ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDB STRUCTURED AND CORPORATE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Background

The Structured and Corporate Finance Department (SCF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) provides long-term financing and guarantees for private infrastructure projects in the region of Latin America and Caribbean. SCF can lend or provide guarantees directly to the private sector without government guarantees for infrastructure projects, whether greenfield or refurbishing operations, as a means to encourage other investors and lenders to participate in these projects. The focus of SCF is related to large-scale (e.g., total project cost more than 20 million US dollars) infrastructure projects in the areas of energy (power plants, transmission lines, distribution systems), transportation (roads, airports, ports, rail systems), water supply and wastewater management, and telecommunications.

The Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit (ESG) has the responsibility for ensuring that projects proposed for financing by SCF are acceptable in terms of environmental, social, and health and safety aspects. In addition, the ESG ensures that the SCF projects actually financed (or guaranteed) by the IDB comply with the applicable environmental, social, and health and safety established requirements.

Required Consultant Services

Environmental and Social Consultants are typically used by SCF to assist to in the performance of the Environmental and Social Due-diligence of a proposed project, to assist in the Project Monitoring of Environmental and Social Aspects (requirements) of an approved project, and in some instances, to perform an Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Audit. A brief description of the typical scope of work for each of these tasks is presented below.

Environmental and Social Due-Diligence

The two main objectives of the Environmental and Social Due-diligence are:

1. Summarize the relevant characteristics of the Project related to environmental, social, and health and safety aspects based upon a review of existing information and the performance of a site visit. Relevant characteristics include: project description; institutional and legal framework; environmental and social conditions; environmental, social and health and safety impacts and risks; environmental and social mitigation and
monitoring measures; health and safety procedures; contingency/emergency procedures; and public consultation; and

2. Evaluate the adequacy of the proposed Project environmental, social, and health and safety assessments, plans and procedures and present conclusions and recommendations associated with identified deficiencies or issues, including but not limited to, impacts not identified or properly evaluated, impacts not properly mitigated, insufficient monitoring programs, potential environmental risks and liabilities, etc.

The Consultant, as part of the Environmental and Social Due-Diligence, will perform the following three tasks.

1. Information Review. This should include a review of all relevant environmental, social, and health and safety project documents and information (i.e., project environmental impact assessments, environmental licenses and associated applications, health and safety plan, contingency/emergency plan, concession and construction contracts, any other additional environmental, health and safety studies, etc.) and, subsequent to the site reconnaissance, review of any additional information obtained or collected.

2. Site Reconnaissance. A site reconnaissance (visit) is performed consisting of visual observation of relevant areas directly and indirectly affected by the project, meetings with relevant individuals/entities associated with the Project to discuss the environmental, social, and health and safety issues, and obtaining any additional information required.

3. Report Preparation. Two documents will be required associated with the Environmental and Social Due-Diligence: (1) Preliminary Summary of Principal Findings, and (2) Environmental and Social Due-Diligence Report. The Preliminary Summary of Principal Findings is a short (i.e., 3 to 5 pages) summary of the Consultant’s preliminary principal findings (i.e., major issues, conclusions, recommendations, documents obtained, data information gaps, etc.) based upon the initial information review and site reconnaissance. A draft and final Environmental and Social Due-Diligence Report (ESDR) will be prepared consisting of a detailed summary of the environmental, social, and health and safety aspects of the project and the Consultant’s expert evaluation of these aspects of the project. The ESDR detailed summary will be based upon a review of existing documents (i.e., project EIA, etc.) and information and the site reconnaissance. The ESDR conclusions and recommendations will consist of the Consultants expert opinions in terms of project-specific conclusions (such as unmitigated impacts or risks, deficiencies or issues related to the content and quality of project related documents or project-specific environmental, health and safety, or social aspects) and recommendations (such as requirements or actions to correct deficiencies and issues identified).
The Consultant should typically complete the Environmental and Social Due-Diligence within approximately two months.

Project Monitoring of Environmental Requirements

The main objective of Project Monitoring of Environmental Requirements is to assess compliance with all specified environmental, social, and health and safety requirements in the project legal agreements. The Consultant, as part of the Project Monitoring of Environmental Requirements, is typically requested to perform the following tasks (note: the exact monitoring/supervision requirements can vary substantially depending upon the project characteristics):

1. **Financial Closure/First Disbursement.** This typically involves a final review of various environmental, social, and health and safety plans and possibly a site visit to confirm compliance with applicable environmental, social and health and safety requirements.

2. **Construction Phase.** This typically involves routine office, and as appropriate site visits, in order to assess compliance with the project-specific environmental, social, and health and safety requirements. At the end of construction (e.g., technical or physical completion), this typically will involve confirmation that during construction all environmental, social, and health and safety requirements were implemented. In addition, prior to operation of the project, this will include an assessment of operational phase environmental, social, and health and safety plans.

3. **Operation Phase.** This typically involves routine office and site visits, as appropriate, in order to assess compliance with the project-specific, environmental, social, and health and safety requirements and to monitor project-related operational impacts (e.g., air emissions, wastewater discharges, etc.).

Environmental Social, Health and Safety Audit

During the life of a SCF loan or guarantee (i.e., after execution and before termination), it may be warranted for SCF to require an independent Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Audit (ESHS Audit) to be performed in order to assess compliance with all environmental, social, and health and safety requirements defined in the project legal documentation (e.g., loan agreement, etc.) and to identify if there are any existing environmental, social, or health and safety impacts, risks or liabilities associated with the project which have not been adequately mitigated or controlled. If necessary, the audit will also include the development of a Corrective Action Plan to correct any identified non-compliance or deficiency.
Requested Consultant Information

Given the need for highly qualified and experienced environmental and social consultants, the ESG is constantly interested in learning of consultants who offer the required skills and capabilities. The following is summary of the relevant qualifications and experiences required:

- Technical experience directly related to: environmental and impact assessments/studies; environmental and social mitigation measures and monitoring programs; health and safety plans and procedures; contingency and emergency plans; public consultation; environmental, health and safety audits and site assessments; and environmental, health and safety regulatory requirements and compliance.
- Specific similar relevant project experience and technical knowledge involving large-scale infrastructure projects in energy, transportation, water and wastewater, or telecommunications.
- Specific experience and knowledge in one or more Latin American or Caribbean country.
- Relevant language skills in English, Spanish and/or Portuguese.
- Strong writing skills.

The ESG maintains a database (file) of information related to potential Environmental and Social Consultants.

Interested consultants are requested to submit a Statement of Qualifications (preferably limited to 20 pages) that provides, at a minimum, the specific information listed below (note: generic Statement of Qualifications are not desired).

1. **Cover Letter**, which clearly states the sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, water and wastewater, telecommunications) or sub-sectors for which the Consultant is highly qualified and experience, and the countries for which the Consultant has specific capabilities.

2. **Summary of key senior technical staff**, including relevant and specific experience and capabilities given the type of consultant services required by SCF, specific experience and knowledge in Latin American and Caribbean countries, and specific language skills.

3. **Brief summary of Consultant company (if applicable)**, including size of company, age, and office locations.

4. **Summary of any directly relevant support services and/or sub-contractors.**
The Statement of Qualifications should be sent to:
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