



INVITATION TO TENDER

PROVISION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF "VISIÓN COLOMBIA" A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BASED IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND LANDSCAPES

CASE NO. 01/2022

The Norwegian Public Procurement Act and part I of the Norwegian Public Procurement Regulations applicable on the date of contract notice/date the invitation to tender is sent to the tenderers apply to this contract.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bogota, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Authority, is inviting participation in a tender procedure to establish a contract for the provision of recommendations for the development of "Visión Colombia" a national program to promote sustainable development based in the conservation and management of forests and landscapes, and that can attract REDD+ results based payments.

The Contracting Authority may invite the tenderers to negotiations provided the Contracting Authority, following an initial evaluation of the tenders, considers this appropriate.

The tentative schedule for the procurement process is:

Activity	Time/Date
Invitation to tender made public on Website of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bogota	01/06/2022
Deadline for receipt of tenders	08/07/2022 at 24.00 hrs (Time in Colombia GMT-5)
Notification of award	22/07/2022
Contract signature	29/07/2022 10:00 hrs

Expiry of tender validity period (tenders remain open for acceptance for 15 days after the deadline for receipt of tenders)	22/07/2022 at 24.00 hrs
---	-------------------------

All questions and enquiries regarding this invitation to tender are to be submitted by email to emb.bogota@mfa.no; aura.robayo@mfa.no and Ole.Reidar.Bergum@mfa.no until June 24, 2022, write "Q&E Tender, case no. 01/2022" in the subject field.

Complete tenders must be in English and must be submitted electronically to: emb.bogota@mfa.no; aura.robayo@mfa.no and Ole.Reidar.Bergum@mfa.no. Write "Tender, case no. 01/2022" in the subject field. The tender documents must be password protected.

Passwords must be submitted to the Contracting Authority immediately after the deadline for receipt of tenders has expired. Write "Password in case no. 01/2022" in the subject field.

All tenderers will be notified by email when a decision has been made on the award of contract.

The tenderer must confirm whether he may have or not have potential conflicts related to the requested services.

2. ABOUT THE CONTRACT

2.1 Description of the services required

- **General Objective**

Provide inputs and recommendations for the development of "Visión Colombia" a national program to promote sustainable development based in the conservation and management of forests and landscapes, and that can attract REDD+ results based payments.

Inputs and recommendations refer to the structure, governance, and financial mechanisms of the above-mentioned program.

- **Background**

Considering that forests cover 52% of Colombia's land and that between 2000 and 2019 around 2.8 million hectares of forest were lost, addressing deforestation is vital to achieving a green economy, which conserves biodiversity, makes sustainable use of natural resources and benefits from the ecosystem services provided by the forest. Controlling deforestation is a priority of the Government of Colombia (GoC) and responds to international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Glasgow Leaders Statement on Forests and Land Use. Additionally, in December 2020, Colombia presented an updated NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) to the UNFCCC and issued the CONPES document 4021 "National Policy for the Control of Deforestation and Sustainable Forest Management" providing a roadmap against deforestation, with the goal of reaching net zero deforestation by 2030. This CONPES document complements the Integrated National Strategy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Management Forest (EICDGB) launched in 2018, which is the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENREDD+).

The Government of Colombia has signalled an intent to develop a national program entitled "Visión Colombia" to reduce deforestation, channelling various sources of finance, including but not limited to international cooperation. This builds from a decade-long experience in developing REDD+ programs and projects in the country. As the main contributor of REDD+ finance to Colombia, Norway wants to take stock of this experience and provide recommendations for the structuring of the Visión Colombia program.

Following the decisions on REDD+ at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Colombia established a REDD+ results-based payments Program entitled *Visión Amazonía* and signed a cooperation agreement as part of the REDD Early Movers Program (REM) with KfW (German development Bank) to channel results-based payments from Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway for reduced emissions from deforestation in the Amazon region for the Period 2013-2017. The Visión Amazonía Program has been in operation since 2016 and is overseen by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, which hosts the implementation and coordination unit, and that has *Fondo Patrimonio Natural* operating as its financial mechanism. Recently, results-based funding from the Green Climate Fund has been approved for the Amazon Region for the Visión Amazonía program as well.

