

Landscape mapping to identify opportunities for implementing REDD+ projects in Amazonas

Organization Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address species, habitat and ecosystem management issues critical to improving the quality of life of poor rural people whose livelihoods depend on the direct utilization of natural resources.

The WCS Brazil Program is a Brazilian non-profit organization founded in 2004. Since its foundation, the organization has focused on conservation efforts in the Amazonas state, the heart of the Amazon Basin and the largest state in Brazil (157 million hectares). The strategy of WCS Brazil is to identify critical conservation problems and develop science-based and community-driven solutions that benefit natural landscapes, wildlife, and human populations. Concentrating its efforts to strengthen conservation areas and enable landscape-scale governance to avoid deforestation, fragmentation, and degradation of the natural ecosystems in the Amazonas state.

Objective

Recent advancements in the legal status of the Amazonas State jurisdictional REDD program present an opportunity for WCS to leverage climate finance in advancing its conservation objectives. WCS intends to conduct a preliminary review of the opportunity to develop REDD+ projects in its landscapes in Amazonas. The services of a consultant or a firm are requested to:

Undertake assessment of potential REDD project locations and provide recommendations on site selection to maximize WCS conservation goals and alignment with carbon finance mechanisms.

Landscape opportunity mapping

Summary

This assessment is to identify general locations within Amazonas where there is an alignment between the potential for carbon finance generation, and in the opportunity to support WCS's objectives in landscape-scale conservation of biodiversity.

Tasks

- 1) Work with WCS to develop and document criteria for sites it wants to engage in conservation
- 2) Identify and collate spatial datasets relevant for assessing the emission reduction potential for avoided deforestation, including but not limited to:
 - a) Risk of forest loss. If Amazonas has or is developing this product for its baseline allocation, it should be used.
- 3) Preliminary rating of emission reduction potential
 - a) In collaboration with WCS, select a subset of possible REDD+ project locations and their potential boundaries (likely following existing land management unit boundaries)
 - b) Using datasets from 3), develop preliminary estimates of possible emission reductions using the approach presented in Verra VCS VMD0007-BLUP module.

Deliverables

- Datasets organized and archived with sources clearly identified
- Series of print-ready maps depicting:
 - Distribution of key landscape criteria used in site selection over the region of Amazonas considered by WCS for activities
 - Potential carbon projects for site identified in collaboration with WCS
- Spreadsheet workbook containing formulas and tabular data used to estimate emissions reduction potential
- Summary document including:
 - Description of process and results of developing site selection criteria with WCS
 - Summary of datasets sourced for analysis
 - Description of process and outcomes from selection of potential project sites with WCS
 - Generalized approach to emissions reductions projections, including major assumptions
 - Quantitative results from emission reduction potential
 - Summary of each potential project site, describing the main opportunities, as well as potential obstacles
- Slide presentation covering a summary of process, and main conclusions and recommendations based on site identification analysis.

Level of Effort

- Consultant is invited to propose resources required
- WCS anticipates this assessment should take up to 25 working days.

Key Qualifications

- 5+ years experience providing leadership in GIS analysis, with a focus on issues such as landscape planning for conservation, design of REDD+ projects, modeling of ecosystem services including carbon.
- Familiarity with key datasets for Amazonas such as (but not limited to) forest/land cover maps, land cover change products, protected area systems, transportation networks, conservation value, is considered a plus. However, WCS Brazil office can facilitate sourcing and interpretation of datasets.
- Demonstrated history synthesizing results of spatial analysis into programmatic and/or policy recommendations for a non-specialist audience.
- Professional level English language required; Portuguese is a plus.

Submission of applications:

Interested candidates, should apply by sending a letter of interest, resume and intended remuneration to: wcsbrazil@wcs.org by August 6th, with the email title “GIS-REDD Analysis”