REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICES
BANK-EXECUTED OPERATIONS
FULL COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS

PROJECT NAME: Valuation of the Flying Rivers of the Amazon & Nature Credits Framework
SELECTION PROCESS #: RG-T4794-P001
SELECTION METHOD: Full Competitive
COUNTRY: Regional
SECTOR OR DEPARTMENT: CSD/BNC
TC NAME: Valuation of the Flying Rivers of the Amazon
FUNDING – TC #: ATN/NL-22406-RG
LINK TO TC DOCUMENT: https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T4794

Attention Consulting Firms: Important Update Regarding BEO Bidder Portal Registration

All consulting firms, both new and previously registered in the BEO Portal, **must add their Business Partner Number (BP Number)** to their organization's profiles to participate or continue participating in a BEO procurement process.

Please refer to the FAQs in the Portal for more details on **"How to Find or Obtain Your BP Number"**.

Avoid delays by not waiting until the last moment to complete this update. This process may take up to **48 hours** to complete and could prevent your organization from participating in a BEO Process.

For further questions or assistance, use the live chat on the BEO Bidder Portal page or email us at ocs.procurement@iadb.org

The Inter-American Development Bank (the Bank) was established in December of 1959 to help accelerate economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, the Bank is a major catalyst in mobilizing resources for the region (For more information about the Bank, please refer to the Bank's website at www.iadb.org.)

Section 1. Purpose of this Request for Expression of Interest

1.1 The Bank is executing the above-mentioned project. The Bank intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI). The purpose of this REOI is to obtain sufficient information to enable the Bank to evaluate if the eligible consulting firms (CF) have the experience and qualifications relevant to provide the consulting services requested by the Bank.

1.2 As defined in the Corporate *Procurement Policy* (GN-2303-33), participating CF must be from a Bank's Member Country[1] or Territory[2] to be eligible to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). The Bank will conduct the shortlisting process of the CF that expressed interest. The shortlisted CF will then be invited to continue further in the procurement process.

1.3 This REOI is not to be construed as either an RFP or an offer to contract and in no way obligates the Bank to contract anyone. The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all participating CF for any or no reason without having to provide an explanation. The Bank does not bind itself in any way to select any participating consulting firm. No debrief will be provided as to why CF have or have not been shortlisted.

Section 2. Instructions to the eligible consulting firms

2.1 Expressions of interest must be delivered using the *Bidder Portal for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Firms for Bank-Executed Operations* (the Portal) (http://beo-procurement.iadb.org) by: *August 17, 5:00 P*.M. (**Washington, D.C., Time**) in PDF format only (Max. 45MB).

2.2 To access the Portal, the CF must generate a registration account, including ***all*** the data requested by the Portal. In the event that any of the information requested is not included, the consulting firm will not be able to participate in this or any other Bank-executed selection process for operational work. If the consulting firm has been previously registered, please validate that you have ***all*** the consulting firm's information updated and complete before submitting an EOI.

2.3 Eligible CF may partner in the form of a Consortium/joint venture (JV) to enhance their qualifications. Such Consortium/JV shall appoint one of the CF as the representative responsible for the communications, the registration in the Portal, and the submission of the corresponding documents (Lead Firm). If submitting as a Consortium/JV, the proposed structure, as well as the Lead Firm, must be maintained if the Consortium/JV proceeds in this selection process.

2.4 Interested CF may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM (**Washington, D.C. Time**), by sending an email to: **Camilo Santa** - csantapena@iadb.org and **Carolina Gutierrez** andreagut@iadb.org.

[1] **Member Countries:** Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, People's Republic of China, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

[2] **Eligible Territories:** a) Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Reunion – as Departments of France; b) U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam – as Territories of the USA; c) Aruba – as a constituent country of the Netherlands; and Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Saba, St Eustatius – as Departments of the Netherlands; d) Hong Kong – as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Inter-American Development Bank
Division: CSD/BNC
Attn: Camilo Santa, Sector Specialist of the Biodiversity and Natural Capital Unit.
1300 New York Ave, NW
Washington DC, 20577
Tel: +1 (202) 769 7411
E-mail: csantapena@iadb.org
Web site: www.iadb.org

2.5 The Bank hereby invites eligible CF to indicate their interest in providing the services described below in the draft Terms of Reference for the consulting services. Interested CF must provide information establishing that they have the necessary experience and are qualified to perform the services. So that all responses may be properly evaluated, eligible CF must include in their submissions the information requested in the following section, with full and clear explanations.

