

World Bank –Terms of Reference for Short-Term Consultant

Ecological Corridors and Connectivity Expert / Facilitator For Global Wildlife Program (GWP) and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes program (ASL)

The GEF has funded two global programs to safeguard biodiversity, preserve landscapes and engage communities for sustainable development. These two programs are (i) Global Wildlife Program (ii) Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

Overview of GWP

The Global Wildlife Program ([GWP](#)), *a global partnership on wildlife conservation and crime prevention for sustainable development* is funded by the Global Environment Facility. The World Bank (WB) was selected as the lead agency to coordinate the national projects in the program and to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among GEF implementing agencies, national executing partners, and conservation, organizations. Following its expansion during the seventh GEF replenishment cycle, the GWP comprises 37 national projects across 32 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with an investment of US\$230 million GEF financing and \$1 billion in co-financing, making it one of the largest GEF programmatic investments in biodiversity conservation. The projects are supported by national agencies and GEF Implementing Agencies.

Overview of ASL

The WB led Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program ([ASL Program](#)) is a regional initiative financed by the GEF with the objective of improving integrated landscape management and ecosystem conservation in specific areas of the Amazon region. A first phase under implementation in Brazil, Colombia and Peru was approved by the GEF Council in October 2015 and became effective in June 2017, as a pilot Impact Program. Given the program's positive results and continued commitment towards protecting the Amazon, a second phase was approved in 2019 with an expanded scope of intervention that included new national projects in Brazil, Colombia and Peru plus new ones in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname. The World Bank is the lead agency of the regional coordination project and implementing agency of a child project in Brazil and one in Colombia. The program now comprises 12 national projects across 7 Amazon countries corresponding to almost 95% of the biome, with an investment of \$209 million GEF financing.

Overview of this ToR

Ecological connectivity is critical to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem health. In light of growing threats to biodiversity and other ecosystem services from habitat degradation, deforestation and fragmentation, ecological corridors are increasingly being recommended as a solution to promote conservation and sustainable development. Connected, conserved and sustainably managed areas are not only key to the local socioeconomic wellbeing, long-term survival of wildlife but also safeguard of cultural diversity.

This is why projects in the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes (ASL) program and the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) are working on corridor creation, protection, and management. While activities between the projects differ, the aim for many of these projects are to improve the landscape connectivity between productive and protected or conserved areas supported by GEF investments. However, projects are facing challenges and have identified topics they would like

to learn about, including best practices and tools and resources that can help address barriers related to connectivity. These relate among others to working with a diverse range of stakeholders, operational challenges in designing and implementing corridors, and improving their activities using data and information. .

Each coordination project of both programs supports a knowledge platform that brings together project teams to facilitate knowledge exchange, sharing of lessons learned, and accelerating the uptake of tools and resources that support the implementation and achievement of national project activities.

Objective:

This consultancy aims to help national projects deliver on their activities related to *corridors and connectivity* by supporting national project teams from ASL and GWP countries to:

- **exchange information and share experiences** related to ecological corridors (design, creation, assessment, management and monitoring) and achieving landscape connectivity;
- **increase capacity** of project teams to use and adopt tools and best practices relevant to corridor assessment, creation, design, financing, and management
- **improve the quality** of the intervention within their projects.

The main task of the consultant is to support the coordination team of both programs to deliver a series of knowledge exchange events and workshops and to identify/share relevant resources that facilitate the purpose above i.e. build capacity and enhance learning of project teams with regard to ecological corridors and landscape connectivity. A series of knowledge exchange events include workshops and facilitated discussions or presentations on selected topics tentatively organized from February to June 2022. This could be three or four bilateral or regional knowledge exchanges specific to one topic i.e. repeating the same topic across regions due to time zone concerns and /or three to four knowledge exchanges across different topics where all projects can join.

By the end of these sessions, project teams should have more knowledge and access to resources that can help them with the activities that are listed in their projects. Specifically, the consultant will lead and support the following tasks:

Tasks:

1. Assess GWP and ASL project activities related to this topic, progress and challenges and identify common themes within projects to identify sub-topics where knowledge exchange and capacity building can be facilitated

The GWP and ASL coordination teams have already surveyed projects to find out what sub-topics are of interest. Some of those that had high demand include: (i) Assessing the economic potential of green corridors, (ii) Community involvement and engagement, (iii) Monitoring progress towards establishment of corridors, (iv) Financing and investment of corridors, (v) cultural and social considerations to include in corridor design, etc. The survey also identified that some of the tools that projects want to learn about include spatial mapping, community monitoring and participatory planning.

The consultant will build on this survey to identify what should be covered within these topics, by liaising with country projects and based on the consultant's experience. In total, between GWP and ASL projects, there are over 30 countries and thus, the consultant will have to customize the

topics and the formats for the knowledge exchange to match regional differences/contexts and include a diversity of speakers that represent the regions.

