Project Title	Improving Climate Resilience in the Trois-Rivières Region of Haiti through Integrated Flood Management (Trois-Rivières Watershed Climate Resilience)
Reference number	**HPI20230729**
Country	Haiti

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Recruitment of a firm or an international Consultant – Assessment of Carbon Sequestration in Target Areas of the Trois-Rivières Project

Date of publication of the request for proposals:	July 21th, 2025
Contract duration:	90 days (up to 40 days in Haiti)
Deadline for submission of proposals:	September 5th 2025, before 11:00 a.m.
Deadline for submission of questions:	August 13th, 2025, before 4:00 p.m.
Electronic submission to the attention of:	PROCUREMENT HEIFER
Electronic submission:	logistique-ht@heifer.org
Information for inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals:	logistique-ht@heifer.org

Contents

PROJECT DETAILS

Implementing Agency:	Heifer International Haiti
Project Owner:	Ministry of the Environment (MDE)
Donors:	GCF, Heifer International Haiti and UNDP
Project duration:	8 years

I. CONTEXT

Haiti, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and the only Least Developed Country (LDC) in the Western Hemisphere, is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This vulnerability is exacerbated by multidimensional poverty, persistent macroeconomic challenges, and structural weaknesses in governance.

Climate projections indicate an increased risk of flooding, fueled by more intense and irregular rainfall, coupled with rising temperatures. In response to these challenges, Haiti's National Adaptation Plans have identified sustainable watershed management as a priority, particularly in the North-West and Artibonite regions, where the Trois-Rivières watershed is located.

Although small, the Trois-Rivières basin is home to a vulnerable population spread across six towns and three departments, which face recurrent flooding. This situation is exacerbated by soil degradation linked to unsustainable agricultural practices and massive deforestation for charcoal production. During periods of heavy rainfall, these degraded soils lose their infiltration capacity, intensifying flooding and erosion, which threatens the safety of populations, promotes river sedimentation and degrades water quality, increasing health risks.

In this context, the "Climate Resilience in the Trois-Rivières Region" project supports the Haitian government by adopting an integrated approach to flood risk management, structured around three components:

- **Ecosystem restoration** and the deployment of agroforestry practices to stabilize soils and strengthen community resilience.
- **Improving planning** and sustainable land use management at the local level.
- **Strengthening institutional** and community capacities for integrated water resource management.

This project, co-financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Heifer Project International and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MDE), is aligned with international conventions, notably the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Through the UNCCD, parties commit to monitoring indicators to contribute to the goal of soil neutrality: tree cover to monitor land cover trends, carbon capture to monitor land productivity dynamics, and the balance between surface and subsurface organic carbon stocks.

Measuring carbon sequestration has become one of the standards for soil restoration, in line with the adoption of new methods for assessing restoration opportunities initiated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The baseline for carbon sequestration allows for an analysis of the specific contribution of different types of interventions and changes in land use.

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTATION

The main objective of this consultation is to assess the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) sequestered in the areas targeted by the project prior to reforestation and the establishment of sustainable agroforestry systems financed by the Green Climate Fund. In addition, the consultation aims to develop monitoring tools to measure progress achieved through project interventions.

Furthermore, this consultation will include capacity-building activities, such as training sessions and workshops, for local stakeholders. These activities will aim to transfer the skills needed to ensure the sustainability of carbon sequestration monitoring and assessment efforts, in line with international best practices in sustainable land management and climate change mitigation.

III. SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the international expert or the firm will work closely with relevant stakeholders and will be required to:

- **Propose a methodology** aligned with international frameworks, adapted to the Haitian context, combining different tools, including:
    - The EX-ACT tool of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
    - The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Carbon Benefits tool.
    - The USAID AFOLU tool.

- **Develop a strategy, guide, and monitoring tools** to enable the project team and monitoring and evaluation staff to measure progress every two years and at the end of the project's lifetime.
- **- Map areas** with the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the different watersheds targeted by the project, using satellite images to map existing carbon distribution in the Trois-Rivières watershed.
- **Collect data, delineate sampling plots, and conduct physical field surveys** to prepare a baseline assessment for calculating carbon sequestration by species**.**
- **Estimate soil carbon** at project sites.
- **Estimate the existing and projected carbon sequestration potential (CSP)** of trees and other species at project sites and represent the CSP at the area level on maps.
- **Propose actions at the municipal level** to improve the natural carbon sink, as well as identify potential planting sites, species, etc.

