TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant to develop Environmental & Social Safeguards

Climate Smart Forestry Proof of Concept Program

Project Background

Conservation International-Suriname, the Surinamese Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (MoSP&E) and its technical institute The National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS) as the Technical Coordinator of REDD+ in Suriname, the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) are working together on establishment of a national Climate Smart Forestry Program (CSF-P) as a tool to improve the mitigation against climate change, sustainable forest management, forest conservation efforts and socioeconomic conditions within the forest sector. Under this framework, the CSF-P is considering different climate finance sources, including the voluntary carbon market, and relevant carbon crediting standards to ensure positive social, environmental and biodiversity benefits. The ambition is that the CSF-P will cover all existing and future forestry concessions, community forests and other forms of timber extraction related permits in the country.

The main source of forest-based emissions in Suriname is degradation due to logging, which, according to the latest Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was about 5.8 M tCO2 emitted in 2020 and projected to increase to 7.1 M tCO2 by 2024. This represents both as one of the biggest challenges to Suriname achieving its conditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris agreement, as well as its largest potential for emission reductions through the application of the reduced impact logging practices (RIL-C). The national CSF-P is intended to start demonstration activities in 2022 with the implementation of RIL-C in a first group of forest concessions.

The Climate Smart Forestry project will focus on building technical capabilities and monitoring these capabilities within communities and national institutions, implementing activities that leads to reduced impact in the forestry sector by applying the climate-friendly method ‘Reduced Impact Logging for Climate Change Mitigation’ (RIL-C) for responsible forest management. This methodology strengthens the link between good forest management and forest protection by clarifying the best practices for maximizing living carbon in forests and allowing forest managers to access incentives for climate mitigation.

Recognizing the critical role of Indigenous, tribal, and local people and communities in sustainable, effective and equitable forest carbon projects, this project will take a thoughtful and proactive approach to understanding and responding to social issues such as gender equality, social welfare, inclusive decision-making, and benefit sharing. To this end, the project will be designed to align with CI’s Safeguard System (CISS), the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) gold standard and the national REDD+ safeguard system.
Consultancy overview

Initial CISS screening has categorized this project as a B (medium risk) project with mitigation requirements that this consultancy is meant to design. These include:

- A limited **Environmental & Social Impact Analysis** (ESIA) based on published/gray literature, project documentation, and stakeholder interviews. The ESIA should include a gender and social analysis in the project sites of Matawai, Bigi Poika that serves as a baseline for the project. This will include an assessment of the negotiation process so far and issues related to community governance and capacity to participate in the project. Other potential impacts to be investigated include those related to biodiversity and natural habitats, labor & working conditions, and community health, safety & security.

- An **Environmental & Social Management Plan** (ESMP) that addresses the risks and opportunities identified in the ESIA, identifying clear mitigation measures.

- A **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** (SEP), which includes a specific engagement framework for managing an FPIC process throughout the project with Indigenous and tribal communities in a gender sensitive manner. There is a preliminary SEP that can be built off.

- A **Gender Mainstreaming Plan** (GMP) which identifies project-relevant gender gaps and opportunities to close them. This will be based on the analysis done during the ESIA.

- A project-level **Accountability & Grievance Mechanism** (AGM) that details a process, (including communications materials & and templates) to allow stakeholders to effectively report project concerns that are addressed in a timely manner. The AGM should provide a predictable, transparent, and credible process to all parties, resulting in outcomes that are seen as fair, effective, and lasting, it should be accessible to all stakeholders and utilize pre-existing local informal grievance or national mechanism. The AGM should align with the REDD+ grievance redress mechanism in Suriname.

CI will provide the ESMF and templates for each of these plans as well as additional technical guidance as needed. A separate consultancy to design the Project Document will occur at the same time as this consultancy and strong collaboration and communication with that firm will be key to ensuring the safeguard plans are fit-for-purpose and aligned with the overall project, as well as ensuring that all activities identified in the safeguard plans are integrated into the project design, staffing and budget. Other background information, such as safeguard screening results, existing MoUs with communities, and other project documents will be provided. The consultant will report to the CI-Suriname project team lead and liaise closely with CI’s safeguards team. Both the CI-S and safeguards team will review and approve all deliverables.

