



RIGHTS AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE

Request for Proposals

Preparation of the Congo Basin Project Indicator Map

The Rights and Resources Initiative is requesting proposals for consulting services beginning **September 8, 2025**.

If interested in providing services to our organization, please review this request and submit a proposal by **September 5, 2025**.

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 (IP), Afro-descendant Peoples (ADP), local communities (LC), 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

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) and the Campaign for Nature (C4N) have joined forces to expand and increase recognition of the land rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant peoples, as well as women within these communities, both in the Congo Basin (Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Republic of the Congo) and in the Tropical Andes region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru).

In the Congo Basin, the purpose of the Initiative is to leverage the networks, funding, and presence of RRI and GATC working partners and counterparts to provide direct financial and organizational support to local rights holder networks and organizations. This financial and organizational support focuses on projects that help guarantee their tenure rights and support the governance of their tropical forests.

The Rights and Resources Group (RRG), the coordinating mechanism of RRI, GATC and CLARIFI, implements the project in a coordinated manner. CLARIFI's mission is to raise public and private funds to strategically expand flexible resources for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities to promote their approaches and priorities in their land rights, conservation, climate change adaptation, and sustainable management of their territories, while supporting greater gender and age equity and access to ecosystems. CLARIFI responds to territorial dynamics in a variety of ecosystems around the world and supports self-determined community priorities that have an impact on conservation and climate at the local, national, regional, and global levels, for the benefit of community well-being.

Over the past four years, the Congo Basin Project has contributed to **territorial security** and/or **the strengthening of territorial governance** in three countries—Gabon, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo—working in coordination with 48 organizations that will implement 83 projects between 2022 and 2025. These projects ensure alignment with the project's objectives, which include:

- a. **Accelerating community-level action to advance rights and conservation** of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities, with an approximate target of 3 million hectares. Each project must clearly specify how much territorial area will be secured through the proposed activity.
- b. **Strengthening local organization capacity** (natural resource management, forest management, monitoring, livelihood systems), with an approximate target of 70 million hectares. Each project must detail how much land area will be strengthened in terms of governance through the proposed activity.

Terms of Reference

Consultant Activities

RRI is seeking to engage the services of a consultant/firm for the development of maps (polygons) and Geographic Information System (GIS) processes and to provide support to RRI/CLARIFI in the preparation of reports that geographically represent the land tenure and governance indicators of the Congo Basin Project.

1. The Activities for this assignment include: Compiling geographic information necessary for polygon making and mapping of RRI-supported activities of CLARIFI grantees. The information should be classified based on the Congo Basin project indicators, which are:

Goal 1. 3 million hectares of additional tropical forest area recognized for IP and LCs.

Goal 2: 70 million hectares of rights-based conservation, development, forest management, monitoring, or other strategies to strengthen community control of forest areas, developed and adopted by GATC and RRI members.

2. Comparing the reports sent by organizations that have received support from CLARIFI and the information gaps in the data reported to the Bezos Earth Fund, in line with indicators described above in goals 1 and 2.
3. Reporting on gaps found and making proposals on how to address them and the time frame for doing so.
4. Addressing information gaps found by searching for existing information on other platforms such as government databases or other reliable data.
5. Preparing maps that include project indicators and topics such as:
 - Indigenous or Afro-descendant peoples or nationalities and local communities
 - Indigenous organization
 - Name of the community
 - Area
 - Ecosystem (primary forest, crop areas)
 - Water resources (water sources, rivers, watersheds, and micro-watersheds)
 - Presence of communities in voluntary isolation
 - Presence of conservation areas (key biodiversity areas, protected areas, Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, and others)
 - Monitoring points (if any)
 - Risks (fires, mining, oil, etc.)
6. Entering the polygons in the Congo Basin GIS platform and in the UN Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre's World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

Consultant Deliverables

The deliverables of this assignment are listed below:

- I. Geospatial information collected from the organizations in editable formats (*.gpkg, *.shp, *.tiff, *.qgz, *.mxd, *.lyr, etc.), distributed and subclassified with attributes referring to the communities, territories of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Local Communities, containing the respective metadata by goals and indicators.
- II. A report on information gaps found and a proposal of how to address them.
- III. Information collected through consultant activities as well as data obtained from other sources.
- IV. Maps of additional tropical forest areas recognized for IP and LCs.
- V. An executive summary of the report's findings with suggestions for next steps.
- VI. Migration of data to the RRI platform.