Section 3. Consulting Services

3.1 The consulting services include: The support of the valuation of ecosystem services associated with the Amazon "Flying Rivers" and the design of a high-integrity Nature Credits Framework, including hydroclimate analysis, sectoral valuation, additionality assessment, and policy/investment communication products. The services are expected to be completed over an 8-month period.

3.2 Although there is no standard format for presenting an Expression of Interest, eligible CF must submit an EOI containing the following information:

1) Basic Information—Provide the official name of CF, the contact's name, email address, phone numbers, and office address (es) of the key contact (s) responsible for the EOI.
2) Background—Provide a description of the CF. The CF may include brochures or documents that provide information about its organization, history, mission, structure, and number of staff.
3) Experience related to the requested consulting services—Provide all kinds of evidence the CF considers appropriate to show its experience and expertise in delivering services similar to those described in Annex A, Terms of Reference (e.g., brochures, reports, studies, description of similar assignments, references to cases in which it has provided similar services, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)

3.3 Estimated budget: Not to exceed USD $ 300,000

Annex A. Draft Terms of Reference

Please note that the attached Terms of Reference may be subject to changes by the Bank. The CF that have been shortlisted will be notified of these changes.

ANNEX A – Terms of reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Valuation of the Flying Rivers of the Amazon & Nature Credits Framework

Regional
RG-T4794
ATN/NL-22406-RG Valuation of the Flying Rivers of the Amazon

1. **Background and Justification**

1.1. The 'Flying Rivers of the Amazon' describes the atmospheric moisture recycling and transport system driven by forest evapotranspiration in the northern Amazon. This system underpins precipitation patterns across large areas of South America and, in doing so, sustains agriculture, hydropower generation, water security, and climate resilience.

1.2. Deforestation and forest degradation threaten to disrupt this moisture conveyor, creating material risks for economic sectors and communities across multiple countries. In response, Technical Cooperation RG-T4794 aims to deliver a rigorous, decision-useful valuation of these ecosystem services and to design a high-integrity Nature Credits Framework that can mobilize finance for protection and restoration while ensuring benefits for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

1.3. This Terms of Reference (ToR) adopts a policy- and decision-oriented structure modeled on the IDB's San Andrés Island regenerative blue economy support. It translates the Flying River's scientific and economic work program into a concise set of objectives, activities, deliverables, milestones, and payment triggers suitable for procurement and supervision.

1.4. Moreover, this initiative is a case of study under IDBs workplan along with the International Advisory Panel for Biodiversity Credits (IAPB), the Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) and the World Economic Forum (WEF), to be presented at the MDBs working group of Nature credits.

2. **Objectives**

2.1. The primary objective of this consultancy is to produce a scientifically robust, decision-ready valuation of the ecosystem services linked to the Flying Rivers and to design a scalable Nature Credits Framework aligned with high-integrity principles.

2.2. Specific objectives include:

2.2.1. Quantify moisture transport contributions and precipitation dependencies attributable to forest integrity, under baseline, deforestation, and restoration scenarios.

2.2.2. Estimate sector-by-sector economic impacts with an initial focus on agriculture (e.g., soy, maize) and hydropower, including uncertainty ranges and sensitivity analyses. Sector valuations should build upon existing models in Brazil and present an extension to additional Amazon basin countries (pre-identified candidates include Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname), selected based on data availability, NDC/NBSAP alignment, and institutional capacity to generate comparable results. Extension scope will be confirmed during negotiation and execution.

2.2.3. Develop value-at-risk (VaR) metrics for ecosystem service loss under probabilistic deforestation and climate scenarios.

