



Terms of reference

Call for proposals for open-source licencing of the Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) source code

EXTENDED DEADLINE: 31st December 2018

Contract type and duration: Consultancy contract, starting ASAP (to be completed by 1st March 2019)

Reporting to: GIS and Database Coordinator

Close working relationship with: RTM and GIS teams and other relevant RFUK staff

Location: Home-based

Closing date: 31st Decmeber 2018. Please note as soon as a suitable candidate has been identified, the application process will be closed before the closing date.

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 in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights to land, life and livelihood by:

- Securing and controlling the natural resources necessary for their long term well-being and managing these resources in ways which do no harm their environment, violate their culture or comprise their future.
- Developing 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 extractive industries, infrastructure development and agro-industrial 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)

The potential role of forest dwellers in monitoring forests has been largely overlooked in favour of an externally-driven model that relies heavily on third party monitors, typically based abroad or in capital cities. This can lead to prohibitively costly and inefficient programmes that have contributed little to tackling illegality through the supply chain from source to EU markets.

In 2015, the Rainforest Foundation UK successfully developed and launched a ground-breaking new system (ForestLink) which enables communities anywhere in the world to capture 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 partners have trialled community-based real-time monitoring (RTM) 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.

Seeking to consolidate the achievements of the *Community-based real-time forest monitoring in three countries to support FLEGT processes* project (2015-2018), RFUK have partnered with local civil society organisations – Civic Response in Ghana, FODER in Cameroon, and GASHE in DR Congo – to further deploy and use our ForestLink RTM system in those countries in order to reduce forest illegalities for the benefit of local communities. This new DFID-funded project: *Embedding community real time monitoring to sustain livelihoods and forests in Central and West Africa* (2018-2021) will: further support FLEGT VPA processes in implementing countries, and focus on promoting governance reform to institutionalise the ForestLink RTM system; further improve the system to upscale its implementation and dissemination; enhance law enforcement and forest peoples' rights; and promote sustainability, notably by ensuring that improved forest governance directly benefits forest communities.

RFUK's ForestLink system comprises a set of software and methodologies which are used to collect and transmit alerts about forest illegalities in real time.

The ForestLink system 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.

Objective

In light of past successes and in recognition of the multiple benefits and uses that ForestLink can provide that extend beyond RTM, RFUK is considering options to make the ForestLink source code open-source, either on a modular basis, or for the whole system.

Aims:

- Produce a needs assessment based on consultation with RFUK staff
- Carry out a scoping study of the available open-source licences
- Determine the pros, cons and risks associated with each of the licence types
- Provide specific advice on which license best suits the needs of RFUK
- Carry out an assessment of the source-code before it's made open-source
- Implement the license

Deliverables:

- Detailed (draft and final) report of the pros, cons and risks associated with each of the licence types; and a ForestLink code assessment report
- Consultation meeting with relevant RFUK staff to present findings, options and advice
- Implementation of appropriate license, based on study findings

Criteria:

- A software specialist with expertise in copyright and software licensing, with good knowledge and/or experience of open source technology, protection and security

Budget

A maximum total budget of £1,250 is available. Fees will be paid in one instalment on completion of the work to the satisfaction of RFUK.

Timeline

- Kick-off meeting by 10th December 2018
- Consultancy work to begin after kick-off meeting
- Consultation meeting week beginning 14th January 2019
- Draft report by 4th February 2019
- Final report by 1st March 2019
- Implementation completed by 1st March 2019

Application

- A cover letter of no more than 1 page outlining your suitability to undertake this consultancy. Please use this cover letter to indicate your availability for the proposed period.
- A brief technical proposal (2 page max), including: a) Key considerations for the open source licencing of ForestLink; b) Proposed scoping and implementation methodology; c) Timeline for implementation; d) Budget (fees)
- A CV including 2 referees
- Samples of previous relevant work (reports, publications etc.)

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

Applications should be submitted to adminrtm@rainforestuk.org with "open-source RTM" in the subject line. Any questions are to be directed to this email address.

The deadline for submitting this is 30th November 2018 at noon, GMT.

Please note as soon as a suitable candidate has been identified, the application process will be closed before the closing date.