Terms of Reference for the Procurement of Consultancy Services

Forest Monitoring Expert for a short-term assignment funded by GIZ to help advance the groundbreaking work of the Digital Integration of Agricultural Supply Chains Alliance (DIASCA) on digital public infrastructure (DPI); specifically, to evolve DIASCA's thought leadership, publications, and public events focused on Forest Monitoring in collaboration with GIZ, FAO, Forest Data Partnership and other partners. The overall DIASCA goals support access to digital solutions for farmers that drive innovation and inclusion at scale. This work is being led by the Committee on Sustainability Assessment, COSA.

COSA is a nonprofit organization that works at the forefront of sustainability. We are a neutral consortium dedicated to helping people and organizations understand the sustainability of our food and agriculture systems and the people who make them possible. We design and implement innovative monitoring and evaluation systems that measure the performance of sustainable agriculture programs in practical ways.

Our Vision: Working together to foster secure and resilient farm communities, feed a hungry planet, and sustain the environment.

Our Mission: We accelerate sustainability by advancing smart performance metrics and innovative technologies, enabling users to take better decisions that make a tangible difference for people and planet.

1. **Project name**. Towards Digital Public Infrastructure

2. **Context and Key objectives of the role**

With funding from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) over the past two years, COSA has co-convened hundreds of supply chain actors, scientists, governments, as well as IT service providers under the Digital Integration of Agricultural Supply Chains Alliance (DIASCA), with the aim to collaboratively foster the development and the roll-out of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI). DPI can considerably help facilitate the access to digital solutions for farmers and drive innovation and inclusion at scale towards a more vibrant and efficient digital ecosystem at large, e.g. by allowing for easier compliance with due diligence legislations.

New funding from GIZ will now allow COSA to consolidate DIASCA's groundbreaking work on income standardization, forest monitoring, and traceability, and pivot the community into a broader collaboration around digital public infrastructure (DPI).

Specific goals of this consultancy are to bring expertise in forest monitoring legislation and related sector activities,

- to further advance initial guidance on this topic by leading research and drafting a document on EUDR and compliance with local laws (human, land, and labor rights).

- to facilitate meetings with other forest monitoring experts, consolidating and vetting feedback into the DIASCA Forest Monitoring paper as well as presentations at public events (virtual and/or in-person).

- The ideal candidate will also be able to lead research and draft an additional guidance document on EUDR and compliance with local laws (human, land, and labor rights).

Workgroup members have suggested that this is a missing element that would make current guidance more valuable.

The DIASCA community is comprised of leading actors in food and agriculture across a rich variety of sectors, from palm to coffee and cocoa to soy. We leverage those actors' influence by increasing their commitments to, and use of, common standards, frameworks, and interoperable systems and tools. DIASCA's three workgroups have developed pragmatic tools to help make food and agricultural systems more inclusive and responsive to farmer needs.

3. Responsibilities, Tasks, and Deliverables

1. Update the Forest Monitoring paper to integrate the EUDR FAQs and any final guidance (i.e., legality of territorial approach).

2. Publish a guidance document on EUDR compliance with local legislation, including environmental and labor laws of the country of production.

3. Coordinate meetings of the working group.

4. Background experience and requirements:

a. Strong understanding of forest monitoring topics such as remote sensing. This role is not a technical role, but the selected candidate must understand the topics intelligently and with a depth of knowledge so as to discuss and write about technical topics for lay readers.

b. Deep familiarity with the EUDR, including key publications describing the legislation itself, how it is being implemented, and some of the concerns and challenges.

c. The ideal candidate would have a particular familiarity with the topic of legality within the EUDR framework, how it is being interpreted, and implemented.

d. Ability to coordinate and facilitate discussions with experts and synthesize notes into written summary

e. Strong writing ability in English (and use of MS Word), and good presentation skills (and use of MS PowerPoint)

f. Background relevant to the global food and agriculture sector

g. Demonstrable understanding of sustainability in agriculture, the work of COSA, and the sustainable development sector in general.

h. The position also requires great professional flexibility to encompass the needs of different project team members and stakeholders, working toward unity of purpose.

i. Scheduling flexibility. Must be willing to be on call and available on short notice to address project needs throughout the project period.

j. Cross-cultural sensitivity, able to coordinate people of different educations, skill levels, and backgrounds.

Note: Experts in Geospatial analysis and the legal requirements of EUDR and CS3D are welcome to apply for both the Forest Monitoring and Supply Chain Regulation roles that are part of this project.

5. **Period of assignment and budget:** This consultancy is from February 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025, but may begin sooner.

    - The budget for this assignment is up to 10,500 Euro.

6. **Location**: Contractor's own location. Excellent internet connectivity required. Must be available for phone and email communication during COSA business hours (ca. 8am-5pm) East Coast USA time zone.)

7. Submission of proposal:

Applications must include the following:

1. A formal bid that describes your previous experience and qualifications relating to the work outlined in the "Responsibilities, Tasks, Deliverables" Section # 3, above, and why you would be a good fit for this consultancy. No more than **2-3 pages.**
2. Your Curriculum Vitae (C.V / resume) or, if an entity, please list names of staff who would be assigned.
3. Professional References (up to 3) if you have not worked with COSA before
4. Please specify city/country of current residence

To apply:

1. Submit your proposal via e-mail to: "Careers@thecosa.org".
2. Deadline for submission is January 22, 2025.
3. Applications will be reviewed the week of January 20th. Selected applicant is expected to begin work by February 1, 2025 or sooner.