



Call for Proposals

Technical Assistance for Biodiversity and Conservation Enhancement Study & Social, Livelihood and Land Access Framework in Gamboma - Republic of Congo

This document serves to provide an overview of the underlying project relevant to Canopy Trust, context on data availability and goals of the mandate, as well as an estimated scope of work requested from the consultant. Final details of the mandate should be covered by the subsequent proposal submitted by the consultant.

1. About Canopy Trust

Canopy Trust provides blended finance solutions to attract private sector investments towards impactful projects that address the drivers of deforestation and support socio' economic development in the Congo Basin in Central Africa. It supports sustainable agriculture and forestry, renewable energy and sustainable cooking along with other deforestation-free value chains, through technical assistance (TA) at project level and catalytic investments at both project and investment fund level. Canopy Trust is an initiative implemented by Catalytic with the funding support of multiple donors. Canopy Trust supports selected projects and businesses by providing grant-funded technical assistance convertible into investment), and investment instruments such as quasi equity, equity, and debt with concessionality servicing to enable impactful projects and businesses with a potential to reach the financial market in the future.

This procurement is conducted as an open competitive tender in accordance with the procurement rules applicable to Canopy Trust and its donors.

2. Context

Canopy Trust has allocated Technical Assistance support to a forestry and agricultural project under development by asc impact in the Republic of Congo. The project area comprises the Gamboma-Abala concession, including the associated Special Economic Zone (ZES), totaling approximately 106,500 hectares in the Nkéni-Alima Department.

The project aims to convert 38,000 ha of degraded savanna into sustainable productive timber plantations, large-scale agriculture (Locally grown Corn & Soy) and protected conservation zones to supply legally sourced wood, improve food security and create local employment.

The present mandate is intended to consolidate and advance the environmental and social work required to support project development, strengthen alignment with international lender and guarantor expectations, and ensure that operational systems can be implemented by in-country teams.

3. Scope of Work for Technical Assistance

The consultant shall provide an integrated environmental and social assessment package for the Gamboma-Abala concession. The assignment shall generate the analytical, planning, and implementation instruments needed to support biodiversity conservation, land use planning, stakeholder engagement, indigenous peoples safeguards, land access management, livelihood



restoration, and international stakeholder alignment in accordance with applicable international standards.

The scope of work is organized as an integrated package of environmental and social studies. Findings from the biodiversity and conservation workstream are expected to inform the social, livelihood, land access, and stakeholder alignment workstream where relevant. The consultant is therefore expected to approach the assignment as a connected mandate rather than as two separate exercises.

Existing project documentation, including prior ecological and social baseline materials and stakeholder engagement records, shall be made available to the selected consultant as relevant and subject to confidentiality requirements. The consultant is expected to review all available material at the outset and use it to refine the methodology and work plan proposed at inception.

The work shall be carried out under full alignment with applicable IFC Performance Standards, with particular relevance to IFC PS1, PS5, PS6, and PS7, as well as MIGA requirements and other relevant international standards and sector guidance referenced during implementation.

A. Objectives

A.1. Develop a robust **biodiversity and conservation enhancement study** for the Gamboma-Abala concession, including hydrological, habitat and species-level assessment, and translate this evidence into an operational conservation framework and biodiversity action plan and Capacity Building

A.2. Complete and strengthen the project's **social, livelihood and land access framework, with an International Stakeholder alignment** framework to ensure that affected communities, including indigenous peoples, are appropriately engaged and protected in accordance with national requirements and applicable international standards.

A.3. Produce a disclosure-ready, implementation-oriented package of studies, action plans, and capacity building materials that can support engagement with Canopy Trust, lenders, guarantors, development finance institutions, and project implementation teams.

B. Envisioned activities for achieving each objective

Objective 1 – Biodiversity and Conservation Enhancement Study

1. **Hydrological Assessment:** The consultant shall undertake a hydrological assessment covering water resource availability and quality, environmental flows, and sedimentation and erosion risk across the Gamboma-Abala concession. The work should also consider water resources (availability in the future, considering for climate risks, etc.) and if the water requirements of the project will not impact other **neighbouring** ecosystems.
2. This work shall provide the baseline necessary to inform biodiversity analysis and long-term land use planning.
3. **Habitat Assessment and Biodiversity Analysis: Great Apes and Wildlife:** Building on the hydrological findings and any existing ecological information, the consultant shall conduct a habitat assessment and biodiversity analysis across the concession, with particular attention



to great apes and other wildlife of conservation importance. Survey methodologies shall be consistent with IUCN good practice and should include, as relevant, transect surveys, camera trapping, and interviews with local communities and park authorities.

4. The consultant shall also apply the WWF Framework for Articulating and Assessing Biodiversity Impact and provide a final BECS score for the project.
5. **Conservation Management Framework:** Based on these findings, the consultant shall prepare a Conservation Management Framework that defines the long-term governance and management approach for no-development zones, protected areas, ecological corridors, and other relevant conservation measures across the concession. The framework shall be aligned with IFC PS6 and applicable national legislation.
6. **Biodiversity Action Plan:** The consultant shall then develop a Biodiversity Action Plan translating the framework into concrete implementation measures, including actions, responsibilities, timelines, monitoring indicators, and reporting arrangements.

