



Team(s) of consultant(s) to undertake preparatory work for the establishment of a facility to support management of intact forests by Indigenous People & Local Communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo

***Important:** Those terms of references contain six distinct but interrelated components. Interested consultants are invited to apply to **one or several** of the proposed components, depending on their set of expertise. Consortium of international and national consultants are encouraged.*

I. CONTEXT

Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) is one of Europe’s leading organizations in rainforest protection, with more than twenty years of experience and a wide network of partners in all major rainforest regions. RFN works to preserve rainforests and their ecosystem services, while promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples and other local communities to their traditional lands and resources.

With the aim to speed up action for protection and better management of the most intact forests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), RFN will lead the establishment of a Facility which will support the establishment of effective, equitable, rights-based management regimes for intact forests. This Facility will focus on creating integrated mosaics of Indigenous/community land tenure and protected areas, recognized and supported in government-endorsed spatial and jurisdictional plans. It will enable greater engagement by civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in forest management and forest governance, upholding the integrity of forest ecosystems while developing forest economy models.

At this stage, RFN is exploring potential modalities for delivery of this initiative, to ensure the following:

- resources flow primarily to the communities and others responsible for forest management.
- full participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and broader civil society,
- observance of the principle of free, prior and informed consent,
- involvement of key local stakeholders in large-scale collaborative processes with government agencies (for example the provincial integrated REDD+ programs, or PIREDDs), and
- leverage of opportunities available to communities within current laws and policies.

The provinces of **Equateur, Ituri, North-Kivu and South-Kivu** present early opportunities to pilot the Facility and to explore how it can strengthen and complement other ongoing programs. Those provinces have large, intact forests, several established local partners and many communities already attempting to establish tenure over their forests. Both Equateur and Ituri have existing PIREDD programs. These pilot schemes would be attempted at significant scale, with the aim to deliver early positive outcomes for intact forests and their human inhabitants, at the same time as providing lessons to inform national scaling-up.

II. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Under the coordination of the Rainforest Foundation Norway and guidance of a steering committee, the complementary work of the selected teams of consultants will contribute to 1. Inform the modalities of the Facility, 2. Refine the theory of change, 3. Contribute to establishing the roadmap for its following phase. The work is structured as six components.

III. COMPONENTS

Component 1: Modalities - Comparative analysis of existing models

Outcome 1: Conduct a comparative analysis of the most effective/robust institutional models that similar initiatives to the Facility have adopted either in the DRC, regionally or elsewhere in similar contexts. Analysis shall include description of strengths, weaknesses, risks, resilience, possible limitations in a DRC specific context etc.

Indicative number of person-days: 25

Deliverable and deadline: First draft final report 15th of June. Final report: 30th of June.

Component 2: Legal analysis

Outcome 2.1: Conduct a comparative analysis of the legal implications of the different models early listed in Outcome 1.

Outcome 2.2: For each shortlisted model (see interim milestone below), provide a detailed roadmap for the Facility to become legally operational in the DRC.

Indicative total number of person-days for both outcomes: 15

Deliverable and deadline: Report Outcome 2.1: 30th of June. First draft report Outcome 2.2: 14th of August. Final report Outcome 2.2: 28th of August.

NB: Final report will be established after the interim workshop described below.

Component 3: Strategic analysis

Outcome 3: Develop a strategic review of the relevant current and upcoming reforms/ programs/ projects relating primarily to the sectors of land tenure, forests, conservation (incl. legal status and management plan of protected areas), climate change and land use planning. This review will include an update on the status of the different processes, and how the Facility could effectively relate/contribute to/complement them. Reforms/programs/projects in other domains (such as infrastructures, mining, hydrocarbon, agriculture, development/plan, decentralization process) that have - or might have in the coming 3 years - significant impacts on forests and/or IPLC's rights should also be described and analyzed in relation to the Facility.

Indicative number of person-days: 20

Deliverable and deadline: First draft final report 15th of June. Final report: 30th of June.

Component 4: Stakeholders' mapping

Outcome 4: Establish a list of all relevant stakeholders (incl. government and civil society actors, international environmental and development organizations and agencies, academic and research institutions, and private sector actors, at national level and in the proposed pilot provinces) and a preliminary description of how they could relate to the Facility

Indicative number of person-days: 20

Deliverable and deadline: First draft final report 15th of June. Final report: 30th of June.