- **Prepare a report that can serve as a baseline** at the start of reforestation and agroforestry system installation activities.
- **Conduct a vulnerability analysis** of the Trois-Rivières watershed to the effects of climate change**.**
- **- Estimate net carbon dioxide sequestration and its development potential**, identifying at least agricultural soils and forests, considering land use changes.
- **Calculate stocks by land use**, using benchmarks linking carbon stocks to different land use patterns.
- **Inform and guide project implementers** on the net CO_2 sequestration potential of different agricultural practices that could be implemented in the study area.
- **Develop an initial evidence base** on the health and carbon footprint of the Trois-Rivières watershed.
- **Propose and implement capacity-building activities** related to carbon sequestration for project partners, including training sessions for project technical staff, representatives of the Ministry of the Environment (MdE) and Heifer International.
- **Present the results** to project implementation partners.

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

- A **clearly documented model** presenting the baseline scenario for carbon dioxide levels in the project target areas.
- **Establish an initial carbon sequestratio**n baseline and estimate the organic carbon in the study area, the carbon sink capacity, and develop an appropriate methodology for estimating changes due to project interventions.
- **A clear and detailed methodology**, including tools on how to calculate the amount of CO_2 available in a watershed.
- **A procedure guide/manual** on the monitoring approach, usable during project implementation to show progress.
- **A training session** for project technical staff, MDE representatives, and Heifer International.

V. METHODOLOGY

The team of consultants or the firm will be required to propose a rigorous methodology tailored to the Haitian context and the specific characteristics of the Trois-Rivières Project, with a view to establishing a reliable baseline and developing a reproducible monitoring system. This system will enable the project team to effectively measure progress throughout the project's lifetime.
The mission will combine:

- An in-depth review of existing data,
- Consultations with key stakeholders,
- Field surveys,

- Site visits,
- Technical meetings with decision-makers and institutional partners,
- Collection and analysis of primary and secondary data.

The team of consultants or the firm will integrate recognized methodological approaches aligned with international frameworks, including:

- **The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** for quantifying GHG emission reductions in specific projects.
- **The guidelines of Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement** on the creation of a sustainable development mechanism.
- **The FAO's EX-ACT tool** for estimating the carbon impact of agricultural and forestry interventions, based on IPCC methodologies.
- **GEF's Carbon Benefits Project (CBP)** for the dynamic assessment of net carbon benefits from sustainable land management practices.
- **The USAID AFOLU Carbon Calculator** for estimating GHG emissions and potential reductions in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

- **Carbon calculation in restoration areas**

  The consultant will need to include a monitoring strategy for carbon stocks in forest restoration areas, considering: -

- **Aboveground biomass:** collection of field data including species identification, number of trees, diameter at breast height (DBH), total height.
- **Belowground biomass (root systems):** estimated using adapted allometric equations.
- **Soil organic carbon (SOC):** collection of soil samples and laboratory analysis, with particular attention to the spatial distribution of samples and estimation of associated costs.

One of the major challenges of this mission will be to identify or develop allometric equations suitable for the local species used in restoration efforts. The project's technical team is currently working on this aspect, with an estimated deadline of six months.

- **Analysis of baseline emissions outside restoration areas**

  The consultant must also analyze the baseline GHG emissions across all intervention areas, including agricultural lands and degraded ecosystems. This analysis should position restoration efforts within a broader framework of emission reduction, beyond the mere accounting of sequestered carbon.

- **Calculation of carbon in agro-productive areas (Tier 2)**

The team of consultants or the firm will develop a methodological approach for calculating the carbon footprint of agroforestry and agricultural products, relying particularly on:

- Field notebooks documenting agricultural practices, types and volumes of inputs, technical itineraries, transportation, waste management, energy consumption, etc.
- Standards and protocols such as ISO 14067, Product Category Rules (PCR), GHG protocols, and IPCC guidelines.
- The analysis of carbon stocks in soils, forests, and agroforestry systems, based on geospatial and field data (property polygons, species, number, DBH, height).

