Consultancy

Call for proposals for RFUK's ForestLink Real-Time Monitoring System: User and Data Property Rights study

January 2019

Contract type and duration: Consultancy contract, starting by 18th March

Reporting to: Real-Time Monitoring Project Coordinator

Close working relationship with: RFUK's Real-Time Monitoring, GIS and Communications Teams

Location: Home based

Closing date: Wednesday, 6th March at noon

The Rainforest Foundation UK

The mission of the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforest to:

- Secure and control the natural resources necessary for their long-term wellbeing and managing these resources in ways which do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future.
- Develop means to protect their individual and collective rights and to obtain, shape and control basic services from the state.

RFUK considers that an essential first step to protect and manage the tropical forests and to reduce poverty in tropical forest countries is to realise the rights of the traditional and indigenous communities who live in those forests. With secure rights to land and livelihoods, forest peoples can effectively manage forest resources and direct and manage their own development.

RFUK tackles the underlying causes of deforestation linked to the problems of disenfranchisement of indigenous forest peoples globally and locally. From the field to the international policy arena, RFUK reinforces the active participation of forest peoples in the decisions that affect them. We work with over 15 partner organisations in tropical forest countries and our programme work is split into the following thematic areas:

- Threats to forests from the extractive industries, infrastructure development and agroindustrial expansion;
- Conservation effectiveness and monitoring of initiatives to reduce deforestation from deforestation and degradation (REDD);
- Community-based forest management, land-use planning and tenure reform;
- Community mapping and forest monitoring;
- Indigenous peoples' rights.

ForestLink Real-Time Monitoring (RTM)

In 2015, the Rainforest Foundation UK successfully developed and launched a ground-breaking new system. ForestLink enables communities anywhere in the world to collect and transmit accurately geo-referenced reports of forest illegalities to a central database in real-time, even from areas where there is no mobile phone or internet connectivity. From 2015 to 2018, under a DFID funded project, RFUK and local civil society organisations partners trialled community-based real-time monitoring of forest activities in Ghana, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to test the opportunities to integrate such systems into governmental forest enforcement mechanisms, as a means of containing illegal logging and contributing to the implementation of FLEGT VPAs.

RFUK's ForestLink Real-Time Monitoring system comprises a set of software and methodologies which are used to collect and transmit alerts about forest illegalities in real time. It has been built in house at RFUK and is comprised of four main components: Collectaur (data collection app); Monitaur (platform); Centaur (routing) and the Community Hub.

Seeking to consolidate the achievements of the 2015-2018 RTM project, RFUK has partnered with local Civil Society Organisations: Civic Response in Ghana, FODER in Cameroon, and GASHE in DRC to further deploy and use the ForestLink community-based real-time forest monitoring (RTM) system in order to reduce forest illegalities for the benefit of local communities. The new phase of the project aims to:

- Further support FLEGT VPA processes in implementing countries
- Promote governance reform to institutionalise the ForestLink RTM system
- Improve the system to upscale its implementation and dissemination
- Enhance law enforcement and forest peoples' rights
- Promote sustainability, notably by ensuring that improved forest governance directly benefits forest communities.

The project also aims at deploying ForestLink Real-Time Monitoring in new countries in the coming year, e.g. the Republic of Congo (RoC).

Objective:

As RFUK begins the next phase of the RTM project, which involves the upscaling, deployment and further training of community members, it is necessary to determine and clarify user and data property rights with users of the ForestLink technology. The objective of this consultancy is to determine an appropriate protocol for establishing ForestLink user agreement and data property rights to be used by RFUK, its implementing partners and participating forest communities.

Aims:

- To produce a needs assessment based on consultation with RFUK, including clarification on the need for generalised user/data agreements versus country-specific ones (understanding the political contexts of implementing countries and how this might affect user rights)
- To determine the most equitable and realistic method of establishing user rights and data property rights associated with the ForestLink system

- To clarify data property rights with ForestLink users and implementing partner organisations
- To produce agreements which can be used by RFUK and its implementing partner organisations to ensure that user rights and data property rights are being communicated and adhered to in an appropriate manner

Deliverables:

- Consultation meeting with relevant RFUK staff to present findings, options and advice
- Robust, country-specific user agreements that can be integrated into the ForestLink system in order to clarify user and data property rights with the users

Criteria:

A lawyer specialised in data property and ownership, expert on copyright and database rights, with a good knowledge of new technologies, data-collection systems and data management related issues.

Timeline:

- Kick-off meeting by: Monday 18th March
- Consultancy work to begin: After kick-off meeting / Monday 18th March
- Consultation meeting by: Friday 12th April
- Draft report by: Friday 26th April
- Consultation meeting by: Friday 10th May
- Final report by: Friday 17th May

Application:

- A cover letter of no more than 1 page outlining your suitability to undertake this consultancy. Please also use this cover letter to indicate your availability for the proposed period.
- A brief proposal (2 page max), including: a) Key considerations for third-party data-collecting systems such as ForestLink ; b) Initial suggestions c) Proposed methodology; d) Timeline for consultancy work; e) Budget (fees); Samples of previous relevant work (agreements etc.)
- A CV including 2 referees

Applications submitted by teams proposing complementary skills, as well as by individuals, will be accepted.

Applications should be submitted to adminrtm@rainforestuk.org with 'User/Data Agreement RTM' in the subject line. Any questions are to be directed to this email address.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, 6th March** at noon (GMT).

Please note that RFUK reserves the right to close the vacancy before the advertised deadline if a suitable applicant is found. Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.