

## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** **CONSULTING SERVICES**

**Selection Process #:** RG-T4297-P002

**Selection Method:** Simplified competitive process

**Country:** Regional

**Sector:** Environment and Natural Disasters

**Funding – TC #:** ATN/CN-20213-RG

**Project #:** RG-T4297

**Project Title:** Promoting Improved Climate Change Governance through the Implementation of Nature-based Solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Description of Services:** Formulation of the scope, methodology, and statistical model for an interactive tool aimed at incorporating Nature-Based Solutions into planning processes.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation, for which it intends to contract the consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest.

Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

To access the IDB Portal, the firms must generate a registration account, including **all** the data requested in it. In the event that any of the information requested is not included, the firm will not be able to participate in this or any other Bank-executed selection process for operational work. If the firm has been previously registered, please validate that **all** the firm's information is updated and complete before submitting an expression of interest.

The consulting services ("the Services") include a consultancy for the formulation of the scope, methodology, and statistical model for an interactive tool aimed to incorporate Nature-Based Solutions into planning processes with a duration of 9 months that is intended to start in the second semester of 2024.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work (GN-2765-4). All eligible consulting firms, as defined in this policy may express their interest. If the consulting firm is presented in a consortium, it should designate one of the firms as a representative, which will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal, and the submission of all the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described in the Terms of Reference for the assignment (see below). Interested consulting firms must provide information to establish that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in the form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as its representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, (Washington D.C. time) by sending an email to: Maria Irene Gauto, [mariagau@iadb.org](mailto:mariagau@iadb.org).

Gregory Watson  
Sector Principal Specialist  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Climate Change Division  
1300 New York Ave, NW, Washington DC 20577, USA  
E-mail: [GREGORYW@iadb.org](mailto:GREGORYW@iadb.org); [mariagau@iadb.org](mailto:mariagau@iadb.org)  
Web site: [www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)

## **RG-T4297**

### **Formulation of a Model for an Interactive Tool to include Nature Based Solutions in Planning Processes**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Nature drives the economy. It is a vital global asset that provides us with goods and services such as food, air, and water. All economic activities fundamentally rely on these services to some extent, with estimates suggesting that a massive US\$44 trillion of the global economy – over half of global GDP—is highly or moderately dependent on nature. Yet, we are still witnessing a loss of biodiversity together with degradation of the ecosystem services it sustains.
- 1.2 The climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked. Climate change represents a major driver of biodiversity loss, while ecosystems' degradation undermines people's and nature's resilience to climate-related shocks and stresses. Underpinning both crises are persistent social and gender inequalities, which increase vulnerability to risks and reduce the options available to people to sustain their livelihoods and well-being in the face of these global challenges.
- 1.3 The Canadian-funded program Promoting improved climate change governance through the implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) in Latin America and the Caribbean (RG-T4297) aims to improve the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services, increase private-sector investment, enhance national-budget allocation, and promote gender-responsive NBS-related policies. It seeks to create the enabling conditions in target countries to build climate resilience and protect ecosystems while generating opportunities to implement NbS that address the needs of the infrastructure and agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors.
- 1.4 A fundamental assumption for the project is that NBS implementation can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation simultaneously while generating essential biodiversity co-benefits. NbS is an 'umbrella concept' for other established nature-based approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and ecosystem-based mitigation, eco-disaster risk reduction, and green-grey infrastructure. NbS involves working with and enhancing nature to help address societal challenges.
- 1.5 The development of these NbS will incorporate a gender-responsive approach, acknowledging that the impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities and that women are important decision-makers in the use of natural resources. Additionally, the initiative seeks to encourage private-sector investment in NbS, which is key to bridging the funding gap for restoring nature and achieving long-term effectiveness.
- 1.6 The overall objectives of the program are to: (i) incorporate NbS into planning and policies by the creation of knowledge products to make the identification of high-value, feasible NbS a routine part of project preparation; (ii) integrate NbS into familiar financing models, like biodiversity bonds, biodiversity offsets, or land-based financing mechanisms, to meet the minimum investment thresholds, lower transaction costs through project aggregation, and increase investor acceptance of and familiarity with NbS; (iii) increase efficiency to identify eligible NbS projects in government budgets to integrate innovative financial mechanisms (e.g., green bonds, blended finance); (iv) demonstrate performance metrics and proof of concept through business cases for NbS

