

**FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - FCDS
AMAZON RIGHTS IN FOCUS PROJECT: PEOPLE'S AND FOREST PROTECTION**

TERMS OF REFERENCE - MIDTERM EVALUATION

May 2023

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project	Amazon Rights in Focus: People's and Forest Protection
Category:	Midterm Evaluation
Execution Location:	Bogota – Colombian Amazon
Contract Duration:	A maximum of five (5) weeks after signing the contract

II. BACKGROUND:

The Foundation's goal is 1) to conduct inter-agency, technical, and community work on issues pertaining to the environment, sustainable development, and socio-cultural aspects and 2) to find, procure, manage, channel, and interpret financial resources directed towards various types of areas and territorial environmental planning strategies to conserve, use, and sustainably manage biodiversity.

As a result of its efforts, the FOUNDATION executes projects, grants, and cooperation agreements with international and domestic organizations to meet the objective of promoting peacebuilding through land use planning that promotes environmental protection and sustainable development, especially in the Amazon and Orinoquía regions, with the indigenous and peasant communities that inhabit the departments of Guaviare, Caquetá, and Amazonas.

Within the scope of this effort, the FOUNDATION formulated a project proposal in 2019 for submission in an open call launched by The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) for Civil Society Organizations, as part of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), called *Amazon rights in focus: Peoples and Forest Protection*. In 2021, NORAD approved the project submitted under said call, which was formalized in Agreement COL-21/0002 with the FCDS, with an execution period from July 1, 2021 to December 30, 2025.

This project contemplates the following results: a) Reducing forest crime in the Colombian Amazon; b) Improving the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities in tropical forest countries. Project execution was proposed for a period of five years and contemplates achieving the following results, including the creation of a socio-environmental conflict observatory in the Amazon.

Result 1. To reduce forest crime in the Colombian Amazon

- Specific studies available on the scale, structure, and scope of forest crime (including the gender component)
- Confidential intelligence reports are delivered to and shared with law enforcement agencies
- Training for relevant government agencies to address forest crimes efficiently
- Established forest crime monitoring mechanisms for indigenous peoples and local communities
- Media pieces showing the drivers of forest crime and the results of monitoring indigenous peoples and local communities

Result 2. To improve the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Colombian Amazon.

- A portfolio of collective reparation measures for IPLCs affected by forest crimes
- A local civil society and IPLC report on forest crime and its effects on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in domestic and global (UN/UPR) platforms (including the gender component)
- Training for local civil society to protect their rights and reduce the risk of victimization
- A series of media productions showing the risks that environmental defenders and IPLCs face

III. PURPOSE:

To provide its professional services to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the Amazon Rights in Focus Project: Peoples and Forest Protection, which includes a review of the progress made towards goals, results, and deliverables as established in its formulation, in accordance with the commitments to date (September 2023). Consequently, the effort must include: (i) an analysis of the goals and results achieved (quantitative and qualitative), as well as compliance with technical commitments, (ii) the Project's contribution to the results and areas of strategic interest to NICFI, (iii) submitting the findings, corrective measures, and recommendations to aid in fulfilling the objectives in the remaining time, and (iv) developing lessons learned and conclusions for the donor and Project decision makers.

IV. REVIEW QUESTIONS:

The mid-term evaluation will rigorously follow these guiding questions:

1. Efficiency:

- 1.1. To what extent does the Project achieve the desired results? Please provide a separate assessment according to each project-level result found in the results framework.
- 1.2. In terms of internal project adjustments, if any, what specific recommendations do you propose to the organization for the remainder of the project cycle?
- 1.3. If there have been changes regarding enabling conditions, to what extent has the organization adjusted its approach to address them?
- 1.4. To what extent can the project experience be significantly replicated and extended in a similar context? If so, what would the added value be? Please elaborate.

2. Consistency:

- 2.1. Internal consistency: To what extent is the grant recipient working with or in coordination with other initiatives funded by NICFI? What are the learning points?
- 2.2. External consistency: To what extent does the grant recipient seek to forge partnerships and foster synergy with civil society organizations and other partners, domestic or international, to ensure efforts are harmonized in the given contexts? Please provide a separate evaluation for each project outcome or by geographic area of intervention.

3. Areas of strategic interest:

- 3.1. How does the Project encourage or use innovative working methods, context analysis, partnership models, or similar innovations?
- 3.2. What are the impacts of the Project, positive or negative, on women and gender equality? What are the lessons learned?

4. Results of NICFI "II. Rights of indigenous peoples":

- 4.1. How does the agreement contribute to protecting environmental and indigenous defenders and representatives when working to adopt (and enforce) relevant laws and legal instruments? Please provide specific examples.

5. Results of NICFI "VII. Forest Crimes":

- 5.1. How does the agreement lead to stronger commitments against forest crime? in:
 - International treaties
 - Regulatory frameworks, resolutions, and declarations on transnational and organized environmental crimes
- 5.2. How does the agreement lead to closer collaboration between exporting and importing countries on the specific steps to reduce illegal deforestation?

V. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW:

The main Project users are the indigenous communities and local peoples of the Amazon, civil society organizations, environmental defenders, as well as national and regional institutions relating to protecting the forest and ensuring the rights of Amazonian peoples. This evaluation's stakeholders are NICFI (donors), and the executing partners are: the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development, Mongabay, IUCN NL, and the Environment and Society Association.

VI. MAIN USERS AND STAKEHOLDERS:

The mid-term evaluation will analyze the Project's execution period as of its signing and start-up; that is, from July 2021 to September 2023 (temporary), including implementation in the Colombian Amazon (geographic) of all the activities considered in its results framework and implementation plan (activities).

VII. METHODOLOGY:

To conduct the mid-term evaluation, the following activities are proposed:

1. Preparing a work plan
2. Document review, including at least:
 - Project
 - Results framework
 - Implementation plan
 - Annual reports
 - Risk matrix
 - Document management
 - Other technical inputs deemed relevant

To promote this activity, a preparation space is proposed to facilitate the Project's understanding.

3. To design quantitative and qualitative instruments to collect information, which must be aligned with the 11 guiding questions. If necessary, sub-questions may be raised to help answer questions in a comprehensive way.
4. Instrument design to process and analyze captured information, which must be aligned with the 11 guiding questions. Specifically on compliance with the results framework, the "Results Achievement Progress Matrix" instrument is proposed as formulated in the Guide for Conducting Mid-Term Evaluations in Projects Supported by the UNDP and financed by the GEF (2011)¹.
5. Information gathering: this activity must include an endogenous and exogenous dialogue process, as follows:
 - Endogenous: one or several meetings with the teams from the Project's executing partners.
 - Exogenous: Project stakeholder interviews (in accordance with the provisions of numeral V); at least one field visit must be conducted to gather the views of the IPLC. In this regard, a protocol must be formulated to develop this space, ensuring compliance with the differential and gender approaches.
6. Analyzing information and formulating the first draft of the midterm evaluation report: it must include information processing, as well as findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The document may not exceed 30 pages (not counting annexes).
7. Disseminating the first draft of the mid-term evaluation report to the Project team and gaining their feedback.
8. Submitting and disseminating the final mid-term evaluation report (adjusted).

¹ http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/mid-term/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_SP_2014.pdf

VIII. DELIVERABLES, SCHEDULE, AND PAYMENTS PROGRAM:

Product	Proposed activities	Deliverables	Payment amount
1	Activity 1. Preparing a work plan	- Work Plan	20%
2	Activity 2. Document review Activity 3 and 4. Designing information capture and analysis instruments Activity 5. Information gathering Activity 6. Analyzing the information and formulating the first draft of the mid-term evaluation report Activity 7. Disseminating the first draft of the mid-term evaluation report to the Project team Activity 8. Submitting and disseminating the final mid-term evaluation report (adjusted).	- Information gathering instruments - Protocols for dialogue with communities - First draft of the midterm evaluation report* (with annexes) - Presentation file disseminated - Final midterm evaluation report* (with annexes)	80%

* The Mid-Term Evaluation report must have the following structure: 1. Executive summary, 2. Background, 3. Review purpose and objectives, 4. Methodology, 5. Findings, 6. Conclusions and recommendations, and 7. Annexes (one containing the sources used must be included).

IX. CONTRACT DURATION:

The term (in weeks) for the consultant to conduct their activities must be defined in the economic technical proposal, without exceeding 5 weeks. However, the evaluation must be carried out between October 1 and no later than November 30, 2023, and the final report delivered in the first week of December.

X. AMOUNT FOR THE CONTRACT AND FORM OF PAYMENT:

The amount for the contract will be in accordance with the technical-economic proposal and the experience of the consultant and will be paid according to the percentages established in numeral VIII and the deliverables agreed upon in the work plan.

TRAVEL EXPENSES: The FCDS will cover transportation and lodging expenses outside the contractor's place of residence as needed to conduct the work plan's activities as agreed upon with the contract supervisor.

XI. SELECTION CRITERIA:

REQUIRED PROFILE

Academic Training

Economics, administration, forest engineering, agricultural engineering, environmental engineering, biology, ecology, social, human and/or relevant sciences or, a postgraduate degree in management and conservation, development, environmental or rural management, or relevant consulting topics.

General Experience: Minimum professional experience of 8 years.

Specific Experience: Proven specific experience in formulating and implementing mid-term and final evaluation programs for environmental, forestry, or similar projects. The consultant must have conducted at least five (5) mid-term and/or final project evaluations financed with international cooperation resources.

Note: They must not have participated in preparing or executing the project

XII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND	30 POINTS
Undergraduate	Enabling criteria
Specialization	20 points
Master's degree	30 points
GENERAL EXPERIENCE	20 POINTS
• 8 years	10 points
• Over 8 years	20 points
SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE	30 POINTS
• 5 mid-term and/or final evaluations	10 points
• 6 to 8 mid-term and/or final evaluations	20 points
• Over 9 mid-term and/or final evaluations	30 points
TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC PROPOSAL	20 POINTS

XIII. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO ELABORATE THE CONTRACT:

- Curriculum Vitae with academic and work documentation.
- Updated RUT
- Pension fund affiliation certification.
- EPS affiliation certification.
- Photocopy of the Citizen Identification Card
- Bank certification

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