

## **About the Organization**

**Amazon Conservation Association (ACA)**, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been protecting the Amazon basin for over 20 years using a holistic approach that unites people, science, and technology. Amazon Conservation works on the ground in Peru and Bolivia and is scaling our efforts across the Amazon through technology. To date, we have protected over 3.3 million hectares of forests, established Peru's first conservation concession, and empowered thousands of local and indigenous peoples to develop forest-friendly livelihoods.

### **I. Background**

Amazon Conservation is currently in its third year implementing its project *Technology Meets Policy: Real-time Monitoring and Action in the Amazon*, a five-year initiative funded by Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) a development initiative of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Through this project, ACA aims to reduce deforestation from illegal activities within the territories of the indigenous target groups in Ecuador and Peru while addressing gaps in deforestation prevention by linking technology and real-time monitoring with improved governance. This project is based on ACA's previous successful Norad-funded project implemented from 2016-2020 in Peru, where we built a real-time satellite-based monitoring system, directly supported the Peruvian government to create the National System of Control and Monitoring (Sistema Nacional), and improved capacity of local forest users to monitor and protect their lands.

### **II. Objectives of the review**

ACA is seeking a consultant (whether an institution or an individual) with deep expertise in impact assessment of conservation projects to conduct a mid-term review of our Norad-funded project as required per our agreement. The main purpose of this consultancy is to measure through an independent evaluation the changes that can be attributed to the project using effectiveness and coherence criteria, how the project is contributing to higher-level objectives NICFI Outcomes and Areas of Strategic Interest, and to assess stakeholder understanding and perception of project impact. The evaluation will cover the project period from June 2020 to June 2023. The consultant will be expected to assess ACA's three implementing partners for this project: Conservacion Amazónica of Peru (ACCA), the Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD) of Peru, and Fundación EcoCiencia of Ecuador (EcoCiencia). Interviews with Peruvian stakeholders will take place on-site in Lima, Peru, and Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru, while interviews with Ecuadorian stakeholders will take place remotely. **We anticipate this midterm review to take place over a period of six weeks beginning October 1, 2023.**

**Interested parties should send a proposal following the guidelines below by August 31, 2023. We ask that you please read this RfP in its entirety before you submit your application.**

***Applicant must have the technical, legal, and logistical capacity to conduct work on-site in Lima, Peru, and Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru.***

### III. Review questions

The consultant will be expected to answer the following questions measuring the project's impact, its contribution to higher-level objectives, and project efficiency and sustainability. These questions should be included as a part of the consultant's interviews with project stakeholders and the consultant's own internal review of project progress based on key project documents (such as the Results Framework). Answers to these questions will be included in the consultant's final report to be delivered to ACA at the end of the consultancy.

#### ***Effectiveness - assessment of project progress***

The emphasis on **effectiveness** helps understand whether the agreement has achieved any of its goals or is on the right trajectory of achieving these. The findings within this category may be used by the grant recipient to make adjustments to the project for the remainder of the grant period.

1. To what extent is the agreement successful in achieving desired results? Please provide a separate assessment according to each project-level outcome found in the results framework.
2. In terms of internal project adjustments, if any, what concrete recommendations do you propose to the organization for the remainder of the project cycle?
3. What key successes have sprung from the agreement, and have these resulted in momentum for greater project achievement?
4. If there have been changes in relation to enabling conditions, to what extent has the organization adjusted its approach to meet these?
5. To what extent can the project experience be meaningfully replicated and scaled up in a similar context? If so, what would be the added value? Please elaborate.
6. Are there planned activities that have not been initiated yet, and if so, why?

#### ***Coherence - synergies with other interventions***

Assessing **coherence** helps map the extent to which project activities are complementary to other interventions in the given context. To enable meaningful interventions, Norad seeks to avoid the duplication of efforts by civil society organizations, donors, governmental agencies, or other international partners. Instead, Norad seeks to promote projects that work in tandem with other projects, whether in the same or in other development sectors.

1. *Internal coherence*: To what extent does the grant recipient work with or in coordination with other initiatives funded by NICFI? What are the learning points?
2. *External coherence*: To what degree does the grant recipient seek to create alliances and foster synergies with civil society organizations and other partners, national or international, to ensure harmonization of interventions in the given contexts?

### ***Specific Questions I - contribution to NICFI Outcomes***

ACA has selected two NICFI Outcomes to be assessed under this evaluation: NICFI Outcome II and VII.