Proposed Timeline

September 8, 2025, to October 26, 2025

Eligibility Criteria

Minimum Qualifications

- *Consulting firm or individual consultant with at least five years of experience in functions and/or activities related to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to provide technical assistance to Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and/or local communities.*
- *Relevant experience in the use of GIS.*
- *Knowledge of work related to territorial analysis in sub-Saharan Africa.*
- *Experience working with a diverse range of stakeholders, including public sector institutions, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations, grassroots organizations, international agencies, and/or indigenous organizations.*
- *At least 5 years' experience in land regularization processes.*

Preferred Qualifications

- *Experience developing Polygons in the Congo-Basin region.*

Key Contract Terms

Contract Type

This will be a firm fixed price/deliverable-based contract.

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

All other projected costs/expenses must be included in the consultant/firm's proposal. Consultant/firm 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/firm is responsible for providing all equipment, software, and/or supplies required to perform the services.

Submission Requirements

Proposals in response to this RFP must include the following:

1. **Technical Proposal (maximum 5 pages):** Detail your methodology/strategy and approach for completion of activities and deliverables listed in this RFP.

2. **Workplan in Gantt format (1 page):** Detail your proposed activity and deliverable schedule. Consultants/firms are encouraged to prepare a deliverable-based work plan, as the selected proposal will be translated into a deliverable-based payment schedule.
3. **CVs for lead consultant(s) (each no longer than 2 pages).**
4. **Summary of Similar Projects (maximum 3 pages):** Summary of 3-5 prior similar projects that the consultant/firm has conducted in the past.
5. **A budget proposal (in Excel format)** that includes line items for professional fees (calculated as an hourly rate in USD multiplied by an estimated number of person/hours per team member), travel costs, any administrative or other ancillary costs, etc.
6. **3 professional references:** Provide name, title and email address of 3 professional references.

Please submit your proposal and required documents by email to: Ayobami Egunyomi (aegunyomi@rightsandresources.org) AND Nelly Njinguet (nnjinguet@rightsandresources.org) with the subject line “**Submission of Proposal for the Congo Basin Project Indicator Map**”

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

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following weighted parameters:

1. **Proposed Technical Approach & Methodology (40%)**
 - Clarity, feasibility, and innovativeness of the proposed methodology/strategy.
 - Appropriateness of the approach for achieving the specified deliverables.
 - Quality, coherence, and level of detail in the proposed workplan (Gantt chart).
 - Demonstrated understanding of the scope, objectives, and context of the assignment.
2. **Relevant Work Experience / Past Performance (25%)**
 - Demonstrated track record in successfully completing projects of similar scope, scale, and complexity.
 - Relevance of prior assignments to the subject matter of this RFP.
 - Strength and diversity of past clients, sectors, or regions served.
3. **Team Qualifications (10%)**
 - Expertise, qualifications, and experience of the lead consultant(s).
 - Alignment of professional backgrounds with the technical requirements of the assignment.
 - Strength and clarity of roles/responsibilities as demonstrated in the submitted CVs.
4. **Cost Proposal (25%)**
 - Cost-reasonableness and value for money.
 - Transparency and clarity of budget line items (professional fees, travel, administrative, and ancillary costs).
 - Alignment of budget with proposed workplan and deliverables.
5. **References (Pass/Fail)**
 - Contact information for at least three professional references must be provided.
 - References may be contacted to verify past performance and client satisfaction.

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.