultancy

IUCN is looking for a Private Sector Engagement and Conservation Finance Specialist to support the full proposal development for the GEF-8 regional child project “Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program Regional Coordination and Technical Support.”

The Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project was included in the 2023 June GEF Workplan and approved in the 64th Council Meeting on June 26-29, 2023, as a Full-Sized Child Project under the CFB IP with funding under the Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation Focal Areas. During the Project Preparatory Grant (PPG) phase, the Project Document and the GEF CEO Endorsement Request including all mandatory and required additional annexes will be developed for submission to the GEF Secretariat by June 2024. Both the PPG as well as the implementation phases of the project will be directly executed jointly by IUCN and FAO. The present assignment contributes to the PPG phase of full project development of this project that was assigned “moderate” Environmental and Social Risk Management rating during the PFD phase.

4. Objective

Under the overall guidance of the joint PPG Development Task Force, and working closely with other PPG Experts, the consultant will provide specialized technical contributions related to Private Sector Engagement and Conservation Finance as relevant to the formulation of the Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project under the GEF-8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programme.

5. Description of tasks

A. Private Sector Engagement: The Specialist will identify strategic approaches for the project to engage with the private sector for greater scale, effectiveness and sustainability of outcomes. The consultant will:

- Conduct an overall mapping of key business sectors and business stakeholders with activities or supply chains linked to intact forest landscapes/primary forests, identifying potential partners and possible entry points for working with them
- Identify any potential “champions” such as companies who are at the forefront of ESG/sustainable approaches within their sector
- Develop a draft Private Sector Engagement Plan for the project
- Collaborate with the communications specialist to ensure the communications strategy includes aspects on the private sector
- Develop a clear articulation of the “value proposition” of the project for the private sector, (answering the question WIIFM) and develop a project “deck” for presentation to the private sector
B. Conservation Financing: The specialist will assist the project to identify how best to mobilise private capital to upscale the project investment in primary forests in Indo-Malaya, providing state of the art recommendations on innovative actions that could be taken to scale up sustainable finance.

- Conduct a desk-review stock-taking of experience with different conservation financing approaches in the region
- Design the regional investment forum – including its governance, mandate and preparations, and show how this forum could help prioritise and guide the project in various approaches including:
  - Identifying sustainability-related instruments and products for institutional investors and asset managers such as thematic bonds or impact investment vehicles
  - Developing pipelines of bankable projects aligned with primary forest conservation
  - Assisting countries to increase their access to international and domestic private capital
  - Engaging lenders and banks on more sustainable lending and investment practices in key sectors including rubber, timber, pulp and paper sectors

6. Key Deliverables and Timeline

The consultancy will start after signature of the contract and should end no later than June 30th 2024. Here follows the list of the deliverables and deadlines. Deadlines will correspond with the timeframe based on start date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action / Deliverables</th>
<th>Deadline (after signature of contract)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Private sector mapping completed, as per point A above</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Draft private sector engagement plan developed, as per point A above</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Value proposition and presentation deck developed, as per point A above</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stock-taking report of experience with different conservation financing approaches in the region developed, as per point B above</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Detailed design and ToR of the regional investment forum developed, as per point B above</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clear recommendations are given regarding how/if the project should engage in relation to sustainability related instruments and products; developing pipelines of bankable projects; assisting countries to access additional finance; engaging lenders and banks around lending and investment in key sectors, as per point B above</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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organized by IUCN and the joint PPG Development Task Force to track progress and align on the tasks.

8. Required experience and qualifications

The work will be conducted by an international consultant with the following qualification and experience:

- Master’s or equivalent degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Environmental Economics or a related field

- At least 10 years of experience working in the private sector – preferably in a relevant sector such as forestry, agriculture or mining, etc.

  OR

- At least 10 years of experience working in Asia as a consultant on business, trade, investment or sustainable development issues

  OR

- At least 10 years of experience participating in the development and/or implementation of at least 1-2 of the following: impact investment, biodiversity offsets, carbon credits, blended financing, and PES, as well as detailed familiarity with other conservation financing vehicles

- Professional connections and extensive private sector network in the region

- Strong relationship building skills

- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines

- Excellent English (written and spoken) communication skills

9. Application

Interested candidate are invited to submit the following in one document by email to the following email address: satrio.wicaksono@iucn.org and with subject “Private Sector Engagement and Conservation Finance Specialist”.

- A detailed curriculum vitae highlighting specific experience in relation to the subject of this consultancy.
- A written motivation regarding their suitability for the consultancy service and proposed methodology to conduct the tasks
- A financial proposition in USD for completion of the required tasks, including the daily rate.

Evaluation of applications

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: (i) profile and experience in relation to subject of the consultancy, (ii) the methodology proposed for conducting the tasks, and (iii) the financial offer.