This approach will integrate the modeling of net carbon emissions and sequestrations at the parcel level to provide a comprehensive estimate of the carbon footprint of agro-productive systems.

- **Calculation of carbon in agro-productive areas (Tier 2)**

The consultant will develop a methodological approach for calculating the carbon footprint of agroforestry and agricultural products, based on

- Field notebooks tracing farming practices, types and volumes of inputs, technical itineraries, transport, waste management, energy consumption, etc.
- Standards and protocols such as ISO 14067, Product Category Rules (PCR), GHG protocols and IPCC guidelines
- Analysis of carbon stocks in soils, forests and agroforestry systems, based on geospatial and field data (ownership polygons, species, number, DBH, height).

This approach will integrate the modeling of net carbon emissions and sequestration at plot level, to provide a comprehensive estimate of the carbon footprint of agro-productive systems.

- **Capacity-building and sustainable monitoring**

The methodology should include capacity-building activities (training, practical workshops, demonstration sessions) aimed at local stakeholders. These activities aim to transfer the skills needed to ensure autonomous, sustainable monitoring in line with international best practice.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

The consultant will need to demonstrate the following qualifications:

Academic background:

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in forestry, agronomy, environmental sciences, geomatics or a related field.

Professional experience:

- At least 7 years' experience in similar consulting activities related to carbon sequestration calculations
- At least 5 years' experience in GIS-based species mapping.
- Successful completion of at least two relevant projects with academic institutes, the private sector or NGOs on carbon sequestration calculations, particularly for existing and/or new plantations, within the last five years.
- For this consultation we are also looking for a team of at least one team of an international expert and a national expert. The team of the firm should be able to provide examples of publications, documents, and references for their international experience in carbon assessment.

Technical skills:

- Proven experience in calculating the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) in reforestation and agroforestry projects.
- Technical expertise in carbon sequestration and offsetting strategies.
- Experience in estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of land-use change and forestry projects.
- Industry expertise in one or more sequestration-related sectors, such as agriculture or forestry.
- Experience in managing reforestation, biodiversity, climate change, protected areas and sustainable land management projects.
- Knowledge of greenhouse gas calculation methodologies, including FAO's EX-ACT tool, USAID's AFOLU tool and GEF's Carbon Benefits Project (CBP).
- Good knowledge of the agreements and treaties signed by Haiti on the environment and biodiversity, as well as the resulting changes in policies and governance.
- Skills in environmental information systems
- **Capacity building:**

Demonstrated experience in designing and implementing capacity-building activities, such as training sessions and workshops, for local stakeholders in relation to carbon sequestration.

VII. SELECTION PROCEDURES

Recruitment will be based on quality. The criteria defining quality are:

a) **The proposed methodology:**

- Technical and methodological approach (consistency and relevance of approach)
- Understanding the mandate.
- Adequacy of mission organization and resource intervention schedule, feasibility and consistency of work plan

b) Consultant skills

- Academic training
- General experience
- Specific experience.

VIII. DELIVERABLES PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND TERMS

The assignment will last a maximum of 90 days (spread over 120 days), from the contract start date to delivery of the final version of the report. Payment will be subject to approval by Heifer management and will be made in three instalments, according to the following table:

Deliverables	Deadline	Payment (%)
Validated Inception report	Day 10	30
Interim report	Day 60	30
Validated final report	Day 90	40

N.B: The final mission report and all other documents will be drafted in French and English and sent electronically (via e-mail) by the consultant to the Project Manager for approval, in Word format, font "Times New Roman size 12", justified.

IX. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested individual consultants or firms are invited to submit a technical offer and a financial offer, in two separate documents.

Technical offer

- The technical offer must include the following elements
  - Presentation of the consultant or firm, including an overview of experience, areas of specialization, and references relevant to the assignment.
  - Understanding of the Terms of Reference (ToRs), and proposal of a detailed work methodology, including a work plan, an implementation schedule, as well as the organization and composition of the team.