Component 5: Field assessment

Outcome 5: Identify and assess environmental/economic/social potentialities of the Facility at local level in the targeted provinces. Map targeted action opportunities for investment and impact. Map needs and opportunities around each landscape identified for early projects of the Facility. At this stage, 3 landscapes per province are envisioned, this will be specified with the consultant during the finalization of the terms of reference. Identify the level of threats on forest integrity. Assess possibility of mosaic approach and links to spatial planning processes, opportunities of livelihood development, risks & barriers. Interview local stakeholders (incl. IPCLs, CSOs, authorities and administration, PIREDD). Assess local capacities. Make suggestions to refine theory of change of the Facility.

Deliverable and deadline: Interim report: 15th of July. First draft final report 2nd of September, final report 16th of September

Indicative number of person-days: 40 per province

Interim milestone (1st week of August): Once final reports of components 1, 3 and 4, and interim reports of components 2 and 5 are delivered, the teams of consultants will be invited to present their findings in a virtual workshop. Based on these findings, the Steering Group will select a shortlist of possible models for the Facility, for detailed analysis and consultation. *Component 6 will be grounded in the conclusions of this interim workshop.*

Indicative number of person-days: 3

Component 6: Modalities and roadmap for phase 2

Outcome 6: Based on formal interviews with key stakeholders, re-assess and refine the possible models for the Facility and draft a roadmap for the actual design of the Facility until its official launch.

Deliverable and deadline: First draft final report 2nd of September, final report 16th of September

Indicative number of person-days: 15

Final milestone (Last week of September): All consultancy teams will be required to share their findings in a workshop to be organized by RFN in Kinshasa to agree on the preferred modality, the refined theory of change, and a roadmap for the next phase of the establishment of the Facility.

Indicative number of person-days: 6

PLEASE NOTE: All deliverables will have both a French and an English final version.

IV. SELECTION CRITERIA

The review shall be carried out by one or more teams of consultants with each team addressing one or more of the listed components, according to their expertise.

The combined qualifications of each team shall as a minimum constitute 15 years' experience from working on relevant issues. Suitable teams will have in-depth knowledge and expertise on DRC institutions and context, forest and climate, community-based forest management and conservation.

Among the proposed teams, RFN will select the teams that provide best value for money based on a consideration of a) to what extent the team are well suited for the task, emphasizing in-depth expertise (including academic work and/or implementation) and the relevance of the specific technical expertise and experience of the team member(s), and b) the costs expressed in daily fees.

For each team, one of the consultants should be identified as the team leader and RFN’s permanent contact for the whole contract period. RFN will provide a briefing, share relevant documents to the consultants and ensure the necessary coordination if more than one consultant team is contracted to cover different components.

When assessing the qualifications of the team, RFN will look particularly for the following:

- Demonstrated research skills
- Fluency in both French and English
- Expertise on DRC environmental institutions and context, forest and climate change, and community-based forest management, including sustainable livelihoods and economic alternatives.
- For Component 1, expertise should also be demonstrated in comparable financing models elsewhere in the region and globally.
- Combinations of national and international experts are encouraged.
- RFN will be attentive to the gender representativity of each team and will seek to achieve overall gender balance.

V. HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in submitting a proposal should register by the **15th of May** to the following email address: consultancy@rainforest.no.

Proposals must be marked with “**Scoping Study**” in the subject field.

Candidates must submit the following:

- CV of all consultants in the team, and a summary (maximum two pages combined) of their qualifications.
- Proposed methodology and timeline, max 2 pages.
- A budget, including daily fees based on 8 working hours per day. If team members have different fees, the expected division of labor between them must be indicated. Include any other costs necessary to carry out the review. Travel costs will be agreed separately, based on economy class travel, and compensated according to Norwegian government travel regulations.
- At least two references (including contacts) for similar work.

Questions regarding the assignment can be submitted to kevin@rainforest.no and answers will be shared with all registered candidates.

Contract supervision: Department of International Programs, Rainforest Foundation Norway

Main contact: Kévin Sasia, RFN Program Manager Forest For Life.