The *Visión Amazonía* Program has 5 pillars: 1) Forest Governance; 2) Sectoral development; 3) Agro-environmental development 4) Indigenous people, 5) Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV). The program works in partnership with multiple national and regional institutions. The first phase of the REM program will finish in 2023 and a second phase is under negotiation.

In addition, Colombia has a second subnational REDD+ program in the Orinoquía Region with the BioCarbon Fund of the World Bank, which aims to generate emission reduction credits for the period 2018-2030 for both reduced emissions from deforestation, reduced emissions from degradation, restoration and selected agricultural activities such as cattle ranching. This program is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Norway contributes to the BioCarbon Fund.

In the spirit of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, countries are expected to transition from a subnational regional approach to REDD+ to a national approach, covering the entirety of the national territory. Colombia subscribed in 2015 the Joint Declaration of

Intent (JDI) on Reducing Deforestation and Sustainable Development, together with Norway, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Declaration was updated by the Parties in December 2019. Under this declaration, donors commit up to 366 million USD for reduced deforestation, of which USD 260 million would be in the form of performance-based payments of verified emissions reductions against a national deforestation baseline (Modality 2), whereas 106 million would be in form of payments for policy milestones achieved that in turn support strategic projects and interventions (Modality 1).

Modality 1 started in earnest in 2016 and the Sustainable Colombia Facility (*Fondo Colombia Sostenible*), managed by the Interamerican Development Bank, was established to channel these resources. *The Sustainable Colombia Facility* resources would be directed to environmental purposes with focus on PDET regions, municipalities affected by the armed conflict, among others¹. Modality 2, however, has not been implemented yet. Colombia did submit a National Forest Reference Emission Level to the UNFCCC in 2020, covering the period 2018-2022, and incorporated it in the NDC Reference Scenario for 2020-2030. An important step under Modality 2 was when Colombia submitted a TREES Concept note to the ART TREES Secretariat in November 2021 for the crediting period 2021-2025.

Furthermore, Colombia has favoured a hybrid approach to REDD+. In addition to national and subnational programs, REDD+ projects have been allowed in the country. Many other initiatives related to forest conservation and management are being implemented throughout the country. For a summary of some of the most relevant ones, please see Appendix 2

Thus, Colombia has accumulated a wealth of experience in policy development, project and program implementation with the objective of reducing deforestation in the country. Nevertheless, deforestation is a complex problem and efforts have not sufficed to curb forest depletion. After the signature of the peace process in 2016, deforestation spiked in 2017 and 2018 and despite a decrease in 2019, saw an increase again in 2020. The country is still far from the goal of zero deforestation by 2030.

-Scope

Visión Colombia is expected to be a national program that coordinates actions and channel funding related to forest conservation and sustainable landscapes in the country's regions, in particular funding streams related to results based payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), with high-profile governance, and able to tap into and collaborate with multiple government entities at the national and subnational level to pursue this goal.

¹ <https://www.colombiasostenible.gov.co/index.php/>

It is expected that Visión Colombia will address the various drivers of deforestation with a national and regional focus, understanding the different dynamics of deforestation and designing specific approaches. In addition to continuing the implementation of national policies such as the CONPES 4021 and the EICDGB, combining elements of a top-down policy agenda with a bottom-up and regionally specific defined set of priority interventions, where local institutions and communities have an important role.

In addition to the above, it is worth to mention that in May 2022, the LEAF³ Coalition launched a second call of proposals for tropical and subtropical forest countries. Given that LEAF could be an important source of resources for the financing of Vision Colombia, the results of the consultancy can be useful for a potential presentation of a proposal by Colombia before this initiative, if the government of Colombia decides to do so.