- Detailed CVs of the experts proposed for the assignment, clearly highlighting their experience in relation to the themes addressed (carbon monitoring, integrated landscape management, agroforestry, etc.).
- Up-to-date legal documents, in compliance with current regulatory requirements (company registration, tax certificates, patent, etc.).
- References for similar assignments: a minimum of three references for comparable work recently completed by the consultant or firm. Each reference should include verifiable contact details (name, position, institution, e-mail and/or telephone).
- Important note: The participation of a pairing of an international expert and a national consultant will be considered a major asset for the completion of this mission, due to the complementarity between global expertise and local contextual knowledge.

Financial offer

- The financial bid must present a detailed budget, structured by phase and activity. It should include in particular:
- Expert fees (broken down by day and profile),
- Travel expenses (international and local),
- Logistical costs (accommodation per diem, transport),
- Costs associated with consultations and workshops (room hire, refreshments, materials),
- Production costs for deliverables (reports, maps, computer graphics, etc.),
- Any other costs associated with the proper execution of the mission

Bid Evaluation Criteria

Bids will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a) Quality of the technical offer (70%):
- Understanding of ToRs and relevance of proposed methodology.
- Experience and references in similar assignments.
- Quality and relevance of the proposed team of experts.
- Clarity and completeness of work plan and schedule.

b) Adequacy of financial offer (30%):
- Realistic and detailed budget proposal.
- Value for money

X. ORGANIZATION STANDARDS AND POLICIES

- **Limitations**

This RFP does not represent a commitment to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP, or to procure or to contract for services or supplies. Heifer reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted and reserves the right to accept or reject in its entirety and absolute discretion any proposal received as a result of the RFP. Intellectual Property

- **Intellectual Property**

Section 10.1. Ownership Generally. Subject to Section 8.2 below, any intellectual property (including but not limited to copyrights, trademarks, servicemarks, and patents), intellectual property rights, deliverables, manuals, works, ideas, discoveries, inventions, products, writings, photographs, videos, drawings, lists, data, strategies, materials, processes, procedures, systems, programs, devices, operations, or information developed in whole or in part by or on behalf of Contractor or its employees or agents in connection with the Services and/or Goods (collectively, the "Work Product") shall be the exclusive property of HPI. Upon request, Contractor shall sign all documents and take any and all actions necessary to confirm or perfect HPI's exclusive ownership of the Work Product.

Section 10.2. Prior-Owned Intellectual Property. Any intellectual property owned by a Party prior to the Effective Date ("Prior-Owned IP") shall remain that Party's sole and exclusive property. With regard to any of Contractor's Prior-Owned IP included in the Work Product, Contractor shall retain ownership, and hereby grants HPI a permanent, non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide, irrevocable right and license to use, copy, reproduce, publicly display, edit, revise, perform, and distribute said intellectual property, in any format or any medium, as part of the Work Product.

Section 10.3. Work Made for Hire. To the extent copyright laws apply to the Work Product, the Parties agree that (a) HPI specially ordered or commissioned the Work Product, (b) the Work Product is a "work made for hire" under United States copyright laws, and (c) HPI shall be deemed the author thereof and shall own all right, title, and interest therein. To the extent such rights, in whole or in part, do not vest in HPI as a "work made for hire", Contractor hereby irrevocably grants, assigns, and transfers to HPI, exclusively and in perpetuity, all of Contractor's rights of any kind or nature, now known or hereafter devised, in, to, and in connection with the Work Product, and HPI shall solely and exclusively own any and all rights therein, and in the elements thereof, including but not limited to any and all allied, ancillary, subsidiary, incidental, and adaptation rights. Contractor hereby waives any and all rights known as "moral rights", and any similar rights, which Contractor may have in connection with the Work Product. The description of Services and/or Goods provided in this Agreement shall in no way limit the manner in which HPI may use the Work Product.

- **Applicable Regulations**

Offerors must be legally registered to operate within Haiti where activities will be performed and comply with local applicable legislation, including buy not limited to labor law, financial requirements, taxes, etc.