2.2.4. Integrate carbon capture and other ecosystem services of nature into a consolidated, portfolio-style valuation of the Flying Rivers as a natural capital asset.

2.2.5. Assess additionality from protection and restoration (enhanced Flying Rivers) and translate biophysical gains into incremental economic benefits, identifying and mapping areas with the greatest potential losses and gains.

2.2.6. Design a high-integrity Nature Credits Framework (Credit unit definition, MRV, governance, and registry specifications) suitable for piloting. Indicators to help structure financial instruments that sustain NbS interventions in the Amazon Basin over the long term will be considered.

2.2.7. Produce communication products for policy and investment audiences (executive summary, policy brief, investor note, slide deck).

3. **<u>Scope of Services</u>**

The scope includes comprehensive research, stakeholder engagement, analysis, and strategic planning activities, including but not limited to:

3.1. Inception and methodological design, including a documented modeling chain from forest cover to moisture transport, precipitation, sector outcomes, and valuation, with a QA/QC and uncertainty plan.

3.2. Moisture transport attribution and precipitation change estimation using state-of-the-art hydroclimate methods, with spatial outputs and uncertainty bounds.

3.3. Sector-by-sector valuation modules (initially agriculture and hydropower), with transparent assumptions, sensitivity analyses, and documented datasets.

3.4. Value-at-Risk (VaR) assessment is based on probabilistic deforestation/degradation scenarios and aggregation of sector results.

3.5. Integrated valuation of carbon capture and other ecosystem services of nature into a consolidated portfolio of narrative.

3.6. Additionality analysis for protection/restoration scenarios and translation into incremental sectoral benefits.

3.7. Nature Credits Framework design (Credit definition, MRV, governance, safeguards, and minimum registry specifications).

3.8. Communication and decision products (visuals, briefs, and a dissemination-ready deck).

4. **<u>Key Activities</u>**

4.1. **Baseline and Methodology:** Desk review of technical cooperation documentation and scientific/economic literature, to develop an inception report with workplan, data/assumption registry, and validation protocol with designated scientific advisors.

4.2. **Hydroclimate Modeling**: Moisture transport tracking and attribution to estimate precipitation contributions linked to the Flying Rivers. Including a scenario analysis for deforestation, degradation, and restoration with spatial and temporal outputs; identifying areas of greatest economic gains/losses, i.e. derived from sector valuation. Different climate change scenarios will be considered.

4.3. **Sector Valuation**

4.3.1. Agriculture: translate precipitation changes into yield impacts for priority crops and monetize by region.

4.3.2. Hydropower: translate precipitation changes into generation impacts and monetize using relevant system parameters.

4.4. **Risk and Integration:** Develop VaR metrics for sector modules and aggregated ecosystem service values. Integrate carbon and biodiversity values with sector valuations into a consolidated framework.

4.5. **Additionality and Nature Credits:** Model additionality from protection/restoration (enhanced Flying Rivers) and monetize incremental benefits to design a Nature Credits Framework (unit definition, MRV architecture, governance, safeguards, and registry specs).

4.6. **Communications**: Prepare executive summary, policy brief, investor note, and presentation deck with sector-by-sector visuals.

5. **<u>Expected Outcome and Deliverables</u>**

5.1. **Work Plan & Inception Package:** Inception report, detailed workplan, modeling chain and datasets, QA/QC and uncertainty plan, and validation protocol.

5.2. **Hydroclimate Attribution Package:** Report on moisture transport attribution, precipitation change estimates with uncertainty bounds, and spatial/time-series outputs.

5.3. **Sector Valuation Report (Agriculture & Hydropower):** Quantified sector impacts, monetary valuation, sensitivity analyses, assumptions/data registry and cartography prioritization.

5.4. **Integrated Valuation & Nature Credits Framework:** Value-at-Risk technical report; integrated valuation including carbon and nature; draft Nature Credits framework (unit, MRV, governance, registry).

5.5. **Final Package & Communications:** Additionality analysis for protection/restoration; finalized Nature Credits framework; executive summary, briefs, investor note, and slide deck.