



RIGHTS AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE

Request for Proposals

Consultant: Collective Livelihoods & Economies Network Launch and Strategy

The Rights and Resources Initiative is requesting proposals for consulting services beginning **mid-September 2026**.

If interested in providing services to our organization, please review this request and submit a proposal by:
September 9, 2026.

About RRI:

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) is a global coalition of over 200 organizations dedicated to advancing the forest, land, and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, and the women within these groups. RRI leverages the power of its global coalition to amplify the voices of local peoples and proactively engage governments, multilateral institutions, and private sector actors to adopt institutional and market reforms that support the realization of rights. Its members capitalize on each other's strengths, expertise, and geographic reach to achieve solutions more effectively and efficiently. By advancing a strategic understanding of the global threats and opportunities resulting from insecure land and resource rights, RRI develops and promotes rights-based approaches to business and development and catalyzes effective solutions to scale rural tenure reform and enhance sustainable resource governance.

Background

In May 2026, the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), together with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, governments, civil society organizations, researchers, development partners, and other allies, convened the Global Summit on Collective Livelihoods and Conservation in Brasília, Brazil.

The Summit resulted in the Brasília Declaration on Collective Livelihoods, which sets out a shared vision for strengthening collective livelihoods and community economies as foundations for climate action, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and the realization of collective rights. The Declaration calls for action across territorial recognition and protection; sustainable economies and financing; inclusive governance and participation; integration within global climate, biodiversity, and development agendas; and strengthened community leadership and knowledge systems.

Summit participants also announced the establishment of the Collective Livelihoods & Economies Network, with RRI serving as its initial Secretariat. The Network is envisioned as a light platform for collective action within the RRI Coalition through which participating organizations can align efforts, coordinate initiatives, generate evidence and learning, influence policy and institutional reform, catalyze innovation and partnerships, and mobilize collective action around shared priorities.

The Network's proposed Design Principles emphasize action before process, a shared agenda, dedicated coordination, shared stewardship, and flexible participation. Its structures and ways of working are intended to remain light and to evolve through implementation rather than extensive institutional design.

Following the Network's launch in Brasília, RRI seeks senior consultant support to help consolidate the Network during its initial operational phase and establish the foundations for sustained collective action in 2027 and beyond.

Terms of Reference

The Consultant will provide strategic coordination and backstopping to the Collective Livelihoods & Economies Network during its initial operational phase, working closely with RRI's Rights and Livelihoods Program to consolidate the Network following its launch in Brasília.

The Consultant will support the Network to finalize its operating foundation; facilitate the strategic decisions required to establish its initial agenda and ways of working; maintain substantive engagement with participating members; coordinate collective engagement around selected policy and influencing opportunities; and work with RRI and Network participants to establish a focused agenda and workplan for 2027.

The Consultant will focus on substantive coordination, facilitation, synthesis, and strategic follow-through. RRI will provide administrative and logistical support for Network operations, including meeting scheduling, routine correspondence, document management, and event logistics.

Consultant Activities

- A. Consolidate the Network's Operating Foundation
 - a. Support RRI and Network participants to move from the Network's initial launch to an agreed and practical operating foundation.
 - b. The Consultant will:
 - i. Support finalization of the Network Concept Note, Design Principles and Ways of Working, roadmap, and related foundational materials.
 - ii. Facilitate substantive consultations with founding participants, Brasília Summit co-organizers, and other relevant Coalition members on the Network's purpose, priorities, participation, and ways of working.
 - iii. Help identify and frame key decisions required to operationalize the Network, including its approach to participation, strategic stewardship, decision-making, and organization of collaborative initiatives or workstreams.
 - iv. Synthesize member input and advise RRI on practical options for resolving outstanding questions.
 - v. Support RRI in translating agreed arrangements into a clear and workable model for the Network's initial phase.
 - c. Consistent with the Network's Design Principles, the objective will be to establish sufficient structure to enable collective action without creating unnecessary institutional complexity.
- B. Provide Strategic Coordination and Member Engagement
 - a. Provide senior coordination support to maintain substantive engagement among RRI, Network participants, and relevant partners during the Network's initial phase.
 - b. The Consultant will:
 - i. Serve as a substantive liaison between RRI and participating Network members.
 - ii. Work with RRI to develop agendas and substantive materials for priority Network discussions and consultations.
 - iii. Facilitate or support key Network meetings, as agreed with RRI.
 - iv. Synthesize discussions into clear decisions, priorities, and next steps.
 - v. Provide strategic follow-up with members around agreed actions, contributions, and opportunities.
 - vi. Identify emerging issues, decisions, partnerships, or opportunities requiring attention and bring these forward to RRI and/or Network participants.
 - vii. Advise RRI periodically on Network participation, momentum, priorities, and areas requiring additional attention.
 - c. RRI staff will provide routine administrative support, allowing the Consultant to concentrate limited consultancy time on substantive coordination and strategic engagement.
- C. Support Development and Advancement of the Network's Initial Agenda
 - a. The Brasília Declaration provides a broad mandate for collective action rather than a predetermined Network workplan. The Network will therefore need to determine which priorities are most appropriate and valuable to advance collectively.
 - b. The Consultant will:
 - i. Facilitate discussions with Network participants to identify areas of the Brasília Declaration and broader collective livelihoods agenda where coordinated action through

