TERMS OF REFERENCE
SPECIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT (SSA)
Technical Strategy Lead

Post: Technical Strategy Lead
Organization: GEO Secretariat
Start Date: As soon as possible – 30 October 2024
Duration of contract: 9 months (up to 9 days per month)

Context

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a global partnership that promotes the use of Earth observations (EO) as evidence for environmental decisions, policies, and finance. GEO’s recently adopted Post-2025 Strategy envisions a bold direction for the future. This strategy calls for transformative programs that will enable GEO to deliver a portfolio of initiatives, providing Earth intelligence needed to unlock transformational change in the way that societies interact with the planet.

As part of this vision, the Global Ecosystems Atlas initiative has been established as a crucial component of GEO’s efforts to enhance our understanding of ecosystems and facilitate harmonized global environmental accounting, monitoring and reporting.

To move the concept closer to its realization as a full proof-of-concept by the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) in October 2024, GEO is seeking a Technical Strategy Lead.

Objective of consultancy

Under supervision of the Chief, Work Programme Coordinator, and in close coordination with the ad hoc Science and Technical Committee of the Global Ecosystems Atlas project, the consultant’s primary role is to produce a strategy for methods and approaches for developing the Global Ecosystems Atlas. This will include:

- Development and documentation of a consolidated technical strategy document outlining the process to:
  - Curate the datasets for the Global Ecosystems Atlas by 20 October 2024, including protocols to be used by global, regional and national entries to contribute their maps/datasets to the Atlas project; and
  - Create a synthesis map, cross-walking to IUCN Global Ecosystems Typology, including identifying any uncertainties in the synthesis product.

- Document country good/best practices to map their national ecosystems and create national ecosystem maps by 20 October 2024.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Development and documentation of a consolidated technical strategy document outlining the process to:
  - Curate the datasets for the Global Ecosystems Atlas by 20 October 2024, including protocols to be used by global, regional and national entries to contribute their maps/datasets to the Atlas project; and
  - Create a synthesis map, cross-walking to IUCN Global Ecosystems Typology, including identifying any uncertainties in the synthesis product.
• Document country good/best practices to map their national ecosystems and create national ecosystem maps by 20 October 2024.

• Collaborate with project stakeholders, including the leads of the various deliverables to be included in the Proof-of-Concept and the ad hoc Science and Technical Committee and project leadership to gather input and feedback for the documents, ensuring that that the documents meet established scientific and project standards.

• Provide strategic guidance and expert advice to the ad hoc Science and Technical Committee and project stakeholders, to discuss project planning, progress, and documentation requirements, in close coordination with Science Lead.

• Provide monthly updates to the ad hoc Science and Technical Committee and GEO Secretariat on the progress of project planning and documentation tasks.

• Represent the project in conferences, workshops, and meetings, as needed.

• Foster positive working relationships with project partners, promoting GEO’s mission of global collaboration.

Qualifications, skills and experience

• A minimum of 20 years of demonstrated experience in project planning, documentation, and oversight, particularly in the context of biodiversity projects.

• Proven experience in authoring and managing project plans, methodologies, and publications.

• Experience in developing strategies, and working with, national governments.

• A solid understanding of ecosystem science, biodiversity, or related fields, with the ability to translate scientific concepts into project plans and publications.

• Familiarity with geospatial mapping techniques, tools, and data sources.

Duration and remuneration

It is anticipated that this consultancy will require up to 9 working days per month.

Payments will be made on a monthly basis upon receipt of progress reports.

Travel

Travel may be required and will be funded by the GEO Secretariat.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and samples of your relevant work and results, to GEO Secretariat at jobs@geosec.org by 2 January 2024. Please quote only GEO/WP/SL/2024 in the subject.