



together possible.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Seeks a Consultant Analysis Forest Management Verification Methodologies

About WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961 which works in the field of nature protection. Its mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. Our vision is to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. Thus, it seeks to: save the planet by balancing the needs of human beings with those of other species that share the Earth, practice human conservation in the broadest sense, and instill in people, everywhere, a quiet respect, but not concealed, of nature and to balance that respect with a deep belief in human possibilities, inspiring others who can further the cause of conservation.

Background

The commercial revenue model for responsible natural forest management in the Tropics is in most cases a one dimensional model. Relying solely on the wood resources - often of just a handful commercial species - has led to weak business cases for organizations implementing responsible forest management (RFM), competing with market players that have to fulfil less requirement (legal), or none at all (illegal). In order to improve the competitive position of RFM organization it is important to look into ways to diversify income streams and aim at multifunctional use of forest resources. This requires new 'business' models for these organizations, payment for ecosystem services being one avenue to explore diverse revenue models.

For the last two decades, WWF has been very active in the conservation of the rich and unique biodiversity of the forests of the Congo Basin, contributing to protection of valuable habitats, including forests, wildlife as well as promoting sustainable development of local communities and indigenous peoples, following a participatory process and engaging multiple stakeholders, including the private sector. WWF globally and at the level of Congo Basin has promoted responsible forest management and particularly FSC certification system. The engagement with the private sector has taken another step forward, looking more at impact that its private partners can achieve on the field, both with nature and the wellbeing of forest-dependent peoples. In 2021 Forests Forward was launched as the WWF's performance-driven impact program that mobilizes people, catalyzing actions to address global forest threats and to ensure that the world's growing demand for wood can be met through sustainable forest management. INTERHOLCO and its subsidiary IFO in Congo, a participant to Forests Forward is amongst the first and the largest forest company to participate to this platform with amongst other objectives to achieve FSC environmental services (ES) procedures,

realized in November 2022 for both carbon (RIL-C & IFM) and biodiversity, and to improve wildlife monitoring and protection within their forest concession.

The impacts for ES relate to:

- Conservation of intact forest landscapes (virgin forests) and other HCVs areas; potential indicators: area of protected intact forest landscapes - virgin forests;
- conservation of natural forest characteristics; potential indicators: stand-level forest composition and structure for the whole management unit – “close to nature” forest management;
- conservation of key habitats of great apes and forest elephant within the boundaries of the concession and at landscape level (this may include corridors to connect the management unit to the neighboring protected areas). Potential indicators may include protection of biological corridors and the area of the conservation area network within the management unit.

Scope of Work

With the FSC Ecosystem services certification for biodiversity in place, WWF seeks to assign a short-term consultancy to assist with improved access to emerging ecosystem services markets through the use of FSC ecosystem services claims based on verified impacts. And work to develop a business model incorporating the validated Ecosystem Service.

Brand image – many companies have a socially accountable business model based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practicing, so being aware about the impact that they have, including the environmental ones. In that respect, such companies are budgeting and financing a range of diverse activities related to environment. Even so, the impact of such practices on biodiversity, air / water quality or other environmental improvements are difficult to be documented or verified. We proposed that the companies engaging CSR may use the opportunity to sponsor entities that are Certified for providing ES due to their forest management, certification granted by a third party which also perform the verification for maintaining or improving of the ES in time. Basically, this business model can generate documented positive environmental impacts, has the premise to be effective in terms of allocated resources and is endorsed by a third party through ES Certification.

Optional sale of ‘biodiversity credits’

The Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) defines two types of biodiversity credits that are used to measure impacts on both development sites and stewardship sites. The two types of credits are:

ecosystem credits – measure the value of threatened ecological communities, threatened species habitat for species that can be reliably predicted to occur with a Plant Community Type (PCT), and PCTs generally

species credits – apply to all other threatened species which are found to occur at that location and cannot be reliably predicted to occur within the identified ecological communities at the development site.

Biodiversity credits created at a stewardship site via a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, can be used to offset the loss of biodiversity values on development site (a credit obligation) by being traded and retired. This sale is called a biodiversity credit transfer and the credit is then retired to satisfy the credit obligation.

Objectives

1. A list of options as well as potential financial sponsors for the valuation of the Biodiversity ES, including the option of biodiversity credits.
2. Creation of a replicable business model: seeking financial sponsorship of verified FSC ecosystem services impacts.
3. Sharing know-how on ES verification in the field as well as on business models (including PES scheme design and functionality)

Activities

1. Market analysis

- a) In coordination with WWF and IFO provide an initial list of options, and relevant initiatives to value the Biodiversity as certified by FSC
- b) Perform a SWOT analysis of the identified options to bring the ES to market
- c) Market research identifying potential 'off takers' of the Ecosystem Service.

2. Business model

- a) Creation of a replicable business model including financial sponsorship of verified FSC ecosystem services impacts
- b) Facilitate and 'broker' the ES to selected 'off takers' of the ES.

3. Reporting

- a) Produce an final report (5-10 pages) containing the designed business model and advice on the potential use thereof as instrument for successful conservation/maintenance of valuable forest ecosystem habitats and related services:

Advised Timeline

- Market research: 1-2 months
- Business model development: 1 month

Working relationship

The consultant will work closely with WWFs Regional Forest coordinator for Central Africa with guidance from WWF advisor responsible forestry, as well as the relevant staff of IFO. Communication with the WWF shall occur on a monthly basis at the least.

Qualifications

The consultant will be required to demonstrate the following:

- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience with a track record in forest management verification
- Excellent knowledge of all aspects of forest certification and ecosystem services validation;
- A Bachelors or advanced degree in finance, forestry or a related discipline;

- Excellent oral and written communications skills and interpersonal skills;
- successful completion of similar assessments earlier conducted;
- Sufficient capacity to complete the assessment within the set time frame;

Proposals

Any proposal to the current Terms of Reference should contain:

- A description of the assessment team/individual, including brief biographies of the team members/individual and the nature of their intended contribution (max 2 pages);
- The proposed methodology to perform the assignment (max 1 pages);
- Outline work plan identifying key dates and deliverables (max 1 page).
- An indicative budget broken down into the major activities identified in the ToR (max 1 page).

Selection process

- Any proposal shall be submitted electronically to the following address no later than **March 15th 2023**: via the e-mail. recruit-cam@wwfcam.org . With the subject Analysis forest management verification methodologies Consultant
- Selection criteria (weighting%)
- Availability – Ability to conduct and complete the assessment by the deadline;
- Previous experience undertaking similar types of assessment (30%);
- Budget – visibility and affordability (20%)
- Clarity of methodology and match to ToR (40%)
- References (10%)

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