

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Consultancy to Develop Amazon Incentives Case Studies

1. Background

The Pan-Amazon, which spans nine countries, is a critical regulator of the global climate and a vital reservoir of biodiversity. However, it is confronted with a series of threats, including deforestation, unsustainable resource extraction, and perverse subsidies that encourage environmentally harmful activities. Conservation International (CI) acknowledges the pressing need for changes in the incentives landscape, shifting away from practices that endanger the Amazon's integrity and toward those that promote sustainable development and conservation. A nuanced comprehension of the methods necessary to facilitate a transition to a more resilient, environmentally friendly future is required due to the complex interplay of economic forces, subsidies, and policies within the Amazon.

This consultancy aims to explore the core of this challenge by concentrating on four critical Amazonian nations: **Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia**. This endeavor intends to elucidate a pathway to a thriving Amazon by mapping out current incentives and subsidies, identifying successful policy reforms, and quantifying the financial resources that could be directed toward Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This analysis will be further enhanced by the incorporation of CI's scientific insights and policy stances, which will establish a strong foundation for evidence-based recommendations. Given the urgent need to protect irrecoverable carbon stocks, this consultancy aligns with CI's [Irrecoverable Carbon project](#). The ultimate objective is to enable governments, businesses, and civil society to implement transformative change, thereby guaranteeing the Amazon's continued vitality for future generations.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of this consultancy is to provide a clear vision of how reforming harmful incentives and subsidies can lead to positive impacts on the Amazon, enabling the reallocation of financial resources towards Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The consultant's specific objectives will be to:

- **Identify key successful policy reforms and conduct in-depth case studies in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia**, examining public policies including legislation, plans, and programs related to perverse incentives and subsidies on the Amazonian ecosystem and local communities.
- **Quantify the financial resources** that could be redirected towards Nature-based Solutions (NbS) through the elimination/repurpose of harmful subsidies and the implementation of key positive incentives.
- **Identify policies and incentives** that can directly contribute to the protection of irrecoverable carbon in these countries.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- **Policy Analysis:**
 - Review existing policies, including legislation, plans and programs, and regulations related to perverse incentives and subsidies in the Amazon.
 - Identify barriers and opportunities for policy incentives reform.
 - Develop detailed recommendations for the reform of policies related to incentives including subsidies harmful to nature.
 - Assess how current policies and incentives impact the preservation of Irrecoverable Carbon stocks.
- **Numerical Estimation of Repurposed Subsidies:**
 - Show the total public budget allocated for the case studies and estimate the financial flows associated with harmful incentives and subsidies for nature (if available).
 - Quantify the potential financial resources that could be redirected towards Nature-based solutions (NbS).
- **Report Preparation:**

- Integrate CI's policy positions into the analysis, in close contact with country teams in the target countries, the Amazonia program and the GPGA – Global Policy and Government Affairs teams.
- Present the case studies, policy analysis, and numerical estimation in a clear and compelling manner.
- Highlight the link between policy reforms, financial reallocation, and the promotion of NbS.
- Make recommendations for action to CI and its interaction with policymakers

4. Qualifications

The consultant should possess the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in environmental science, economics, public policy, or a related field.
- Proven experience in policy analysis, research, and report writing.
- Strong understanding of environmental and economic issues in the Amazon.
- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
- Fluency in English and Spanish or Portuguese.
- Familiarity with CI's work and policy positions (Preferred).

5. Deliverables

The consultant will be required to submit the following deliverables in English:

- **Product 1: Methodological approach and workplan.**
 - A concise document (approximately 2-4 pages) outlining the consultant's proposed methodological approach, detailed workplan, and timeline for completion of all deliverables.
- **Product 2: Comprehensive review of previous documents and studies.**
 - A concise review (15-20 pages) of existing literature, reports, and studies relevant to perverse incentives and subsidies in the Amazon and their impact on biodiversity, with a special focus on Nature Based Solutions (NbS), in the four target countries. This should include a summary of key findings and gaps in existing knowledge.
- **Product 3: Final report and recommendations.**
 - A comprehensive report (approximately 20-30 pages) integrating the key findings from the case studies, policy analysis, and financial projections. It should include clear and actionable recommendations for policy reforms and financial reallocation, focusing on the development of a sustainable bioeconomy in the Amazon. The report should also include a detailed spreadsheet providing numerical estimates of the current budget allocation for the selected policies and the potential financial resources that could be repurposed.
- **Product 4 (Final): Presentation summarizing the key findings and recommendations.**
 - A clear and concise presentation (approximately 20 slides) summarizing the key findings and recommendations from the final report, suitable for presentation to a diverse audience of stakeholders.

All deliverables will be subject to review and approval by CI. Payment will be released upon final approval of each deliverable.

6. Duration

The consultancy is expected to be completed within 12 weeks, starting on late September/early October 2024.

The proposed delivery of products is based on the following table:

Products	Estimated submission deadline	Percentage
1. Methodological approach and workplan.	07-Oct-2024	20%
2. Comprehensive review of previous documents and studies.	21-Oct-2024	30%

3. Final report and recommendations.	11-Nov-2024	30%
4. Presentation summarizing the key findings and recommendations (Final)	02-Dec-2024	20%

7. Proposal Submission

Interested consultants are invited to submit their technical and financial proposals, including CVs and relevant supporting documents, to the email <consultancies_ourfutureforests@conservation.org> with the subject “AMZ Economic Incentives” by September 19th, 2024.

Consultants for this opportunity can be based in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, or Brazil. However, relevant profiles from other countries in the Americas Region will also be considered as the work can be conducted remotely.

Technical proposal:

The technical proposal must include the technical approach, methodology and detailed work plan with timeline.

The technical proposal must provide a detailed description of how the bidder intends to carry out the consultancy work. It should demonstrate a clear understanding of the work to be undertaken and the responsibilities of all parties involved. Details about personnel, materials, logistical equipment, and specialists to be used for the consultancy must be included.

The CVs (without documentation) of the consultant/team should be attached as an annex to the proposal.

Financial proposal:

The service provided by this consultancy will be all-inclusive and. Payment will be made in local national currency and upon delivery of the respective invoices and approval of the deliverables.

The submitted budget must include a detailed breakdown of costs, especially those representing significant expenses. No additional benefits, charges, taxes, or costs may be added after the contract is awarded. The hourly rate for the service fees must be clearly indicated. The budget should be presented following the structure outlined in [Annex 2](#) and must be done in USD and the national local currency.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevant qualifications and experience
- Understanding of the project scope and objectives
- Clarity and feasibility of the methodological approach
- Quality of previous work samples
- Financial proposal

9. Contact Information

For further information or clarification, please contact us at <consultancies_ourfutureforests@conservation.org> with the subject “Questions - AMZ Economic Incentives”.

Annex 2

Total budget (Please indicate budget in local currency and USD)

Budget per product

Please detail as needed per budget template

Detailed budget			
Category	Quantity	Unit cost	Total
Professional Services			
Consultant 1			
Consultant 2			
Category	Quantity	Unit cost	Total
Travel			
Meetings/Workshops			
Field support			
Logistics support			
Administrative support			
Materials/ equipment			
TOTAL BUDGET			(in local currency and USD)