- the Network can add clear value.
- ii. Help translate selected priorities into a manageable initial set of Network activities, collaborations, or workstreams.
- iii. Support connections between Network priorities and relevant work already underway across RRI and participating organizations, including the Global Livelihoods Baseline, community enterprise mapping, and other relevant evidence, policy, finance, and learning initiatives identified by the Network.
- iv. Help identify opportunities for collaboration among Network members and strategic partners.
- v. Periodically support RRI and Network participants to assess emerging opportunities and refine priorities based on experience.
- c. The Consultant will support and coordinate this agenda rather than independently determine Network priorities or technically manage individual initiatives.
- D. Support Strategic Policy and Influencing Engagement
 - a. Support RRI and Network participants to use the Network and Brasília Declaration strategically in selected policy and influencing opportunities.
 - b. Initial opportunities are expected to include New York Climate Week 2026 and COP31 in Turkey, alongside other relevant opportunities identified by RRI and Network participants. The Network's current roadmap anticipates coordinated engagement around major policy processes to position collective livelihoods and community economies within climate, biodiversity, tenure, and rural development agendas.
 - c. The Consultant will:
 - i. Work with RRI and Network participants to identify a limited number of priority influencing opportunities where collective engagement can add value.
 - ii. Advise on objectives, positioning, participation, and approaches for Network engagement around these moments.
 - iii. Coordinate substantive inputs and contributions from participating organizations.
 - iv. Support development of shared messages, concept notes, briefing materials, or other substantive inputs as required.
 - v. Help connect engagement at individual events to the Network's broader agenda and facilitate strategic follow-up.
 - vi. RRI will retain responsibility for event administration, travel, scheduling, and other logistical arrangements.
- E. Support 2027 Network Planning and Transition
 - a. A principal outcome of the consultancy will be to help the Network enter 2027 with a focused, collectively shaped agenda and a clearer understanding of how it should operate going forward.
 - b. Working with the RRI team, the Consultant will:
 - i. Help design the process and substantive agenda for a Network planning meeting or consultation process.
 - ii. Support consultation with participating members to identify lessons from the Network's initial phase, emerging priorities, and areas where collective action can add the greatest value.
 - iii. Work with RRI to prepare and facilitate the Network planning meeting/process.
 - iv. Synthesize the results into a focused 2027 Network agenda and workplan, including

- priority areas of action, major milestones, roles, and opportunities for collaboration.
- v. Provide recommendations to RRI on the Network's future coordination and operating needs based on experience during the initial phase.
- vi. Support substantive handover to the team or individual responsible for coordinating the Network beyond the consultancy period.

Consultant Deliverables

The Consultant will produce the following deliverables in collaboration with RRI:

1. Network Consolidation Plan

A concise inception note identifying key decisions, consultations, milestones, and priority opportunities for the September 2026–March 2027 period.

2. Final Network Foundation Documents

Finalized Concept Note, Design Principles and Ways of Working, roadmap, and/or associated materials reflecting consultation and decisions by Network participants.

3. Strategic Coordination and Facilitation Support

Preparation for facilitation/support of agreed priority Network consultations and meetings, including synthesis of key decisions, priorities, and recommended follow-up.

4. Priority Policy Engagement Support

Strategic and substantive coordination around selected policy and influencing opportunities, initially expected to include New York Climate Week and COP31.

5. Network Planning Process

Working with RRI, design and support delivery of a Network planning meeting or consultation process to establish priorities for 2027.

6. 2027 Network Agenda, Workplan, and Transition Recommendations

A concise workplan reflecting priorities agreed by Network participants, accompanied by recommendations on future coordination arrangements and immediate next steps.

Proposed Timeline

The assignment is anticipated to run from mid-**September 2026 through March 2027**.

