



Conservation International Foundation (Guyana) Inc.

Consultancy Terms of Reference

Title: Consultant to document enacted and proposed PADD in Guyana

Location: Guyana

Type: Individual

1. Project Background

National parks and other protected areas (PAs) have been the foundation of global efforts to conserve biological diversity. Conservation policy assumes that PAs are permanent fixtures on the landscape, but recent research demonstrates widespread PA downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADD). Initial studies have identified more than 3,150 PADD events across 70 countries, affecting over 1,700,000 km² of the protected area estate. Another 1,400 PADD events have been proposed, with the potential to impact an additional 900,000 km² of protected lands and waters. Known PADD events are only the tip of the iceberg, however; the actual number of PADD events may be 10x higher than currently documented. Industrial-scale resource extraction and development, as well as local land pressures and land claims, are the primary causes of PADD. Larger protected areas – especially in areas of high population density and accessibility – appear particularly at risk. In certain cases, PADD has also been shown to accelerate deforestation, carbon emissions, and habitat fragmentation. As international trade, and global and local resource demands grow, the pressure on protected areas – and the potential impacts of PADD – may increase commensurately. While this evidence highlights the critical relevance of PADD, many fundamental questions remain. Further research is required.

To address key knowledge gaps, Conservation International (CI) is developing a comprehensive PADD database for the nations of Amazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. Specifically, for each nation, we will document and characterize all enacted and proposed PADD events from 1900 to the present. Our results will provide novel insights into PADD at national and regional levels, including spatial extent, temporal trends, spatial patterns, and proximate causes. These insights, together with spatial and temporal data on lands that remain protected (either as “protected areas” or through another conservation intervention), will set the stage for further research to evaluate the social and ecological impacts of conservation interventions across Amazonia. Perhaps more importantly, these results will directly inform conservation policy and practice, guiding the use of protected areas as a key strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable

development. We anticipate as well, that the results will also assist in designing innovative solutions to ensure conservation of biological diversity that can be enduring as the global context evolves.

CI's aim is to document enacted and proposed (historic and current) PADDD, generating data for future research and scientific insights that inform policymaking in Amazonia and beyond.

2. Objectives

The consultant will lead the compilation of research that will inform a shapefile documenting enacted and proposed PADDD in Guyana.

3. Characteristic of Consultancy

3.1 **Type:** Individual consultant

3.2 **Procurement Method:** IICQ: International Individual Consultant Selection Based on Qualifications

3.3 **Duration:** 28 August, 2017 – 15 December, 2017

3.4 **Place of Work:** Guyana

3.5 **Language:** Proficiency in English (both written and spoken).

4. Scope of services

Under the supervision of the Spatial Data Analyst, the Consultant will investigate the historic and potential future impact of PADDD on conservation and deforestation in Guyana by conducting comprehensive reviews of its protected area system, documenting all known historic (enacted and proposed) and currently proposed PADDD events, and spatially demonstrating all PADDD events in a shape file with full documentation and references attached.

The incumbent will collaborate with relevant NGOs, government agencies, and academic institutions to identify and compile comprehensive information regarding enacted and recent PADDD in Guyana, as well as protected areas currently at risk for PADDD. With guidance from the Spatial Data Analyst, the consultant will be responsible for 1) gathering relevant information surrounding all enacted and proposed PADDD events such as the year of occurrence, the cause, and precise area affected and 2) gathering spatially-explicit data and maps of areas affected by and proposed for PADDD. The specific deliverables are outlined below:

5. Specific qualification and experience

5.1 Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Natural Sciences, Environmental Science, Geography or relevant field

- Demonstrated experience in quantitative and qualitative analyses
- Knowledge of protected area history in Guyana would be an asset
- Excellent research skills
- Demonstrated expertise in GIS is highly desirable
- Understanding of land use/land cover change analysis and carbon assessments

5.2 Qualities and Skills

- Attention to detail
- Ability to work independently
- Good communication skills
- Proficiency in English
- Well-established relationships with governmental and non-governmental conservation actors

6. Deliverables

The Consultant will report directly to the Spatial Data Analyst, who is responsible for acceptance of deliverables under the consultancy in accordance with the following deliverables:

1. Excel spreadsheet listing all current and historic (previously gazetted) protected areas and relevant attributes. Attributes should indicate details about the protected area, and whether it is associated with an enacted or proposed downgrading, downsizing, or degazettement (PADDD). Necessary fields are listed and defined in the attached document; please use the template provided. Each protected area should have a unique protected area ID. Please provide written metadata in a separate document on methods used to collect this information and all sources pursued (government website, archival institutions, NGOs, etc.).
2. Excel spreadsheet listing all enacted and proposed PADDD events and relevant attributes. Necessary fields are listed and defined in the attached document; please use the template provided. Each PADDD event should have a unique ID. Please provide written metadata in a separate document on methods used to collect this information and all sources pursued.
3. List of all available spatial datasets at the national and landscape scales for assessing impacts of enacted or proposed PADDD, with an indication of scale, time period the data represents, availability (public?), and source. Required datasets include: landcover, landcover change, and carbon distribution if available. Spatial information on current or proposed land use and infrastructure, particularly those associated with PADDD events, are also requested. These include, but are not limited to, minerals, oil and gas, timber, and agricultural concessions; roads, and railways. After list is reviewed, facilitate access to, or retrieve, specific data files upon request. Non-spatial information on national or landscape level carbon estimates by land cover type are also requested, if available.
4. Electronic copies of all supporting documentation/references for fields (legal documents, NGO publications, news articles, scientific publications, etc.).