#### **NICFI Outcome II. Improved rights and livelihoods for indigenous peoples and local communities in tropical forest countries**

1. How does the agreement affect deforestation in IPLC territories?
2. How does the agreement lead to the protection of the forest and land rights of IPLCs? Relevant activities may include: (1) participation in relevant processes, (2) reports to relevant international legal mechanisms and instruments, and (3) the exercise of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). Please provide concrete examples.
3. How does the agreement contribute to the protection of environmental and indigenous defenders and representatives by working for the adoption (and enforcement of) relevant laws and legal instruments? Please provide concrete examples.

#### **NICFI Outcome VII. Reduced forest crime**

1. Has the agreement led to an increased number of (criminal) convictions related to forest crime? Explain.
2. How does the agreement lead to stronger commitments against forest crime in (1) international treaties and (2) normative frameworks, resolutions, and declarations on transnational and organized environmental crime?

### ***Specific Questions II - contribution to NICFI Areas of Strategic Interest***

1. How does the agreement spur or employ innovative working methods, context analyses, partnership models, or similar innovations? Please elaborate.
2. What are the impacts of the agreement, positive or negative, on women and gender equality? What are the lessons learned?

### ***Project Efficiency and Sustainability***

1. *Efficiency*: Is the project using resources efficiently? Is the amount invested commensurate with the outputs delivered thus far? Could there have been alternative ways of delivering the same or better results at less human and financial resource investment?
2. *Sustainability*: is there evidence that the achieved and expected results will be maintained after the project ends? Which activities and outcomes are more likely to continue in the future?

## **IV. Scope of the review**

The work will be based in Peru (Lima, Puerto Maldonado), however, desk research and data analysis may occur remotely. The consultancy will last up to 6 weeks from the first day of work, the date upon which all deliverables must be turned in.

## **V. Main users and stakeholders**

The main users and stakeholders of this project include ACCA, EcoCiencia, FENAMAD, five indigenous communities in Madre de Dios, Peru (Boca Inambari, Barranco Chico, Boca Pariamanu, Masenawa, and Tres Islas), national and regional government agencies within both Peru and Ecuador and the Waorani and Shuar Achuar indigenous communities in Ecuador.

## **VI. Methods**

ACA expects the consultant to use a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to conduct their review. Suggested sources for this review include project verification documents such as internal reports, communications with stakeholders, technical, legal, and/or policy documents, interviews with stakeholders, our three implementing partners (FENAMAD, ACCA, and EcoCiencia), and project documents such as the results framework, implementation plan, financial documents, risk analysis document, Theory of Change, and other documents.

## **VII. Deliverables and timeline**

All deliverables *must* be delivered in **Spanish or English**.

### **Deliverables**

**Final report:** A compendium of all the work done by the consultant with the most important results from the evaluation and a general assessment of the overall project impact according to evaluation. The final report should include a section on recommendations to improve our project. The final report must be in a *narrative* report format—bullet points or lists will not be accepted.

**List of key project stakeholders to be interviewed:** this list will be developed in partnership with ACA, ACCA, FENAMAD, and EcoCiencia.

**Memorandum of each structured interview** to assess stakeholders' understanding of the project and perception of its impact. This memorandum can be less than 1 page in length summarizing the contents of the interview and the participant's responses to the consultant's questions. In addition to the questions under Section III ('Review questions'), additional suggested questions to ask stakeholders are included below.

- Are the project stakeholders/participants receiving an effective level of services as planned? How have they benefited or been affected by the project?
- How are activities being received by participants? What do participants and stakeholders like about the current project?
- What is the general understanding of the project that our key stakeholders have? Do they understand its main goal?
- Are there any changes participants and stakeholders suggest should be made to the project?
- What changes have the project's activities brought to the beneficiaries to date?

**Results framework and indicator Progress Report:** this report should include an assessment of the project's result framework and assess progress towards the set of outcomes and outputs indicators (i.e., in progress, finished, started). It should answer the general question: **Is the project complying with the result framework, and has the project team produced the verification documents for the various outcomes and outputs? Are the indicators in the**

**project appropriate, relevant and sufficient (or redundant) to measure the project's impact?** This report can be included in the Final Report.

**Financial accounting of compensation.** This final accounting should be disaggregated by expense category summarizing what the compensation was spent on (travel, lodging, etc.).

