

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

SUMMARY OF PROCUREMENT

WRI intends to award a Fixed Price type contract for a consultant to support WRI's outreach work on the Open Timber Portal (OTP) and the National Forest Atlases in the **Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area** (KAZA TFCA). Proposals should be submitted by Thursday, January 5th 2023. Through this consultancy, WRI aims to achieve the following:

- (i) Conducting a needs assessment in order to develop customized trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement and customs officers in KAZA neighboring countries (Angola, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana) on the DRC legal framework, frequent infractions, CITES species and existing resources to better tackle trade of illegal timber transiting through the Kavango– Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA);
- (ii) Supporting local partners in the DRC in the preparation of resources binders and target checkpoints for distribution;
- (iii) Review the translation of the OTP into Portuguese in order to make the site accessible to law enforcement officers in Angola;
- (iv) Facilitate one regional training in the Kaza region.

About the World Resources Institute

Founded in 1982, The World Resources Institute (WRI) is a global environmental think tank that goes beyond research to put ideas into action. We work with governments, companies, and civil society to build solutions to urgent environmental challenges. WRI's transformative ideas protect the earth and promote development because sustainability is essential to meeting human needs and fulfilling human aspirations in the future.

About the National Forest Atlases and the Open Timber Portal (OTP)

Tools promoting transparency in the forest sector and supporting the implementation and enforcement of laws are increasingly becoming available, such as the Open Timber Portal and the National Forest Atlases.

The National Forest Atlases are dynamic tools that help decision-makers and law enforcement staff in the region achieve sustainable management of forest resources through strengthened land use planning and monitoring. The Congo Basin Forest Atlases are a living forest information system, merging the latest technology in remote sensing and GIS with ground-truthing to monitor and sustainably manage forests. Through a combination of interactive mapping applications, posters and analytical reports, the Atlases provide users with timely, accurate, and synchronized information about land use allocation (forest concessions, protected areas, mining permits etc.) within national forest areas.

The Open Timber Portal (OTP) provides granular and contextual information about forest management on the ground. The platform compiles information from four different sources:

1. Governments' official concession boundaries and list of registered timber producers;
2. Documents uploaded voluntarily by timber producers to demonstrate compliance;
3. Observations of suspected non-compliance from third-party forest monitors and NGOs; and
4. Annual tree cover loss and weekly alerts on tree cover loss within the boundaries of the concessions.

Context

As part a two-year project funded by the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (USINL), WRI, Field Legality Advisory Group (FLAG) and the Observatory of Forest Governance (OGF) leverage these tools to strengthen cross-border collaboration in the monitoring of illegal logging.

The overall goals of the project are:

- Scale up capacity building efforts in RoC, Cameroon, DRC and neighboring countries to empower law enforcement officers on the use of the most relevant information tools, including the OTP and the National Forest Atlases
- Further advance inter-agency and cross-border collaboration
- Institutionalize the use of innovative tools and of inter-agency and cross-border collaboration in internal procedures to ensure a sustained change of behavior
- Improve law enforcement officer access to information that is relevant, up-to-date, and available in the appropriate format and language
- Implement the strategy to combat illegal logging and associated trade that was adopted in 2018 in the provinces Tshopo, Haut Uele and Ituri (DRC)
- Ensure that law enforcement officers have robust tools adapted to their needs that enable them to monitor their own achievements.

As part of this project, we are developing the following activities in DRC and KAZA region, so that law enforcement agents are better equipped to identify problems of illegal exploitation and take action:

- Activity 2.1: Conduct training sessions for forest law enforcement officials in the DRC on using the Open Timber Portal and the National Forest Atlases.
- Activity 2.2: Organize capacity-building trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement and customs officers on the application of forest legislation and regulations in the DRC provinces of Haut Uele, Ituri and South Kivu.
- Activity 2.3: Carry-out joint monitoring missions with provincial government agencies in the DRC provinces of Haut Katanga, Lualaba, Tshopo, Ituri, Kasai, and Kongo central
- Activity 2.4: Conduct trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement and customs officers in Angola, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana on the DRC legal framework, frequent infractions, CITES species and existing resources.

Prosecutors, law enforcement and customs staff that participated in the trainings carried out by U.S. Department of Justice in 2018-2019 identified their lack of knowledge and understanding of DRC forest laws and the most frequent infractions as a major obstacle to tackling trade of illegal timber transiting through the Kavango– Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA).

Building on these past training efforts in Angola, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana and lessons learnt in implementation of activity 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, the consultant will bring their expertise to support the DRC project team to deliver on activity 2.4.

SCOPE OF WORK AND OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

The main objective of this consultancy is to (i) conduct a needs assessment to develop customized trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement and customs officers in KAZA neighboring countries (Angola, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana) on the DRC legal framework, frequent infractions, CITES species and existing resources to better tackle trade of illegal timber transiting through the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA); (ii) Support local partners in the DRC in the preparation of resources binders and target checkpoints for distribution, (iii) Review the translation of the OTP into Portuguese in order to make the site accessible to law enforcement officers in Angola, (iv) Participate as instructor & facilitator in one regional training in the KAZA region.