Objective 2 – Social, Livelihood and Land Access Framework with International Stakeholder Alignment

1. **Social Baseline Completion:** The consultant shall review and deepen the existing social baseline for communities within and adjacent to the Gamboma-Abala concession, identifying and filling any gaps in the existing data. This updated baseline shall serve as the foundation for all subsequent social and land-related work under the mandate.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Mechanism:** The consultant shall design and document a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and grievance mechanism that function as continuous relationship-building processes throughout the project lifecycle. These systems shall comply with IFC PS1 and, where practicable, relevant Gold Standard requirements, and shall be adapted to local languages, communication practices, and literacy levels.
3. **Indigenous Peoples Protection and FPIC Framework:** The consultant shall develop an Indigenous Peoples Protection and FPIC framework tailored to the rights, circumstances, and vulnerabilities of indigenous peoples present in the project area. The framework shall comply with IFC PS7 and relevant international standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
4. **Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Framework:** Building on the social baseline and FPIC process, the consultant shall prepare a Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Framework addressing land access, displacement risks, and livelihood continuity for all affected communities. The framework shall incorporate national processes already completed while ensuring the additional protections required under IFC PS5 and other applicable international standards.
5. **Livelihood Action Plan:** The consultant shall also prepare a Livelihood Action Plan translating the framework into concrete actions, timelines, responsibilities, indicative budgets, and monitoring arrangements.
6. **Social and Community Development Action Plan:** In parallel, the consultant shall produce a Social and Community Development Action Plan covering longer-term community development commitments, including relevant obligations established through the Cahier des Charges process, and setting out how these commitments will be financed, delivered, and monitored over the project lifecycle.



7. **International Stakeholder Alignment:** The consultant shall consolidate relevant engagement records and technical outputs into an international stakeholder alignment package suitable for disclosure and submission to lenders, guarantors, and development finance institutions, including MIGA, the World Bank, and other relevant stakeholders.

Objective 3 – Delivery, Integration and Capacity Transfer

The consultant shall ensure that the environmental and social workstreams are integrated and sequenced appropriately, with outputs from the biodiversity and conservation study informing the social and land-related framework where relevant. The consultant shall also prepare a final consolidated report integrating all major components of the assignment into a coherent package.

The consultant shall deliver targeted capacity building for asc impact country teams and AFOREST Congo operational teams to ensure that the systems, frameworks, and action plans developed under the mandate can be maintained, updated, and implemented without continuous external support.

C. Deliverables & indicative timeline

The final sequence and dates shall be confirmed at inception. The deliverables are as follows:

C.1. Inception Report

A brief document of approximately 5–10 pages setting out the consultant's understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, work plan, timeline, team composition, and proposed structure of the final deliverables.

Due: End of Week 2 following contract signature.

C.2. Hydrological Assessment Report

Draft and final report presenting the hydrological baseline for the concession, including water availability and quality, environmental flows, and erosion and sediment risk.

Due: End of month 3

C.3. Habitat Assessment and Biodiversity Analysis Report

Draft and final report presenting habitat condition, species presence, great ape and wildlife assessment results, applicable field methodologies, and the project's BECS score.

Due: End of month 3

C.4. Conservation Management Framework

Draft and final framework establishing long-term conservation governance across the concession, including no-development zones, protected areas, and ecological corridors.

Due: End of month 3

C.5. Biodiversity Action Plan

Draft and final implementation plan setting out biodiversity actions, responsibilities, timelines, and monitoring indicators.



Due: End of month 3

C.6. Social Baseline Completion Report

Draft and final report updating and completing the social baseline for communities within and adjacent to the project area.

Due: End of month 3

C.7. Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Mechanism

Draft and final documentation establishing engagement structures and a project grievance mechanism adapted to local context and international standards.

Due: End of month 4

C.8. Indigenous Peoples and FPIC Framework

Draft and final framework addressing indigenous peoples protections and Free, Prior and Informed Consent requirements.

Due: End of month 4

C.9. Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Framework

Draft and final framework addressing land access, resettlement risk management, and livelihood restoration measures.

Due: End of month 4

C.10. Livelihood Action Plan

Draft and final action plan defining practical livelihood restoration measures, indicative budgets, responsibilities, and monitoring arrangements.

Due: End of month 5

C.11. Social and Community Development Action Plan

Draft and final action plan covering longer-term community development commitments and implementation arrangements.

Due: End of month 5

C.12. International Stakeholder Alignment Package

Draft and final package consolidating outputs and engagement records into a disclosure-ready set of materials for Canopy Trust and other international stakeholders.

Due: End of month 5

C.13. Capacity Building Materials and Training Programme

Training materials, workshop content, and practical implementation guidance for both the biodiversity and social workstreams.

Due: End of month 5

C.14. Final Consolidated Report



A final report integrating the main findings, frameworks, and action plans across both products into a coherent overall package.

