

TERMS OF REFERENCE: MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY-SMART CONSULTATION AND CONSENT PROJECT

Summary

The Community-Smart Consultation and Consent Project is seeking a firm or consultant to carry out a mid-term evaluation of the six-year project that aims to strengthen communities', governments', and companies' capacities and processes to practice consultation and consent for all rights-holders and stakeholders in land and natural resource governance systems. The mid-term evaluation will assess progress toward project goals, relevance, and responsiveness to local and community priorities, and identify opportunities for the project to better respond to these priorities, improve internal coordination, and reach project goals, with an emphasis on increased capacities for consultation and consent. The evaluation is expected to entail desk review, interviews with project partners and participants in community projects and applied research activities (mostly remote), and travel to 1-2 community project locations (Guyana and/or Tanzania). Applicants should have demonstrated experience conducting and communicating high-quality, gender-responsive qualitative research and possess strong technical knowledge of international consultation and consent standards, local land use planning processes, and issues around Indigenous People's land tenure. The evaluation is expected to take place from March to August 2025 for a budget of \$80,000 - \$90,000.

Background

As demand for natural resources increases due to growing populations, increasing standards of living, and climate change, sustainable governance of these resources and the land on which they're developed becomes more and more critical. There is, however, a global implementation gap around well-designed and executed consultation and consent with Indigenous and other local peoples whose livelihoods and identities depend upon these resources and the areas in which these resources are found. Thus, a "community-smart" approach to consultation and consent is needed: an approach that is informed and driven by communities' rights, knowledge, experiences, and expectations, through meaningful participation in assessment, design, and decision-making.

The Community-Smart Consultation and Consent (CSCC) Project (2021-2027) works with communities, civil society, governments, companies, and funders to develop, test, and disseminate tools, resources, and services that enable consultation and consent for all rights-holders and stakeholders in land and natural resource governance systems. This Project (1) builds coalitions and communities of practice to drive demand for community-smart natural resource planning; (2) tests and learns from consultation and consent approaches and tools; and (3) establishes enduring access to knowledge, tools, and resources for community-smart consultation and consent. The CSCC Project is a partnership between Landesa, RESOLVE, Conservation International (CI), and The University of Queensland's Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRMI) with funding from the BHP Foundation. The project Theory of Change is included in the Appendix.

The CSCC Project has 3 main programmatic components:

- Community projects, led by each of the partners, in Tanzania, Guyana, Nicaragua, South Africa, and the Pacific Northwest of North America test new approaches for consultation and consent around land and natural resource rights and governance, and generate lessons and tools for communities, governments, companies, and other stakeholders to apply. Descriptions of community projects can be found at <https://www.resourceexchange.org/>. The mid-term evaluation will assess aspects of Conservation International's community project in Guyana and Landesa's community projects in Tanzania.
- The Resource Exchange is a learning network wherein users can find technical resources and support for consultation and consent processes that result in better outcomes for communities. The Resource Exchange's initial focus is to build a community of practice amongst staff and partners involved in the community projects, facilitating dialogue and learning within that community of practice, and engaging those partners to co-create a robust learning space. In addition to its recently launched website – <https://www.resourceexchange.org/>, the Resource Exchange hosts virtual and in-person learning sessions. The Resource Exchange will begin to expand to other audiences, engaging more directly with representatives from producers and regulatory bodies and, as appropriate, include learning and dialogue with Community Projects and other Resource Exchange participants.
- Applied Research Activities support graduate scholars to study CSCC, research collaborations and publications with Indigenous/Global South researchers, and producing teaching and learning cases relevant to CSCC. Efforts will expand and make more accessible evidence on the processes and impacts of CSCC and ground the research in local and Indigenous perspectives.

Landesa serves as the CSCC Project's coordinating partner. Landesa is an international nonprofit founded in 1981 and dedicated to ending global poverty by securing land rights for the world's rural farmers. Landesa has worked in 66 countries throughout the world, with offices in Seattle, Washington D.C., Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The organization is widely supported by partners, including NGOs, foundations, donor agencies (USAID, World Bank, etc.), world leaders, educational institutions, and individual supporters throughout the world. Landesa is known for its advancement of pro-poor, gender-sensitive land rights reforms that have helped alleviate poverty, reduce hunger, and ease conflict over land for more than 705 million women and men.