- implementation; and (v) contribute to capacity building and knowledge exchange for the integration of NbS into infrastructure and AFOLU projects.
- 1.7 Within the scope of knowledge products to be developed by the program, there is a recognized necessity for a simple to use but robust interactive tool. This tool aims to empower stakeholders to design indicative portfolios for NbS investments, facilitating their integration into infrastructure and AFOLU project development endeavors.
  - 1.8 The program will support four selected LAC countries and work directly with beneficiaries representing the government, the private sector and civil society. The four pilot countries selected are Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. The selected firm will work closely with pilot countries to ensure that the products resulting from this consultancy are tested with the pilot projects.
  - 1.9 In this context, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) requires a multidisciplinary team of consultants (consulting firm) to define the scope of the NbS tool product.

## **2. Objectives**

- 2.1 The objective of this consultancy is to facilitate the definition of a simple to use but robust analytical tool that integrates NbS into planning processes. The tool must help governments **and private sector** adopt evidence-based inputs under which investments for NbS implementation can be developed.
- 2.2 The specific objectives are to: (i) clearly delineate the goals and primary audience for the tool, ensuring alignment with stakeholder needs; (ii) conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing NbS-related tools to glean insights that will inform the foundational structure of the new tool; (iii) define the methodology to support users on including NbS into their planning processes; (iv) develop a robust proposal for the tool, including a sustainable model to ensure its long-term viability and impact; (v) construct detailed terms of reference for the development of the tool, outlining the scope, requirements, and milestones for effective project execution.

## **3. Scope of Services**

- 3.1 The consulting services will include:
  - The definition of objectives and methodology to support governments and private sectors in integrating NbS into planning processes.
  - The functional and technical design and requirements definition of an interactive tool for decision-making based on scenarios for incorporating NbS into planning.
  - The construction of detailed terms of reference for the development of the tool.

## **4. Key Activities**

- 4.1 *Task 1 – Define objectives of the tool.*

This toolkit will be a ready-to-use interactive tool that allows stakeholders to design high-level, indicative NbS investment portfolio. The tool will be intended to engage actors interested in exploring NbS to tackle(?) infrastructure and AFOLU challenges and provide program sponsors with a pre-feasibility level of Return Over Investment (ROI) estimation.

The firm will outline the tool's purpose and goals in collaboration with the IDB team. Defining what specific environmental challenges or planning needs will be addressed. Define the objectives and scope of the tool.

#### 4.2 *Task 2 - Market research and gap analysis.*

The firm will conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing NbS-related tools and data sources on the market (HydroBID, IEEM+ESM, InVEST, NBSOS, SAVi, WaterProof, etc.). Identify their strengths, weaknesses, features, and target user base. Determine what gaps exist in the current tools that can be filled by a new tool. Analyze which tools could be used to lay the foundations for the proposed NbS tool for decision making.

The tool will consider the different steps of integrating NBS in project development, from the problem definition to the monitoring, and through multi-criteria analysis, technical assessment, economic assessment, financial structuring etc.

#### 4.3 *Task 3 - Identify target users and needs.*

Determine target users that could include urban planners, policymakers, environmental consultants, developers, NGOs, or researchers. Understanding user needs and preferences is crucial for designing a user-friendly interface and relevant functionalities. The firm must conduct interviews with potential users.

#### 4.4 *Task 4 – Define the methodology and statistical model.*

Based on the users identified, the analysis of existing tools and the objectives definition, the firm will generate a methodology and a statistical model to deliver recommendations to support users on including NbS into their planning processes. This methodology should consider employing a robust analytical framework, prioritizing solutions based on their potential benefits and providing an estimated range of associated costs. The methodology will detail the different steps of integrating NbS in project development, following existing IDB approaches.<sup>1</sup> Key outputs offered to users need to encompass a concise environmental overview, mapped recommendations for NbS portfolios, comprehensive lifecycle costing, pre-feasibility ROI evaluation, and estimation of co-benefits.

#### 4.5 *Task 5 - Propose the NbS tool functional and technical design.*

Considering the users requirements identified, the methodology defined, and the model validation, the firm, with the guidance of IDB team, will conceptualize the tool based on the gap analysis and target users. This conceptualization should include:

- A functional design for the toolkit according to the IDB's [web design, branding](#), guidelines. This functional design should be based on the needs and requirements gathered from the users.
- A technical design following the IDB's [IT development](#) guidelines, including a data management and architecture proposal, etc.
- A sustainability plan on IDB policies and including the resources and activities required to ensure the sustainability of the solution within the Bank's environment.
- Detailed terms of reference for the tool development

---

<sup>1</sup> Silva et al. 2020. NbS Technical Guidance Document for Project Developers. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002325>

All the deliverables must be drafted and socialized with IDB's IT, KIC and CSD departments.