4. Due: End of month 5

5. Requirements

Applicants must provide evidence that they meet the following requirements:

- the firm is **legally registered**;
- the firm is **registered for tax declaration and payment**;
- the firm has **no outstanding tax or social security liabilities**.

Applicants must also confirm that none of the exclusion grounds below apply. The applicant, its owners and key personnel:

- are **not bankrupt**, insolvent or under administration;
- have **not been convicted** of corruption, fraud, bribery, money laundering, terrorist financing or any other serious offence;
- are **not debarred** or suspended by any multilateral development bank, the UN or the EU;
- have **not engaged in serious professional misconduct** in the last five years;
- are **not in a situation of conflict of interest** that would compromise the integrity of the assignment;
- have fulfilled all obligations relating to the **payment of taxes and social security contributions**.

A signed declaration confirming compliance with these requirements shall accompany the proposal.

Anti-Corruption and Ethical Conduct

Catalytic applies a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. The consultant shall comply with all applicable anti-corruption laws and with Catalytic's ethical standards. The consultant shall not engage in corruption, fraud, collusion, coercion, bribery or any other prohibited practice. Any suspicion of misconduct shall be reported immediately to Catalytic. Catalytic reserves the right to terminate the contract with immediate effect in the event of a breach of these obligations.

6. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the basis of the criteria below. Each criterion will be scored and weighted as indicated, and the contract will be awarded to the highest-ranked eligible applicant.

- **Local presence and Relevant Experience – 25%**
Proven track record in similar assignments, particularly in the Republic of Congo and in Central Africa or at least in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Technical Understanding – 20%**
Clear understanding of objectives and deliverables.
- **Methodological Approach – 20%**
Clarity, relevance, and feasibility of the proposed methodology, including integration of field and desktop research, and approach to stakeholder engagement.



- **Team Qualifications – 20%**
Relevant and appropriately allocated expertise including agronomists, land-use specialists, agro-industrial infrastructure expert, and environmental experts as appropriate. Clear organogram and well-defined roles.
- **Work Plan and Timeline – 5%**
Realistic and efficient work plan aligned with the proposed scope and deadlines.
- **Value for Money – 10%**
Overall cost-effectiveness and justification of the proposed budget in relation to the scope of work.

7. Form of Proposal & Requirements

Please prepare a brief proposal for the performance of this work, including the scope of work, project team and qualifications, and estimated costs.

1. **Scope of Work:** The scope of work should include a description of the specific activities that will be performed in order to accomplish the required tasks listed in Section 3. This should include any proposed site visits, documents to be reviewed, interviews, etc. If the consultant feels that additional tasks or components within a required task are suggested or warranted, these should be stated and delineated as “Optional Tasks”. Deliverables must comply with the applicable IFC Performance Standards, MIGA requirements, and any sector-specific guidelines referenced in this ToR. Any deviation from these standards must be flagged and justified in writing
2. **Fieldwork:** Fieldwork shall be planned and conducted in close coordination with Canopy Trust and the Project Developer country team. The consultant is expected to notify the team at least one month in advance of any planned field missions
3. **Language:** The consultant must be proficient in French. All fieldwork, community engagement, and stakeholder consultations will be conducted in French. Final deliverables shall be submitted in English, with the option for French versions upon request.
4. **Project team and qualifications:** This should include the name of the principal staff members and any sub-contractors, and a brief description of their role within the project team. Qualifications of staff should include relevant technical capabilities, full CVs, specific previous experience similar to this assignment, specific in-country experience and knowledge. A senior expert must be assigned to each workstream and must remain engaged throughout the duration of the assignment. The consultant must nominate a single point of contact responsible for these calls and for day-to-day communication.
5. **Estimated costs:** Provide total professional fees estimate not-to-exceed, in US Dollars, excluding travel. A breakdown of the estimated costs by task must also be presented in tabular format and should include Direct Labour Costs (number of hours or days per staff and their associated unit costs). If field visits are necessary, travel costs will be reimbursed by Catalytic separately (per diems are ineligible). Please also note that Catalytic is exempt from VAT. Your financial proposal should therefore not include VAT.
6. **Contract & payments:** The contract will be based on Catalytic’s standard terms of engagement, fixing a total consultancy fee on lump-sum basis in US Dollars. Catalytic will pay the consultant in 2-3 instalments: e.g. one advance payment of 20% upon signature of the contract, one payment of 40% after delivery of the draft report, final payment of 40% after delivery of the final report.



7. **Conflicts of interest:** As part of the proposal, the Consultant shall also confirm that they do not have a conflict of interest and that they are in a position to provide an adequate, accurate and objective review. In addition, we will request an extract from the commercial registry and passport copy for a KYC / DD check for shortlisted candidates, as well as an audited financial report of the most recent year.
8. **Q&A Session:** Interested bidders will have the opportunity to ask questions in relation to this RFP during a 30-minute Q&A session to refine their proposals. Date and timing of the session remain to be determined and will be communicated to bidders by E-Mail. Questions should be sent 2 hours in advance to project@catalyticfinance.org.

8. **Submission**

Please submit your proposal before 24/07/26 (included) by sending it to canopytrust@catalyticfinance.org.