Scope of Work

Anticipated period of performance: March-August 2025

The Objectives of the evaluation are to

- Assess progress towards the project's overall Impact Goal to accelerate the systemic use of effective community-smart consent and consultation practices to elevate Indigenous and local community interests in natural resource planning in at least 5 countries, so that

resources can be managed in resilient and sustainable ways among communities, governments, and businesses.

- Assess the project's relevance and responsiveness to local priorities, including priorities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds,
- Identify opportunities or inform changes in project approaches to increase the project's responsiveness to these priorities, and
- Identify opportunities to enhance the project's internal coherence and to leverage partners' technical expertise, approaches, and networks to support reaching outcomes in the CSCC Project theory of change.

The CSCC Project Team will use evaluation findings to

- Adjust implementation, especially of community projects, to be more responsive to participants' needs, be more socially inclusive, and to further progress towards the project Impact Goal
- Identify lessons and good practices to share regarding the implementation or measurement of CSCC with the potential to further CCSC Outcomes to share widely on the Resource Exchange

The mid-term evaluation will cover the following learning and evaluation questions through a combination of methods to be proposed by the Evaluator that are anticipated to include a review of project documents and interviews with project personnel, partners, participants, and other relevant stakeholders and CSCC project audiences. The Evaluator may propose refinements to these questions in the inception report after a preliminary review of project documents and conversations with project partners. The evaluation will cover activities relevant to the learning and evaluation questions from the start of the CSCC Project (July 1, 2021) to the current period, with an emphasis on improving project components' responsiveness and effectiveness going forward.

General

1. What is the extent of external sharing and applying tools and lessons generated through the project? Who has been using which tools and for what purposes? How would users describe the tools' utility and early outcomes? What changes, if any, do communities perceive their capacities to engage in CSCC and to influence local land and resource governance? What progress has the project made towards indicators for participation in community projects, tools developed and accessed by external users, and cases of positive change in governance? (Project Partners and the Evaluator will collaborate to identify potential users and the extent to which questions around the application of tools and lessons and changes in capacity have high overlap with the questions posed to participants for the other learning and evaluation questions).

2. How has the project strengthened/shaped the four primary partners' networks, nature of working relationships, innovation, approaches to their work (on the CSCC Project or otherwise), and project-wide collaboration? What specific actions/factors contributed to these changes? What can partners do going forward to further strengthen and leverage these improvements?

3. How has the CSCC project's implementation been informed or guided by the expertise or priorities of Indigenous Peoples or people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds? What actions or factors have enabled their expertise and priorities to inform or guide CSCC project approaches? What lessons, both technical and operational, have resulted? How could the project more effectively engage Indigenous and culturally diverse expertise?

Community Projects

4. What do participants in community projects in Tanzania see as valuable lessons or contributions of the community projects so far? Why are these lessons or contributions valuable to the community? How do participants envision building on the contributions thus far? What recommendations do they have to improve the scope/content of activities or how they are implemented? What are the reasons behind these recommendations, and what do participants expect they will accomplish?

5. In Guyana, what do participants in the community project in the Rupununi see as valuable lessons and outcomes thus far, especially from

- Piloting the Indigenous Negotiation Manual,
- The Multistakeholder Platform convened by the Rupununi regional government through support from Conservation International, and
- Supporting local development and land use planning as an avenue for communities to access financial and technical resources for sustainable development?

Why do participants see these lessons and outcomes as valuable? What do they expect the outcomes will lead to, or how do they envision building upon them or leveraging them?

Applied Research

6. What do participants in Applied Research activities see as valuable lessons or contributions of the activities so far? Why are these lessons or contributions valuable to the community? What recommendations do they have to improve the impact of activities completed (research collaborations and teaching and learning cases), or implementation of activities underway (Research Higher Degree cohort)?