The firm will interact closely with the four pilot countries of the program and use the cases studies that will be developed by each country to adjust the tool objectives. Work meetings with the program countries must be carried out for consultation and recommendations.

## **5. Expected deliverables.**

- 5.1 *Deliverable 1*: A work plan reflecting discussions from the kick-off meeting, that details the activities and milestones, as well as a methodology to carry out all the activities of this consultancy.
- 5.2 *Deliverable 2 (task 1 and 2)*: Objectives and scope report, and market research and gap analysis results completed.
- 5.3 *Deliverable 3 (task 3 and 4)*: Target users' analysis, the methodology, and statistical model delivered.
- 5.4 *Deliverable 4 (task 5)*: Tool's proposal, including the functional and technical design, and sustainable model completed and Terms of reference for the development of the tool delivered.

## **6. Project Schedule and Milestones**

The consultancy is expected to begin upon contract signing and to be fully completed in nine (9) months.

Delivery schedule

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deliverable 1	20 days after signing the contract
Deliverable 2	2 months after signing the contract
Deliverable 3	6 months after signing the contract
Deliverable 4	8 months after signing the contract

## **7. Reporting Requirements**

- 7.1 The consulting firm will present the reports as indicated below in the 'Supervision' section. Its scope and content must be previously coordinated with the Bank through an annotated index that the consulting firm proposes for each report and the Bank reviews and approves. All reports and annexes will be delivered in English.

## **8. Acceptance Criteria**

- 8.1 Each deliverable will be reviewed by the project team to verify its integrity in relation with the ToRs and contract, format, precision, and quality of writing. In the event that corrections or more information are required, the team will contact the consultant to request the appropriate adjustments and define a specific period to receive the updated document. Once a deliverable has obtained final approval from the project team, it will request to initiate the respective payment process.

## **9. Other Requirements**

Selection criteria

The firm should include at least the following key specialists. It will not be a reason for exclusion if one person in the team has several of these profiles, as long as the necessary capabilities are justified and guaranteed for the

achievement of the project. Likewise, it is recommended that the firm assesses the need to have several people with the same profile according to the objectives, scope and time defined:

- An expert in NBS and natural capital valuation, with an advanced degree (Master or PhD) in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Conservation biology, Sustainability, or another relevant discipline. Relevant experience (at least eight (8) years) working in nature-based solutions and/or the carbon markets, natural capital valuation. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail with excellent project management and coordination skills, comfortable translating complex scientific topics into easily digestible concepts for unfamiliar audiences, and successful experience working with international organizations and public bodies.
- An expert on UX/UI with minimum three (3) years of experience in web design, user experience design (UX), user interface design (UI), interaction design or visual design, layout tools and mockups. Proficiency with front end languages, HTML and CSS; web accessibility and design tools. Experience in at least two projects with user experience (UX) analysis and design.
- An expert in computer science or similar, holding at least a bachelor's degree with a minimum five (5) years of professional experience in software development. The expert should demonstrate experience in environmental interactive/technological tools development. Familiarity with publicly available data sources and databases, and proven ability to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams.
- An expert in data science with at least six (6) years of experience working with geospatial information data management and in the creation of statistical models for climate change and environment related problems. Familiarity with publicly available data sources and databases, and proven ability to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams.

## 10. Payment Schedule

Payments will be made based on the following payment schedule:

Deliverable	Date	Payment
1	Upon submission and acceptance of the work plan	20%
2	Upon submission and acceptance of the objectives and scope report and market research and gap analysis results	30%
3	Upon submission and acceptance of the Target users' analysis, the methodology, and statistical model.	20%
4	Upon submission of the tool's proposal, including sustainable model and terms of reference for the development of the tool.	30%

## 11. Supervision

- 11.1 The Climate Change Division of the IDB (CSD/CCS) will have technical responsibility for the execution of this work order, as well as for the approval of the deliverables prepared by the consulting firm. Prior to approval, the IDB will confirm compliance with each deliverable. On behalf of the IDB, the technical coordination and leadership of this consultancy rests with the IDB Specialist Gregory Watson (CSD/CCS).