Specific activities of this consultancy:

- Conduct desk study and basic survey to map out timber flows corridors in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area and the risks of illegal timber from the DRC entering the neighboring countries' supply chains (the findings of the report should be concise and complete, less than 10 pages);
- Research data on commercial timber species found in the National Park forming the Kaza Transfrontier Conservation Area as well as the risk of illegal harvesting and falsely declaring it as a product from the DRC;
- Conduct a needs assessment to develop customized trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement, and customs officers in KAZA neighboring countries (Angola, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana) on the DRC's legal framework, frequent infractions, CITES species and existing resources to better tackle trade of illegal timber transiting through the Kavango– Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA);
- Support local partners in the DRC in the preparation of resources binders, review translation of resources in relevant languages and identification of critical checkpoints for distribution;
- Review the translation of the OTP into Portuguese in order to make the site accessible to law enforcement officers in Angola;
- Work closely with the USFS and US DoJ team in the Kaza region to identify participants for the regional training that will include representatives from the public administration that are directly involved in the control of forest products and the management of forestry-related litigation as well as private sector representatives involved in trade, and relevant civil society organizations specialized in the promotion of responsible trade;
- Serve as instructor in a regional training that will be organized in one of the KAZA country

Expected Results

- Result 1: Improved capacity in adjacent countries to the DRC to detect and stop illegal timber from DRC when it reaches their border.

TIMING

The consultancy will start no later than 1 month after the signing of the contract, ideally February 5, 2023, and will end on August 30, 2023.

Please note that this consultancy is not a full-time service. An estimate of the number of days required to carry out the activities is to be provided by the candidates in their proposal and must be reflected in the estimate. However, once the budget has been validated, the payment of the service will be conditional on the delivery of the deliverables and not on the number of days worked.

BUDGET

The proposed budget must be inferior to \$50,000, tax included.

All expenses (equipment, vehicles, materials, supplies, consumables, means of communication, insurance, travel expenses, etc.) necessary for the performance of the service, including travel expenses, mission expenses, etc., are the sole responsibility of the service provider and must be quantified in the budget proposal. This consultancy will be paid in US dollars.

Please note that WRI is an IRS-registered 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization. WRI is not VAT exempt. All prices or quotes should include VAT and tax, as applicable.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Requirements

The working languages for this consultancy are English, French, and Portuguese. The service will be performed remotely at the consultant's residence with occasional field visits throughout the Kaza region. The consultant will be in direct contact with the DRC project team and the USFS and US DoJ. The consultant will be responsible for initiating contacts with the relevant actors in the Kaza region necessary to carry out this consultancy. The consultant will also facilitate training logistics and ensuring post-training follow-up and reporting.

We are seeking a consultant with the following qualifications :

- An engineering degree in forest management, timber trade policies, or forest economics, environmental lawyer, or related degree.
- At least 5 years of professional experience in the forestry sector, preferably direct work experience with the public administration, private companies, KAZA Transfrontier Area, National parks representative and grassroots civil society organizations in the KAZA region;
- In-depth knowledge of transboundary forest products trade requirements and legality risks in Kaza region (access to resources, transit development, logging, rights of populations, rights of workers, transport, trade, taxation, and security);
- An excellent knowledge of the mechanisms of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- A basic knowledge of forestry regulations in DRC
- Excellent attention to detail, determination and diplomacy.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, especially when communicating technical concepts to a non-technical audience.
- An experience in developing training of trainers' materials for professionals and serving as instructors will be an added advantage

Proposal content

Prospective applicants should submit:

- Detailed CV
- Methodology of 4 pages maximum
- Budget with a breakdown of costs

Expression of Interest, Deadline for Questions, and Proposal

All expressions of interest and questions about this RFP must be received via email to the contact below by Thursday, January 5th, 2023 at 5:00 pm (**Washington, DC**). Answers to the questions will be shared with all parties who have asked questions or otherwise expressed interest.

Achille Djeagou
Congo Basin Coordinator
Achille.djeagou@wri.org

All proposals must be sent by **Thursday, January 5th, 2023, at 5:00 pm (Washington, DC)** in electronic format to the same contact listed above.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Evaluation Criteria

The following elements will be the primary considerations in evaluating all proposals submitted in response to this RFP:

- Completion of all required elements;
- The extent to which the consultant's proposal fulfills WRI's stated requirements as set out in the RFP;
- Experience with similar projects;
- Overall cost of the consultant's proposal;
- Debarment and sanctions – WRI will not consider proposals from consultants that are presently debarred by the U.S. government or named on any restricted parties lists;
- Sustainability – WRI values sustainability and all other factors being equal, will favor a proposal to perform the work more sustainably.

The bidder offering the best overall value will be selected. For this procurement, price and non-price aspects are of approximately equal importance.

Selection Process

No proposal development costs shall be charged to WRI, and all expenses are to be borne by the bidders. WRI may award to the bidder offering best value without discussions. However, WRI reserves the right to seek bidder clarifications and to negotiate with those bidders deemed to be within a competitive range.

WRI may, at its discretion and without explanation to the prospective consultant choose to discontinue this RFP without obligation to such prospective consultant or make multiple awards under this RFP. Contracts will not be awarded to consultants debarred by the US government or named on restricted parties lists.