



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4860

Issued on: 12 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 26 October 2017

JOB TITLE: Technical Advisor/Writer (CGRFA) - State of the World's Biodiversity

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant / PSA (base and middle levels)

(SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE)

DUTY STATION: Rome, Italy or home (other location)

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: CBDC - Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

DURATION: Assignments from one to eleven months on a when-actually-employed basis

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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Organizational Setting

Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity for food and agriculture requires a comprehensive understanding of the state and use of all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. With a view to improve this understanding, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested FAO to prepare the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Report) for release at the end of 2018. The Report will focus on the interactions between the different sectors (plant, animal, aquatic and forest) and on cross-sectoral matters and will use an ecosystem approach. It will specifically look at the contribution that biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole makes to food security, livelihoods and environmental health as well as to the sustainability, resilience and adaptability of production systems. Prepared under the guidance of the Commission, the Report will provide an integrated description of the state of plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources and will also reflect available baseline information on the state of diversity of micro-organisms, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, plants and mammals that are found in and around production systems and often provide important ecosystem services supporting food and agricultural production.

The Report aims at providing information complementary to other sectoral assessments prepared under the aegis of the Commission (state of the world's animal, plant, forest and aquatic genetic resources reports) in order to address the following underlying questions:

- a) What is the state of the conservation and use of biodiversity for food security and nutrition, ecosystem services and sustainability?
- b) What trends can be identified in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and in the effects of major drivers of change?
- c) How can conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture be improved and the contributions of biodiversity to food security and nutrition, ecosystem services, sustainability and the improvement of livelihoods of farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher folk be enhanced?

The Report will take full advantage of existing information sources, including Country Reports, sectoral assessments, thematic studies, reports from regional consultations and other sources of information.

The State of the World's Biodiversity for food and Agriculture: Needs and possible actions

In the course of 2016, a series of regional consultations on needs and possible actions for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture was held, and such needs and possible actions have been identified. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission invited countries to comment on the document *Biodiversity for food and agriculture – needs and possible actions*, and asked FAO to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft in the light of comments and suggestions received, taking into account the findings of the Report. A meeting in June 2018 will be held with selected National Focal Points to review and revise, as appropriate, these draft needs and possible actions for submission to the next session of the Commission. The follow-up will continue in 2019.

The purpose of this call is to provide the Secretariat of the Commission (CBDC) with a list of qualified candidates to enhance the Commission's work.

Contracts will be based in FAO Headquarters or be home-based. The consultant may be required to travel for meetings and field missions.

Reporting Lines

Overall supervision of the Secretary of the Commission and the direct supervision of the Technical Officer (Biodiversity and Environment), in collaboration with the Secretaries of the intergovernmental technical working groups and other technical units in FAO and/or FAO decentralized offices, as appropriate. When activities are carried out in countries, the consultant will be required to work in close collaboration with the FAO Representation in the relevant country of assignment, as well as the relevant FAO regional office.

Technical Focus

The consultant should be able to contribute to one or more of these activities / workstreams: supporting the preparation of the global assessment, the development and implementation of possible policy response, the elaboration of further knowledge development and training tools and activities, and the dissemination of information in the context of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, through the provision of expertise in relevant aspects of the programme. The consultant should have expertise in the following:

- Experience and knowledge relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services
 - in one or more regions of the World (Africa / Asia / Europe and Central Asia / Latin America / Southwest Pacific)
 - in one or more sectors (crop and livestock agriculture / fisheries and aquaculture / forestry)
 - in one or more specific knowledge domain relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture (for example biological control, pollination, micro-organisms in food production, etc.)
- Country-based global assessments
- Global policy processes, including regional consultations

Tasks and responsibilities

The consultant will conduct an analysis of the information provided in various sources, and highlight the potential implications at national, regional and global levels, achieving one or more of the following tasks.

1. As a regional expert consultant – follow-up on regional consultations held in 2016: finalize the regional synthesis reports for one or more of the regional consultations (Africa / Asia / Europe and Central Asia / Latin America and the Caribbean / Near East and North Africa / Southwest Pacific) taking into account comments submitted by National Focal Points.
2. As a technical consultant: Develop and write original content for selected sections of the Report as lead author on topics to be agreed on and review, update and finalize these sections taking comments and reviews from colleagues and experts into account.
3. Advise on the overall structure and content of the Report, and review and provide inputs to specific sections of the Report or any document prepared in support of the Report (thematic studies for example).
4. Provide technical and logistical support to the Secretariat in the preparation of the Report, for example by communicating with experts, National Focal Points and international organizations, and organizing internal (FAO) and external review process for documents related to the Report.
6. Provide support to the Secretariat for the revision of the document Biodiversity for food and agriculture – needs and possible actions, and in the preparation to/during the June 2018 meeting on the same topic, and in the finalization of documents that may arise as a follow-up to the meeting.

Note 1: Information provided in Country reports and results from their analysis should not be shared or used for any other purposes than those foreseen by these terms of reference.

In your application, please specify specific sectors, regions and technical subject areas

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in agriculture, natural resources, environment and/or socioeconomic sciences or related field
- One to four years of relevant experience for base level consultants, and at least five years' relevant experience for middle level consultants in issues related to genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, including conservation, use and/or, access and benefit-sharing, as well as on activities related to the organization and management of inter-governmental and/ or technical meetings
- Working knowledge of English, and working knowledge of French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic or Chinese (depending on the region of expertise).

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Extent and relevance of work experience in biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture
 - in one or more regions
 - in one or more sectors
- Demonstrated ability to formulate, draft and finalize clear technical and policy documents, in English
- Extent and relevance of experience in the organization and management of inter-governmental and/or technical meetings
- Familiarity with *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* preparation process
- Extent of knowledge of developments in other relevant international fora and the capacity to conduct technical and policy analysis of on-going processes on biodiversity and genetic resources
- Extent and relevance of experience in the preparation of technical and policy documents, guidelines and manuals in the field of biodiversity and genetic resources in the context of food and agriculture

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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