

JOB DESCRIPTION

Carbon Sr. Manager

Summary

Conservation International is one of the global leaders in using natural climate solutions (NCS) to combat climate change. There is significant growth in the demand for high-quality conservation projects that can access the voluntary and compliance carbon markets and CI is rapidly expanding its portfolio of high-quality carbon projects to meet this demand. Projects include landscape restoration, climate smart improved forestry management, and Blue Carbon. These initiatives go beyond protecting forests and other ecosystems by integrating sustainable production and focusing on improving human well- to assist in originating, evaluating, and developing a project pipeline of new bankable avoided deforestation, restoration, improved forest management and other NCS projects- and jurisdictional-scale initiatives, both internally within CI and externally with outside partners. Working in close collaboration with CI Mex Sr Technical Director, Sr Director Global Carbon Origination, the Americas Finance Carbon Lead, the Senior Manager Carbon Projects (CFD), and the Blue Carbon Team, the Senior Manager will help originate and develop new NCS carbon finance project opportunities and manage relationships throughout the conceptual scoping, evaluation, and project development stages for the country and potentially in other countries in Latin America. Using and applying in-house tools, drafting internal documentation required for project assessment, this person will be responsible for conducting desk-top analysis of country, opportunities for NCS carbon crediting projects, conducting field visits for feasible opportunities, managing origination workflow across the pipeline of initiatives under consideration and supporting the development of full feasibility assessments for selected initiatives. Additionally, the senior manager will provide support with internal and external due diligence and donor reporting obligations.

To be successful, the Senior Manager needs to be fully conversant with developments and trends in nature conservation in Mexico, NCS carbon markets, climate policy, carbon/climate and Safeguards certification standards, and have experience working on tropical forest, blue carbon ecosystems, and/or climate smart agriculture and forestry projects. Familiarity with NCS carbon methodologies (Verra VCS , and Climate Action Reserve in particular) is also required. Senior Manager must also have demonstrated knowledge or experience on the role and development of conservation finance and forestry carbon finance transactions and must be able to work across a broad range of stakeholders including external partners in the private sector, development finance institutions, project developers, government, and civil society. Must have business and commercial acumen. and be able to articulate an actionable plan for developing a pipeline of high-quality emissions reductions and NCS projects (environmental and social approach) at scale.

Managing NCS project information also requires excellent communication skills, a high degree of organization, attention to detail, interdisciplinary thinking, and strong technical writing skills.

The Senior Manager will work in close collaboration with external partners, project developers/consultants, and with key personnel across CI's Global Programs and Centers (such as the Conservation Finance Division and the Center for Natural Climate Solutions) to ensure alignment between country, regional and institutional strategies as well as efficient implementation of CI's carbon origination and project development processes.

The position will report directly to the CI Mexico Sr. Technical Director with joint and indirect reporting to the Americas Carbon Finance Lead.

Responsibilities

- Support the origination, evaluation, and management of high-quality NCS carbon finance project pipeline(both terrestrial and blue carbon) for the CI Mexico Office and potentially for other Latin American countries, in close collaboration with the Americas Carbon Origination team and Conservation Finance Division, and key external partners, including NGOs, governments, local communities, project developers, investors, and financial institutions; help develop a high-quality NCS carbon crediting project pipeline for the country, that meets CI's quality criteria and Safeguards; identify and engage a network of project developers, implementation partners and local and international NGO that meet such standards; contribute to the identification of potential jurisdictional and project-based opportunities in Mexico, based on desk-top analysis and interviews, site visits where applicable, and prepare Project Information Notes (PINs) for internal review. Manage project origination and evaluation workflow through identification, scoping and due diligence stages including working closely with implementing partners, creating workplans and budgets for projects which have the potential to be funded by one of CI's financing vehicles.
- Lead the coordination, and development of feasibility assessments for selected REDD+, ARR, and IFM opportunities with relevant stakeholders highlighting key recommendations to advance them towards full development and implementation. The feasibility assessment might include aspects such as assessing the agents and drivers of deforestation, key carbon finance eligibility concepts, reviewing potential emissions reduction and removal analysis, estimating project and program intervention costs, identifying implementation partners and key stakeholders, assessing potential risks and challenges as well as risk mitigation, business models, financing, etc.
- Work closely with, coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with all multiple institutional Carbon-related staff & teams (within the Conservation Finance Division/Carbon Finance unit, Center for Natural Climate Solutions, Climate Policy, and the Blue Carbon Program team) to have clarity on their initiatives, views and how their approaches address/support the needs/goals and context of the region's countries.

Minimum qualifications

- Master's degree in relevant discipline or field related to the objectives of the program
- (e.g. environmental science, economics, forestry, agronomy, law, or business).
- At least 5 years work experience with NCS projects and/or jurisdictional initiative development and implementation.
- Proven knowledge or experience in climate-related issues including carbon crediting transactions (origination, voluntary carbon market standards, and implementation), terrestrial and/or blue carbon.
- Demonstrated NCS carbon crediting knowledge and experience, including voluntary carbon markets, and use of carbon standards such as Verra VCS, Climate Community & Biodiversity Standards, Climate Action Reserve, ART TREES, Gold Standard, etc.
- Experience managing complex projects.
- Excellent analytical skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Highly organized and strong attention to detail.
- Demonstrated team player.
- Demonstrated problem solving skills and ability to build on existing knowledge to develop new approaches.
- Demonstrated track record of working effectively and collaboratively with multicultural, international, multidisciplinary teams to produce concrete results, including strong capacity to navigate diversity, equity, and inclusion .
- Self-starter with ability to work in a matrix organization.
- Must have commercial and business acumen to be able to develop bankable NCS projects.
- Language Skills:
 - English: Excellent written, reading, and speaking skills.

Other

- Familiarity with spatial analysis, GIS and remote sensing.
- Familiarity with land management project design (e.g. using Open Standards).
- Work experience with indigenous peoples and traditional communities

Working conditions

- The position is based in Mexico City.
- Frequent travel within Mexico, including travelling to remote locations with rustic conditions.
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- Some international travel.

Applications process

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

Email: talentohumanocimx@conservation.org

Subject: "Sr. Carbon Manager"

Deadline: April 26, 2023