**Tasks**

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

1. Become familiar with the CI ESMF and safeguard plan templates, as well as CCB standards and national REDD+ safeguard system.
2. Conduct background literature, document review and relevant project team/partner interviews.
3. Design primary information-gathering tools for the baseline assessment using a cost-effective yet robust methodology that can be replicated as needed in the future.
4. Work closely with CI-Suriname to organize consultations in project sites\(^1\), with particular attention to engagement of Indigenous and tribal communities and women.
5. Liaising with any other project stakeholder and partners which may be necessary.
6. With this information, write the ESIA and design a corresponding ESMP with clear fit-for-purpose risk mitigation measures. At the same time, design the project’s SEP, GMP and AGM. Drafts of all plans will be reviewed by CI at least once before the final product is approved.
7. Provide a list of relevant environmental and social indicators to be included in the project’s M&E plan.
8. Cross reference the CISS plans with CCB gold certification requirement. This will include filling in the CCB templates with information from/links to CISS plans.
9. Design & deliver training/awareness raising for the project team about the project’s safeguard risks and plans, including specific training for AGM focal point(s).
10. Provide review input into the PDD – Project Document Design process to ensure social safeguards are integrated into the project activities, workplan, log frame and captured accordingly in the results and indicators for the project
11. Design materials to present the safeguard plans to communities.

### Deliverables and timeline

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agreed upon workplan</td>
<td>1 week after signing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Consultation methodology</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Draft Environmental &amp; Social Impact Analysis (ESIA)</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Draft Environmental &amp; Social Management Plan (ESMP)</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Final ESIA</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Final ESMP</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Draft SEP, GMP, AGM</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Final SEP, GMP, AGM</td>
<td>Week 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Training for project team</td>
<td>Week 20</td>
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**Start date:** As soon as position is filled

**Duration:** The consultancy is expected to take approximately 4 months, ideally starting **March 2022** and ending **June 2022**. Should the consultant not be able to travel for field visits due to regulations or risks associated with COVID-19, the consultant will work with the project team and safeguards team to find suitable alternatives to gathering the necessary information.

\(^1\) All in-person engagements will follow CI’s COVID protocols
Qualifications

The consultant is expected to have the following expertise:

- Experience with environmental & social safeguard frameworks and designing E&S plans, including gender responsive approaches.
- Experience designing/implementing grievance mechanisms for rural communities.
- Understanding the challenges and cultural background of Indigenous and tribal communities in Suriname.
- Ability to travel and stay in remote project sites.
- Excellent Dutch and English proficiency, both in speaking and writing.
- Fluency in Sranang Tongo.
- Knowledge of climate change, REDD+, and forest carbon projects is strongly preferred.
- Familiarity/experience with CCB standards is a plus.

Evaluation and section criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience with E&amp;S frameworks and plans</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience conducting social and gender assessments and working with Indigenous/tribal communities</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language requirements (English, Dutch, Sranang Tongo)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Quality of CV &amp; cover letter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong communication and presentation skills</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>5</td>
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Reporting and teamwork

The consultant will report to Eunike Alexander – Misiekaba, Technical Manager of Conservation International Suriname. The consultant will be part of a major team that include staff from CI (global and country office), SBB and other government agencies, and national and international consultants, so constant communication and coordination with these partners will be part of the work dynamic.

Please send your resume with motivation letter no later than the 4th of March 2022 to CI Suriname, Kromme Elleboogstraat 20, Paramaribo or via email to ci-suriname@conservation.org (subject “Applying for Safeguards CSF”).

Applications should include:

(i) A resume/CV of the applicant(s) providing detailed information on the criteria listed in this ToR
(ii) An analysis of and comments on the Terms of Reference, including a proposed chronogram of activities
(iii) A detailed budget/financial proposal, which specifies the daily rate as well as other costs.
(iv) A sample of previous relevant safeguard deliverable/s (e.g., ESMP, SEP, GMP, AGM)

Please do not send information not requested (e.g., copies of diplomas and certificates). Only applicants providing all information requested, who possess all the essential skills and competences, and are selected for interview will be contacted.