The Embassy of Norway in Colombia is looking for a consulting firm to present a document with inputs and recommendations in the structuring of Visión Colombia, proposing different options in the following key topics:

- Structure: Mission, functions, objectives of the program, geographic and thematic scope.
- Governance: Participation and decision-making mechanisms, coordination, and articulation mechanisms between actors (donors, government entities, private sector, civil society, ethnic groups, among others); and institutional arrangements (role of each stakeholder and public sector institutions, criteria for their functioning).
- Financing mechanism: Identification of funding sources, main donor conditions, what type of initiatives and organizations would be eligible for funding, identification possible existing institutions or mechanisms that could manage the fund, and their main function structures, among others. The consultancy must consider for this analysis the conditions for the selection of a Financial Intermediary (FI) under LEAF coalition.

To produce this document, the firm will evaluate lessons learnt from the implementation of the following programs: *Visión Amazonía*, *Fondo Colombia Sostenible*, BioCarbon Fund, BioREDD+, GEF Dry Forests, and other relevant initiatives at national and international level such as Socio Bosque Ecuador and Amazon Fund in Brazil in relation to these elements.

³ The Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition is an ambitious new public-private initiative designed to accelerate climate action by providing results-based finance to countries committed to protecting their tropical forests. This initiative aims to mobilize at least \$1 billion in financing. <https://leafcoalition.org/>

Deliverables and payment terms.

No.	Deliverables	Payment terms	KPIs
No. 1	Deliverable 1. Work Plan	10%	One (1) detailed work plan (in English) that includes Methodology, approaches, phases, deadlines, responsibilities, among others.
No. 2	Deliverable 2. Analysis of the payment for results programs associated with reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation	30%	One (1) document with the analysis of existing payment for results programmes associated with reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and other relevant forest conservation and sustainable landscapes programmes in Colombia and similar countries.
No. 3	Deliverable 3. Options for the structuring of "Visión Colombia" National Program	40 %	One (1) document with options for the structure of "Visión Colombia" as an umbrella program able to channel forest conservation and sustainable landscapes funding from relevant actors.
No. 4	Deliverable 4. Options for the Financial mechanisms to implement the "Visión Colombia" National Programme	20 %	One (1) document with different options for possible financial mechanisms to implement the Vision Colombia as a National Programme.
No. 5	Deliverable 5. Consultancy summary document and final consolidated report.	10 %	One (1) document and annexes with the consultancy summary, and specific recommendations for the development of the national programme "Vision Colombia" (in English and Spanish). Final results are presented to the Embassy and other relevant stakeholders in at least two meetings to be convened by the Embassy.

2.2 Contract type

The following standard contract will be used: Consultancy Assignment Agreement

The maximum amount that can be paid the supplier through this agreement is an amount equally to NOK 600.000 incl. VAT.

3. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Mandatory documentation

3.1. Signed "Declaration of good conduct", Appendix 1.

3.2. The supplier must be a firm or consortium registered in a business register, professional register or trade register in the state the service provider is established. Required documentation: The supplier must provide proof of enrolment in a business register, professional register, or trade register in the state the service provider is established. In Colombia this is the Single Business and Social Registry (*Registro Único Empresarial y Social*). This requirement is not applicable if no such register is available. In case such register is not available, the supplier must specify this fact in the tender.

3.3. Proposed solution for the service required. The supplier must submit a document describing the solution for the service required and estimated budget.

Prices in NOK (including VAT) must be provided using a budget format.

The following table or a similar format which describes the different budget items should be provided:

Category	Number	Price	Total in NOK
Salaries (Hourly prices)			
Travel expenses (If applies)			
Equipment (If applies)			
Other expenses (describe)			
Total direct project costs			
Indirect operating costs (Maximum 7%)			
Grand total (In Norwegian Crones)			

3.4. Documentation of Technical and/or professional ability

Conditions for participation: Tenderers must be able to document experience of relevant consultancy services in the past ten (10) years. In case of a consortium the experience can be the sum of experience of the single participating firms.

