Announcement for engaging a contractor
for Mexico and Central America
Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA)

The Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) seeks to hire a consultant to lead the development, grantmaking and oversight of a portfolio of grants focused on territorial rights, organizational resilience, and climate change in Mexico and Central America (MCA). CLUA is a philanthropic collaboration of the ClimateWorks Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and Good Energies Foundation make grants in alignment with CLUA’s strategy. CLUA seeks to catalyze the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit people, and protect the environment. This is a one-year services agreement, with renewal contingent on outcomes, performance, and budget considerations.

Social Bond Implementation Lead, Mexico & Central America

The new portfolio is supported through a grant to CLUA from the Ford Foundation’s innovative Social Bond mechanism, launched in 2020 in response to COVID-19. Grants are expected to prioritize existing partner organizations, with the following long-term goal: “Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local communities in tropical forest regions have secure land and resource rights; build resilient, well networked, and effective movements; and make visible, recognized contributions to ending deforestation, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change.”

For the MCA region, the grant establishes the following medium-term outcome: “Indigenous, afro-descendant and campesino movements and organizations are stronger and effective to face response and recovery from Covid-19 pandemic, and have increased institutional resilience, including access to funding, technology, security and collective and individual mental wellbeing support.”

This role is a contract position that will report to the CLUA MCA Initiative Lead, based in Mexico City. The consultant will also be a full member of the multi-foundation MCA Initiative Team and will work closely with CLUA’s U.S.-based Grants & Operations team. Consultant will need to operate fluently and professionally in both English and Spanish daily.

Services scope:

Primary duties and responsibilities:

The consultant will have primary responsibility for implementation of Social Bond grantmaking in the MCA region for CLUA. This will include:

- Work collaboratively with MCA Social Bond Advisory Board to develop the strategic approach and portfolio in line with the goal of building resilience within civil society organizations and the broader regional ecosystem of CSOs that represent or work with Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant and local communities;
• Organize, prepare for, and facilitate regular advisory board meetings;
• Work closely with grantees to guide proposal development and meet administrative requirements;
• Shephard grants through CLUA’s internal process of sharing, assessment, submission and approval, including preparation of necessary documentation to justify how proposed grants align with Social Bond and CLUA strategies, and coordination with CLUA’s Grants Administration team in San Francisco;
• Manage relationships with grantees, including periodic conversations and site visits as travel conditions allow;
• Collect and provide information for the monitoring, evaluation and learning framework to be developed for the Social Bond;
• Review, analyze and approve grant monitoring reports as necessary, extracting relevant lessons to share with the Advisory Board;
• Convene and/or participate in learning events to facilitate exchange and learning within and across CLUA’s geographical initiatives; and
• Ensure that operational project milestones, including grantmaking benchmarks, are achieved in a timely manner.

Secondary duties and responsibilities:

• Participate in monthly MCA Initiative coordination meetings to discuss strategic issues and facilitate alignment and communication among member foundations;
• Coordinate with CLUA’s strategic communications initiative, as necessary;
• Engage with annual MCA workplan and reporting requirements, and with CLUA’s broader strategic planning process, to ensure Social Bond goals and milestones are fully integrated;
• Represent the Initiative externally and respond to priority organizational needs as defined by Lead for MCA Initiative; and
• Stay informed on news and developments related to the MCA regional context and the portfolio’s priority topics.

The successful candidate for this contract will have the following qualifications:

• Minimum 10 years of experience in relevant issues, including land and environmental defenders, organizational capacity building, community-based forest management and land use, extractive industries, and/or climate change mitigation.
• An advanced degree in a relevant field of study or equivalent experience or a baccalaureate degree and equivalent experience e.g. in natural resources, public policy, environmental science, law, social sciences.
• Fully fluent at professional-level in both Spanish and English, written and oral.
• Demonstrated capacity to understand and work effectively with indigenous and local communities’ representative organizations, civil society organizations, governments, private sector and donor partners, and ability to think and act strategically across sectors, geographies and domains.
• Experience with organizational development and resilience strategies
• A minimum of five years leading impact-driven strategies and/or subject-matter expertise in a relevant thematic area, with links to the MCA region.
• Experience in grantmaking with small organizations, and knowledge of project cycles, proposals, grant monitoring etc.
• Close understanding of key environmental, political and social issues and trends in the MCA region.
• Experience in development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and/or institutional learning programs to encourage exchange, accountability, and development of best practices.
• Ability to effectively manage complex processes involving multiple institutions and individuals in a multicultural team setting, and to respond rapidly and successfully to emergent challenges and opportunities.
• Excellent analytical, coordination, and oral and written communication skills.
• Working knowledge of the use of strategic communications and/or social media.

Location:
Consultant must be based in the region (preferred), or able to travel to and within the region as necessary. Consultant must be able to participate in regular meetings, either remote or in-person, during working hours that are suitable for grantees, colleagues and partners.

Application process:
The Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA), which is established as a limited liability company within the ClimateWorks Foundation, will contract the specialized services of the Individual who is in compliance with the qualifications mentioned above through a services agreement.

CLUA welcomes a diverse candidate pool. We recognize diversity as an asset essential to accomplishing our work and we view diversity as encompassing differences in race and gender, as well as age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, job skills, education, and geographic location.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Closing date is August 9, 2021.

To be considered, please submit your resume and a cover letter expressing your interest in and fit for the role to jobs@climateandlandusealliance.org.