CIFOR-ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centres

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**Consultant (Research Assistant), Brazzaville**

*(Consultancy Position)*

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-being for all. CIFOR and ICRAF are non-profit science institutions that build and apply evidence to today’s most pressing challenges, including energy insecurity and the climate and biodiversity crises. Over a combined total of 65 years, we have built vast knowledge on forests and trees outside of forests in agricultural landscapes (agroforestry). Using a multidisciplinary approach, we seek to improve lives and to protect and restore ecosystems. Our work focuses on innovative research, partnering for impact, and engaging with stakeholders on policies and practices to benefit people and the planet. Founded in 1993 and 1978, CIFOR and ICRAF are members of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food secure future dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources.

CIFOR-ICRAF is looking for a:

**Consultant (Research Assistant)**

*in Brazzaville*

**Overview**

The purpose of this Job is to work as a research assistant for CIFOR-ICRAF within the CAFI program in Congo Brazzaville. The area of activities includes forest plantations and peatland knowledge management and mainstreaming into the national institutions. Within the PUDT program, CIFOR is responsible for leading the work on peatland and implementing the plantation to respond to the demand for energy. The work on Peatland will be done in collaboration with different partners (WRI, WCS, CongoPeat Consortium that includes the universities of Leeds and Marien Ngouanbi). The work on the plantation will be done with CIRAD. Within CIFOR-ICRAF, the work on peatland will be done aside from the SWAMP project (The main project of CIFOR on Peatland and Mangroves). The Job will thus be mainly related to the REDD+ dynamics in the Congo Brazzaville.

**Duties and responsibilities**

The Research Assistant will help to implement the work of CIFOR-ICRAF within the PUDT in Congo Brazzaville. As such he/she will contribute to the following:
I. The establishment and management of current and future industrial agroforestry plantations, considering the results of a study of their environmental and social impacts (Phase 1). This main activity is split into the following:
   (a) Documentation and legal monitoring of the consultation processes undertaken on the allocation and management of FMUs, plantations, and protected areas.
   (b) Strategic study on the development of “industrial” or “large-scale” agroforestry and forestry plantations at the national level, including i) a study of their environmental impacts on the savannas and social, ii) proposals for risk reduction and iii) recommendations for their gradual inclusion in the Permanent Forest Estate

II. The characterization and mainstreaming of peatland in the National Land Planning process. This activity includes:
   (a) The characterization of Current uses of peatlands are characterized (Phase 1) [ this will be done through (i) Bibliographic review on the impacts of human activities and consultation of stakeholders ; (ii) Analyzes of current uses and activities in peatlands (Socio-economic studies of peatlands in the Republic of Congo; Analysis of current extractive and protection activities on peatlands in the Republic of Congo); (iii) Prospective study and modeling of the impacts of human activities on the functioning of peatlands ] ;
   (b) A legal status and modalities for the protection and sustainable management of peatlands are proposed (Phases 1 and 2) [ this is to be done by doing the following: (i)Proposal for a concerted delimitation of peatland areas eligible for a special status in the Republic of Congo; (ii)Development of a proposal for the legal status and modalities for the protection and sustainable management of peatlands; (iii)Consultation on the proposed legal and normative framework; (iv)Refined proposal of the status and legal framework relating to peatlands; (v) A roadmap for reaching milestone 1.3 (legal status assigned to peatlands) ]
   (c) Peatland areas mapping and delineation (Phase 1) [ this includes (i)Review of available scientific data; (ii)Consolidation of current knowledge and carrying out fieldwork (with the following: Development of the peat bog vegetation map; Refined remote sensing work on peatlands; Remote sensing work on the delimitation of peat bogs in the Congo will be carried out; Consolidation for a proposed refined map of peatlands in the Republic of Congo); (iii)Peatlands are monitored by the MRV and quarterly alerts are produced]

Education, knowledge, and experience

- MSc in a relevant environmental science discipline (i.e., agroecology, international development, sociology, anthropology, political ecology, gender studies, human geography, etc.).
- At least 5 years working experience in research for development context on the topic of Smallholder and industrial plantations for energy; peatland characterization and management; and REDD+ process.
- Excellent quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research skills, including data analysis and writing skills. Strong track record of peer-reviewed publications in environmental science or multidisciplinary journals. Proven ability to work on complex projects, teams, and budgets.
• Good understanding and practices of the REDD+ and climate change mitigation process of the Congo Basin, specifically of the Congo Brazzaville.
• Ability to work in French and English.

Terms and conditions

• This is a national consultancy position.
• Consultancy period is 1 year.
• CIFOR-ICRAF offers competitive remuneration in local currency commensurate with skills and experience.
• The duty station will be in Congo Brazzaville within the PUDT offices.

Application process

• The application deadline is **24th November 2023**.
• Please submit a CV (including 3 references) together with a cover letter.
• We will acknowledge all applications but will only contact short-listed candidates.

To apply, please visit our career site at: [https://www.cifor.org/careers](https://www.cifor.org/careers) and [https://www.worldagroforestry.org/working-for-icraf](https://www.worldagroforestry.org/working-for-icraf)

To learn more about CIFOR-ICRAF, please visit our websites at: [https://www.cifor.org](https://www.cifor.org) and [www.worldagroforestry.org](http://www.worldagroforestry.org)