Documentation that must be provided:

A table align with award criteria in session 4.2 describing details of similar services provided by the tenderer (firm/consortium) during the past ten (10) years, including their value, their content, most relevant achievements and results, the names of the clients and contact details and the tenderer's role in the services.

A CV should be submitted for each consultant as additional documentation of education, courses and experience. A table align with award criteria in session 4.2 including details of relevant experience for each of the consultants they propose to use including name of organization, role/position, tasks/products developed, duration of the position, and most relevant achievements and results.

Certificates of all relevant experience and education must be provided.

4. AWARD CRITERIA

4.1 Proposed solution for the service required (weight 40%)

Tenderers must submit a description of the proposed solution in accordance with chapter 2.1. This should include an assessment of risk factors, progress plan and budget (Maximum length: 20 pages).

The tenderer should consider including the following objectives in the proposed solution:

- Objective 1. Carry out an analysis of existing payment for results programmes associated with reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and other relevant forest conservation and sustainable landscapes programmes in Colombia and similar countries (i.e: Ecuador, Brazil, among others). The analysis should include lessons learnt associated with their design and implementation, including main barriers they have faced, strengths and weaknesses associated with their institutional arrangements, financial mechanisms, and efficiency in accomplishing expected results. The analysis should include an assessment of the implementation with Indigenous Peoples and ethnic groups.

The Visión Amazonia Programme should be reviewed in detail in this analysis, as well as other similar programmes in other countries (in particular Brazil and Ecuador), particularly those with funding from Norway.

- Objective 2. Propose options for the structure of “Visión Colombia” as an umbrella program able to channel forest conservation and sustainable landscapes funding from relevant actors (current and future results-based payments schemes, other cooperation programs and public resources). It should contain the mission and objectives of the program, and the current and needed regulatory framework for each proposal, institutional arrangements, regionalization, and monitoring, evaluation, and transparency mechanisms for the appropriate implementation of the program. The proposals should consider mechanisms to involve and benefit indigenous peoples and afrocolombian communities. The best alternative analysed for the programme structure according to the assessment of long-term advantages and challenges should be indicated.

- Objective 3. Evaluate different possible financial vehicle structures that would allow the program implementation. The analysis should include advantages and main challenges of each mechanism and a proposal of the most suitable financial mechanism (host institution) to accomplish " Visión Colombia" goals. The evaluation should consider the requirements of the LEAF Call of proposals for the selection of a Financial Intermediary

The consultancy team should facilitate meetings, interviews, and spaces for dialogue with the Embassy team and with officials of relevant entities that have implemented the related programmes to be analysed, and other relevant stakeholders. Likewise, the different documents should include a rigorous review of existing documents, reports, studies, program evaluations or similar.

The target of for the Embassy is to complete the project within 6 months from date the contract is signed.

The proposed progress plan must include dates for the deliverables, cf. section Deliverables and payment terms:

No.	Deliverables
No. 1	Deliverable 1. Work Plan
No. 2	Deliverable 2. Analysis of the payment for results programs associated with reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
No. 3	Deliverable 3. Options for the structuring of “Visión Colombia” National Program
No. 4	Deliverable 4. Options for the Financial mechanisms to implement the "Visión Colombia" National Programme
No. 5	Deliverable 5. Consultancy summary document and final consolidated report. Final results are presented to the Embassy and other relevant stakeholders.

4.2 Expertise specific to the service required (weight 60%)

Both the consultant firm/consortium and all the proposed team will be evaluated against the best possible competence within all the following areas:

- Planning and/or structuring of sustainable development projects, if possible, in deforestation control projects and/or sustainable rural development projects.
- Completing analytical and technical reports (both qualitative and quantitative). Preferably on topics related to green growth and sustainable development.
- Working with the Colombian Government, international organisations, and other higher-level authorities.
- Familiarity with Colombian government structure and systems at the national and subnational level.
- Familiarity with public investments and regional economy in Colombia.
- Experience of work with local communities and ethnic groups.
- REDD+ Payment for performance mechanisms

The composition of the team and involvement of personnel is at the discretion of the proponents.