2. Gather lessons learned and best practice from the projects and synthesize the information both for sharing purposes in a knowledge repository (or folder) and to use the information to plan knowledge exchange events. The consultant will

(i) Curate important resources that can help build the knowledge base for the topics prioritized. This will entail reaching out to projects team from both the programs and external sources to put together files, documents, and links where project teams can access more information. Examples of resources are ToRs, corridor planning documents, stakeholder mapping and planning exercises and other corridor and connectivity guidance documents. Both the ASL and the GWP will add these resources to their own websites and collaboration platforms.

(ii) Identify lessons/ best practices through a standardized procedure / methodology. The consultant will document any lessons that have already been identified by the projects. This will provide the basis for a lessons learned report that can be used by any of the project teams.

Additionally, through the process of identifying lessons learned, the consultant can consider inviting project team members to present how they implemented those activities in the knowledge exchange events and facilitate the process of peer-to-peer learning. This will ensure that projects not only join as active participants in these knowledge sessions, but also become knowledge providers in this topic.

3. Lead and facilitate trainings/ knowledge exchange events.

The consultant will plan and deliver a series of events that will cover the key topics identified and prioritized. It is important that all interested projects participate in these events so the consultant needs to consider how best to organize them. One way would be to organize 1-2 global events that all for cross-regional exchange and then it could be a few sessions more targeted discussions either by region or by topic where a sub-set of projects with similar challenges can share their experiences with one another. Based on the availability of project teams and speakers and the number of topics and tools / resources to cover and train, the consultant will recommend how the knowledge exchange events will be organized and decide the format that each of the events will follow.

These exchange events can have various formats – they can be a blend of webinars (with experts including the consultant presenting the latest research and solutions), workshops (hands-on training of a specific tool or resources), or bi-lateral technical exchanges (between a few projects that are working on a similar sub-theme). The knowledge exchanges must include presentations/inputs from project teams to increase their participation in the event and ensure that their experiences are documented and shared with other projects who may have similar challenges.

The consultant will lead and facilitate these sessions, prepare training and session materials, incorporate Q&A sessions with project teams and provide technical guidance in response to any queries. The consultant will create a work plan and calendar after confirming the availability of the speakers and participants, plan the sessions – the agenda, speakers, development of presentation materials, design of activities to maximize participation and interaction, and prepare one summary report at the end of the series. There will be simultaneous translation (English –

Spanish, English-French) provided during the sessions. The consultant will be expected to integrate and reflect regional contexts and differences (e.g. Asia, Africa, LAC) within the events. The consultant will be supported by the ASL and GWP team in organizing the events, however, the consultant will drive the process of organizing and facilitating. The events will take place between February – June 2022.

4. Advisory Support to project teams.

The consultant will offer bespoke technical advice or meet with project teams one-on-one to help provide technical support to implement their projects. The consultant will provide on-demand resource to projects to answer technical questions between the sessions and respond to follow-ups that will help ensure projects get the most out of the knowledge exchanges (e.g. help projects prepare material they are presenting at the sessions). If there are research gaps after the end of these training sessions, the consultant will share that information with the coordination teams for future reference.

Outputs

- 1) Lessons learned documents on the topics prioritized based on the experience of the consultant and the information that the project teams provide
- 2) A folder or repository that contains curated resources (files, documents, worksheets) that will be helpful to project teams even after the series
- 2) A workplan for the knowledge series that includes the calendar of events, the agenda, and the material to be covered in the sessions
- 3) Organize a series of knowledge exchange events that cover at least two topics within corridors and connectivity. The events can be divided across regions i.e. the same topic being covered across multiple time zones which would result in a total of six events or organize 1-2 global events where everyone can join and then follow up with a 3- 4 regional discussions
- 4) A summary report at the end of the knowledge series
- 4) Based on demand from projects, at least 2 or 3 one-on-one meetings with project teams from each of the two program to provide advisory and mentoring support on specific project activities.

Selection Criteria

- A master's degree or advanced degree in environmental conservation, management, or environmental science.
- At least 10 years of work experience in the field of biodiversity conservation or related topic.
- Experience in developing, creating, establishing, supporting, managing and monitoring projects that have a component of ecological corridors and landscape connectivity.
- Knowledge of broader issues related to protected area management, conservation, community engagement, private sector engagement for sustainable development
- Experience in working in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (especially countries that cover the Amazon biome)
- English and Spanish language skills required, French and Portuguese preferred.
- Strong research, analysis, and synthesizing skills.
- Experience in leading and facilitating groups virtually and in person to promote knowledge exchange
- Experience writing reports that synthesize the knowledge exchange events.

- Attention to details and strong capacity to be organized and follow through on commitments.
- Work with a balanced approach combining initiative and knowing when to seek guidance
- Excellent teamwork and interpersonal skills in working closely and collaboratively across organizational boundaries

Duration and Reporting

The consultant will report to the Lisa Farroway, Program Manager, GWP and Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa, Program Coordinator, ASL.

This short-term consultancy will be from January 17, 2022 to June 30, 2022 to include **50** working days.

How to Apply

If you are interested in this position, please email gwp-info@worldbank.org with your CV and a brief cover letter by Monday, January 10, 2022.