The Resource Exchange

7. What is the value of The Resource Exchange for the current participants? In what other ways could The Resource Exchange be valuable for current participants? What are the hurdles or opportunities to create that value?

The Evaluator will be expected to oversee all aspects of the evaluation, including but not limited to:

- Methodological design
- Creation of data collection guides
- Hiring, training, and management of the evaluation team

- Data collection
- Translation, transcription, data storage and management
- Analysis
- Drafting and revising of deliverables
- Travel arrangements and expenses

The Evaluator will communicate regularly with Landesa and the CSCC Project Team, including virtual check-ins and email updates with Landesa every two weeks throughout the course of the engagement. The Evaluator organization may also be invited to participate virtually in CSCC Project learning sessions, Resource Exchange events, or project meetings.

The Evaluator will seek informed consent from participants in the evaluation and protect any personally identifying information, especially from participants in community pilots.

The Evaluator will not subcontract any or all parts of the scope to another firm.

The Evaluator should have demonstrated experience conducting and communicating high-quality, gender-responsive qualitative research, including, but not limited to, conducting focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews in rural communities and in settings with limited literacy. The Evaluator should possess strong technical knowledge of international consultation and consent standards, local land use planning processes, and issues around Indigenous People's land tenure. The Evaluator will be expected to conduct the qualitative research and produce deliverables in English; the ability to speak and listen in Kiswahili is considered advantageous. The Evaluator should anticipate and include in the proposed budget and technical approach, travel to Guyana and potentially Tanzania.

Deliverables

The Evaluator will submit the following deliverables to be reviewed and approved by Landesa:

- Inception report that details the technical approach(es) for data collection, analysis, and overall design; proposed samples/participants; and workplan with proposed schedule
- All data collection guides/tools
- Draft report
- Virtual workshop to present preliminary findings
- Finalized report of 25-30 pages (not including annexes) and slide deck (~15 slides) that
 - Answers each assessment question with evidence
 - Offers priority recommendations for CSCC Project partners, corresponding to each assessment question
 - Offers recommendations to better connect Project components and partners
 - Identifies any emerging themes or questions that may affect the success of the CSCC project or that could benefit from more programmatic attention or MEL efforts
 - Documents the numbers of community project participants and Applied Research participants engaged in the evaluation and their roles, gender, youth/non-youth, and whether they identify as Indigenous.

Submission Guidelines

Evaluators may submit proposals by February 15, 2025, to Samantha Pickett (samanthap@landesa.org). During the review process, applicants may be contacted by Landesa for more detailed information.

Proposals should provide the following information:

- A statement of the Evaluator's qualifications for the assignment, demonstrating qualitative research expertise and experience and relevant language skills (3 pages maximum)
- Descriptions of past projects relevant to the assignment, including contact information of clients for at least two projects (3 pages maximum)
- CVs of up to 3 personnel who would lead activities
- Staffing plan, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member
- A proposed methodology and timeline to answer the learning and evaluation questions that includes
 - Engagement with approximately 40-50 persons from CSCC primary partners, community project partners, and participants in Applied Research activities through individual or group interviews or other qualitative assessment approaches
 - Document review, including but not limited to workplans, reports, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning tools for the overall project, The Resource Exchange, community pilots, and Applied Research (to be provided by CSCC partners)
 - Direct interviews, focus group discussions, or other approaches to gather perspectives of participants in community projects in Guyana and Tanzania, sampling to capture perspectives by gender and age and of Indigenous communities
 - Target users of the Resource Exchange
- Estimated budget (in USD). The budget should include all costs for data collection, data cleaning, translation, staffing requirements, travel costs, office expenses, fees, and otherwise carrying out the scope of work. The budget should be priced in USD and incorporate a proposed payment schedule. Payment will be made upon approval of completed milestones, though an initial payment upon contract signature is possible. The anticipated budget range for the evaluation is \$80,000 - \$90,000 (USD).

Theory of Change: Community-Smart Consultation & Consent Project

Enabling systemic, inclusive, and equitable participation