The Consultant will provide the agreed services and deliverables within the maximum professional-fee budget. The timing and intensity of the work may vary during the assignment based on the agreed workplan. The Consultant will organize the level and timing of effort necessary to complete the agreed deliverables, with greater activity anticipated during the following periods:

- initial consolidation and consultation with Network participants;
- selected global policy and influencing opportunities; and
- development of the Network's 2027 agenda and workplan.

The Consultant will work under the direction of RRI's Rights and Livelihoods Program and collaborate with other RRI staff as appropriate.

The role is expected to be primarily remote, with participation in selected in-person meetings or global events as agreed with RRI. Any travel will be approved and agreed to separately and in advance of travel.

Eligibility Criteria

Minimum Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience coordinating international networks, coalitions, multi-stakeholder initiatives, or similar collaborative platforms.
- Strong project management and organizational skills, including demonstrated ability to manage multiple workstreams, deadlines, stakeholders, and follow-up simultaneously.
- Experience working with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, or rightsholder-led organizations.
- Excellent facilitation, relationship-management, and written communication skills.
- Ability to synthesize complex discussions into clear decisions, actions, workplans, and communications.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, anticipate needs, identify emerging issues, and move agreed activities forward with limited supervision.
- Sensitivity to different institutional, cultural, and political contexts and experience working across regions.
- Professional fluency in English
- Ability to attend online meetings (Zoom, Teams, etc.) with RRI staff during Eastern Time business hours
- Willingness and ability to travel internationally if requested by RRI and separately agreed in advance.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with community livelihoods, collective economies, land and resource rights, climate change, biodiversity, conservation, rural development, or related fields.
- Experience supporting international policy engagement, advocacy, or major global convenings.
- Fluency in French, Spanish, Portuguese, or other languages relevant to the RRI Coalition.

Key Contract Terms

Contract Type and Budget

This will be a deliverable-based contract with a maximum professional-fee budget of US\$15,000. Approved travel expenses, if any, are not included in this ceiling and will be paid or reimbursed separately by RRI in accordance with the provisions below. All travel must be approved in writing and agreed in advance.

Consultants may propose the structure of the deliverable payment based on the total value of their submitted budget.

Cost reasonableness and comparison will be used to evaluate proposals. We encourage submissions to reflect value for money.

Expenses

If travel is approved and agreed to with Consultant, RRI will directly pay for expenses, including:

- Air travel, hotel accommodations, per diem to cover meals and incidentals.

The following expenses will be reimbursed at cost based on receipts/documentation of actual expenses:

- Ground transportation to/from airports, hotels, and meeting venues.

All other projected costs/expenses must be included in the consultant's proposal. Consultant is responsible for ensuring that they have all required insurance, certifications, and/or licenses, and that they meet all legal requirements to provide services in the location where the work is being performed.

Equipment and Supplies

Unless stated otherwise in the proposal, the consultant is responsible for providing all equipment, software, and/or supplies required to perform the services.

Submission Requirements

Proposal must include:

- Written proposal (maximum 5 pages) explaining Consultant's specific process for completion of activities and deliverables listed in this RFP.
- CV/Resume of lead consultant(s).
- One or more samples of similar prior work
- Timeline: Detail your proposed activity and deliverable schedule. Consultants are encouraged to prepare a deliverable-based work plan, as the selected proposal will be translated into a deliverable-based payment schedule.
- A budget proposal in Excel showing the proposed fee for each deliverable, the hourly rate and estimated hours used to calculate that fee, and the proposed deliverable-based payment schedule. Estimated hours are requested for cost-comparison purposes and will not convert the agreement into a time-based contract. Do not include travel costs.

Please submit your proposal and required documents by email to: ysiagian@rightsandresources.org with the subject line "Proposal: Collective Livelihoods & Economies Network Consultant."

The deadline for submission is 5:00pm ET on Tuesday, September 9.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be scored based on the following parameters:

- Proposed approach (35%)
- Understanding of the sector (20%)
- Consultant work history and experience (20%)

- Costs (25%)

Ethical Behavior

RRI is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct in the procurement process. We expect all vendors and consultants to adhere to ethical business practices and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Any attempt to influence the procurement process through unethical means, including but not limited to fraud, bribery, or conflicts of interest, will result in immediate disqualification.

RRI's procurement processes are fair and open and allow all vendors/consultants equal opportunity to win our business. If any individual or organization becomes aware of potential violations of ethical standards related to this procurement process, we encourage prompt reporting to our hotline at www.lighthouse-services.com/rightsandresources. By submitting a proposal, the bidder acknowledges this commitment and agrees to conduct all interactions with RRI in an ethical and transparent manner.