Appendix 1 - Declaration of good conduct

This declaration concerns:

Name of enterprise		Organisation number	
Address		Country	
Postal code		City/town	

This enterprise has been convicted of or accepted a fine for:

Offences	Yes	No
Participation in a criminal organisation		
Corruption		
Fraud		
Terror offences or offences linked to terrorist activities		
Money laundering or terrorist financing		
Child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings		

One or several persons that are member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of this enterprise or has powers of representation, decisions or control therein, have been convicted of or accepted a fine for:

Offences	Yes	No
Participation in a criminal organisation		
Corruption		
Fraud		
Terror offences or offences linked to terrorist activities		
Money laundering or terrorist financing		
Child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings		

Date

General Manager

Appendix 2

In the Pacific region of Colombia, USAID and *Fondo Acción* led the establishment of 8 projects and supported implementation of their activities through the BioREDD+ initiative jointly with afrocolombian and indigenous communities. More recently, this support has continued and is expanding with the Paramos and Forests (*Páramos y Bosques*) initiative. Additionally, the private sector has established various REDD+ projects, particularly in the Amazon and Pacific regions, mainly with indigenous peoples and afrocolombian communities, after the creation of the carbon tax offset mechanism in 2017 (Decree 926 of 2017). Other important forest conservation initiatives led by the government are the Dry Forest GEF project, with actions in the Caribbean and Andean regions, as well as the creation of the National PES Program.

There are other related initiatives such as USAID's Natural Wealth Program (*Riqueza Natural*) supports the national government in the goals of conservation and comprehensive sustainable rural development to achieve a stable and lasting peace in the post-conflict framework (2017-2022). Also from USAID, the Amazon Alive (*Amazonía Vital*) Project gives continuity to this last program, in order to improve the prevention and prosecution of environmental crimes to reduce deforestation and increase forest conservation, prioritizing interventions in areas that are critical to maintaining the connectivity of biodiversity and that are adjacent to natural parks, forest reserves and indigenous territories (2021-2026).

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded several strategic related projects. The first Heart of the Amazon Project (*Corazón de la Amazonía*) in Colombia since 2015, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in Amazonian forests, implemented by the World Bank. The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) aims to protect globally biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover. In Colombia under the implementing agency UNDP, the project "Connectivity and biodiversity conservation in the Colombian Amazon – Sustainable Amazon for Peace" is developed, with the main objective to improve the connectivity and conserve biodiversity through the strengthening of institutions and local organizations to ensure integral low-carbon emission management and peace building. The GEF also supported a project for the conservation of Dry Forests in the Andean and Caribbean regions in the country.

Also, Norway supports various initiatives related to climate and forests in Colombia. One of these is the Green Growth Program with GGGI (The Global Green Growth Institute). GGGI has been working with the Government of Colombia to advance green growth policies and green investments, through strategic partnerships at national and subnational level. Five years of support (2017-2022) expect to see an impact of an increased capacity to mainstream green growth objectives into development planning and investments within the priority sectors and regions that are critical for Colombia's future green growth, particularly in those areas that are highly susceptible to increased natural resource degradation and forest cover loss. GGGI has been a longtime advisory

partner of the GoC and of Norway in the processes that led to the signature and early implementation of Visión Amazonía and the JDI and is accompanying the formulation of Visión Colombia.

Other relevant projects under the Norwegian International Climate and Forest initiative in Colombia are: (i) Strengthening institutional capacities against deforestation (UNODC); (ii) Community forestry in Caquetá and Guaviare (FCDS); and (iii) Small Grants Initiative (Norwegian Human Rights Fund).