

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### SLV Activity Lead

#### Summary

Conservation International Mexico is seeking a uniquely qualified and highly motivated individual to serve as Activity Lead for an innovative and exciting USAID-funded project in Mexico, the Sustainable Landscapes Ventures (SLV). The position will be based in Mexico City, Mexico and will lead the way of this collaborative effort as a catalyzer of change and innovation in four landscapes, that have been supported by other international donors and partners.

The Activity Lead will steer the excellent execution of the project – effectively translating the initial vision into a shared vision that consortium partners and landscape stakeholders have buy-in to. He/she will build collaboration and consensus between the six consortium partners (ACCENTURE, CIAT, ENDESU, Mexico2, Root Capital and SVX) and will lead effective governance mechanisms to reach the Activity goals.

The purpose of the SLV Activity is to develop sustainable and inclusive value chains at scale, that are market-driven and investor-ready in four landscapes in Campeche, Chiapas, Jalisco, and Oaxaca. The Activity aims to consolidate long-term partnerships among small producers, investors, and buyers in sustainable and inclusive value chains to avoid deforestation. Small producers in four landscapes will be organized into 12 Collective Business Entities (CBE) to reduce costs, improve market access, increase profit margins, increase quality, and reach scale. A Blended Finance Engine (BFE) will be established as a coordination mechanism to provide services to the CBEs including a marketplace to link producers with buyers, project curation and access to blended finance from new and existing funds. The Activity Lead will play a key role in launching two new funds spearheaded by Mexico2 and Conservation International Ventures; in designing the monitoring, evaluation and learning system; and embedding social and environmental safeguards throughout the Activity, with a particular emphasis in gender equity, female empowerment and youth inclusion.

The successful candidate will supervise the administrative and technical teams and will lead the day to day project management. His/her tasks will include the design of the governance bodies, CBEs and the BFE, with social and environmental standards. Strong understanding of small producers, value chains, markets/buyers and financing is required.

The Activity Lead will review the financial status and ensure high quality quarterly, bi-annual, and annual M&E technical and financial reports are submitted to USAID. Oversight of the procurement plan aligned with USAID rules and regulations, ensure that contracts and partners adhere to USAID rules and regulations. A key role of the AL will be to develop mechanisms for financial sustainability of the SLV Activity. He /she will also visualize the Activity not only in the medium term but also in the long term as a self-sustaining mechanism that integrates multi-stakeholder and multi-sector participation at a landscape scale, and coordinates and articulates investments with local participation and in general will lead the model of investment and conservation with the landscape approach to reduce emissions and avoid deforestation and land use change. He/she will also promote and coordinate working relationships with governments, buyers, donors, and investors, and will participate in regional collaboration with CI programs around the globe.

## **Responsibilities**

### SLV Activity (project) leadership and management

- Leads and manages the Activity/project team – providing strategic direction, vision, coordination, resource management, and supervision required to accomplish strategic goals and objectives and to deliver superior quality products.
- Directs the preparation of the annual work plans, budgets, and annual progress reports, submitting timely, accurate and professional reports that meet donor requirements.
- Directs and oversees grant implementation, ensuring that all strategic objectives are met through proper design, staffing, implementation, and quality assurance.
- Establishes and maintains effective project reporting, evaluation, and communication systems
- Oversees the completion of all technical requirements, including project results and deliverables, developing solutions to keep deliverables on track and motivate staff and partners.
- Serves as the primary CI representative and liaison with the donor and all internal and external stakeholders, building and maintaining critical partnerships for CI.
- Guarantees the efficient and effective use of the resources to reach the desired results of the project, monitoring the work plans, budgets, and finances, in accordance with the procedures of USAID.
- Provide leadership for all ‘activity’ safeguards requirements and plans to be successfully completed and implemented – this includes community consultation (FPIC), potential resettlement, gender mainstreaming, climate change risk analysis, adherence to construction guidelines, compliance with environmental requirements.
- Perform other duties as required.

### Strategic alliances and partnerships

- Leads the coordination of the Blended Finance Engine design, operation, and Steering Committee
- Manages the day to day relationship with the consortium partners
- Designs in a collaborative way the annual workplans with the other ongoing landscape projects that the SLV Activity will support (GEF6 Sustainable Landscape, Mascota Biocultural Landscape, Tapalpa Sustentable and Calakmul).
- Will help bring responsible buyers to the Marketplace
- Cultivates new investors to join the Blended Finance Engine
- Develops collaborative agreements with government institutions
- Will spearhead the long-term vision of the CBEs and BFE, so that the services they provide, can sustain over time.
- Will guarantee that the CBEs and BFE design, rules, and regulations, have an inclusive approach for gender equity, female empowerment, and youth inclusion, and that this is mainstream throughout the Activity.

### People and resource management responsibilities

- This position directly and indirectly supervises project staff and consultants
- Oversees all project staff and builds local and institutional capacity, including managing and mentoring
- This position manages a significant public funding project and budget

- This position must ensure strict compliance with the donor and award regulations of the public funding source, managing all donor agreements, reporting and communications.

## Requirements

- Master's degree in relevant discipline or field related to the objectives of the project. Advanced degree strongly preferred.
- At least ten (10) years or more of progressively responsible international work experience implementing multi-sector programs with demonstrated strong management skills
- At least five (5) years of management experience, including direct supervision of professional and support staff and assembling teams working on multi-faceted international development programs.
- **Strong experience and past performance in development projects with small producers, value chain development, markets/buyers, and financing in rural context.**
- Proven leadership in the administration of similar activities with skills in strategic planning, management, supervision, and budgeting.
- Experience and knowledge of relevant donor regulations, policies, and procedures with demonstrated success managing international projects of similar scope and scale.
- Proven ability to engage and collaborate effectively and establish strong working relationships with senior representatives of national and local government, the private sector and civil society
- Demonstrated ability to implement projects with rigorous timelines and deliverables and to track program quality through donor approved monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Superb technical and analytical skills.
- Superior interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with written and oral English and Spanish fluency required
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite, including Word, Excel, and Outlook.
- Previous Project Director, Chief of Party or Deputy Chief of Party experience preferred.
- A passion for CI's work and a can-do, problem solving approach is required.

## Working Conditions

- Extended work hours may be required.
- Frequent travel of more than 40% may be necessary including travel to remote locations.
- May need to work out of doors in adverse weather conditions.

## Application Process

Candidates who meet the requirements, please send your CV with relevant experience to:

**Email:** [lmartinez@stkjobs.com](mailto:lmartinez@stkjobs.com)

**Subject:** "SLV Activity Lead"

**Deadline:** October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020