### **Timeline**

#### **Week 1**

Review key project documents; learn about project objectives, progress to date, and relevant stakeholders. Finish developing stakeholder list in consultation with ACA, ACCA, FENAMAD, and EcoCiencia. Schedule interviews with Ecuadorian and Peruvian stakeholders.

#### **Week 2**

Conduct remote interviews with Ecuadorian stakeholders.

#### **Week 3**

Travel to Lima, Peru, and conduct interviews with Lima stakeholders. Travel to Puerto Maldonado, Peru, and conduct interviews with Puerto Maldonado stakeholders.

#### **Weeks 4-6**

Follow up with stakeholders on any pertinent questions. Send a preliminary draft to ACA for comments and review. Draft and finalize the final report.

## **VIII. Compensation**

**The consultant may propose a budget of up to a maximum of \$14,500** for the deliverables described above, including implementation of all field activities and any desk/background research. The budget is inclusive of all personnel, travel, equipment, permitting, or other items required to implement the activities described here.

## **IX. Required Qualifications**

- Must hold a postgraduate degree in environmental science or conservation, social research, Project Management, Program Evaluation, or any other relevant field;
- At least 10 years of experience conducting impact evaluations for internationally-funded development or conservation projects;
- Prior impact assessment experience is required;
- Expertise in Latin America (particularly the Andes-Amazon basin) and/or expertise in environmental conservation, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), or governance and rule of law issues;
- Excellent communication skills necessary for building rapport with stakeholders;
- Fluency in written and spoken Spanish is required;
- Availability to travel to Peru, both to Lima and Madre de Dios;
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

## **X. Desired Qualifications**

- Professional proficiency in English is highly desired.

- Experience specifically conducting impact evaluations for projects with bilateral government donors such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Norwegian Agency for International Development Cooperation (Norad), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO, formerly DFID-UK), or Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is highly desired.

## **XI. Eligibility**

**Consultant may be an individual or organization, including a non-profit, private sector, or university. Applicants must indicate their legal form and structure.**

***The applicant must state their*** commitment to zero tolerance for corruption and financial irregularities, with clearly stated financial management practices to prevent this from occurring.

In addition, applicants must affirm that none of the following situations apply:

- they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are subject to proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making, or control over them have been convicted of an offense concerning their professional conduct by a final judgment;
- they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established, or with those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making, or control over them have been convicted for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization, or money laundering by a final judgment;
- they make use of child labor or forced labor and/or practice discrimination, and/or do not respect the right to freedom of association and the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining pursuant to the core conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

**Please be advised that offers will be rejected if illegal or corrupt practices have taken place in connection with this award. Additionally, the contract resulting from this award may be terminated in the event of illegal or corrupt practices in connection with the contract award or execution.**

## **XII. Submission Information**

### ***Application Procedures***

Applicants must submit a proposal with the following information:

- Curriculum Vitae or Resume (*maximum 2 pages*)

- Summary of the applicant’s qualifications including background, history, capabilities, and experience related to the RfP (*maximum 1 page*)
- Sample workplan, including at a minimum the following information: (*maximum 1 page*)
  - Draft and final submission timelines for deliverables
  - Suggested tasks consultant will perform (in addition to proposed tasks under Section VII. Deliverables and timeline)
  - A budget including their hourly or daily rate that covers the implementation of all field activities and any desk/background research. The budget is inclusive of all personnel, travel, equipment, permitting, or other items required to implement the activities described here. **The maximum budget for this consultancy is \$14,500.**
- One recent report or midterm review completed by the consultant
- Written responses to each point in the “Eligibility” section of this call.

**Please send proposals by August 31, 2023. Proposals (excluding mid-term report examples) should be at most four pages. Applications should be submitted by email to [info@amazonconservation.org](mailto:info@amazonconservation.org) with the subject line “[APPLICANT NAME] - Norad Project RFP Midterm Review.”**

*Questions may be submitted by email to [info@amazonconservation.org](mailto:info@amazonconservation.org) until August 31, 2023, with the subject line “RFP Midterm Review Questions.”*

### **XIII. Selection Process**

The selection process will occur in September 2023. Applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- Expertise in M&E and impact evaluation of international development projects (40%)
- Knowledge and understanding of regional context, including but not limited to deforestation drivers in the Amazon, IPLCs, legal and technical frameworks on forest governance in Peru and Ecuador, and/or biodiversity conservation (25%)
- Expertise and capacity to design interviews and conduct them with stakeholders in Lima and Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru, this includes Spanish language capabilities (25%)
- Ability to write high-quality reports in Spanish (10%)