
World Economic Forum

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
CHINA REGIONAL POLICY
BRIEFINGS**

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1. Introduction and instructions

1.1. Purpose of this Request for Proposal

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals from suppliers with expertise in writing about policy developments relating to forest protection, sustainable land use, agricultural production & trade, green finance, climate, and land rights topics in China. This process will result in the selection of one supplier, who will be invited to enter a contracting phase for a specific and detailed scope of work subject to final fixed pricing.

The selected vendor will contribute to the Tropical Forest Alliance's support of corporate stakeholders tackling deforestation in supply chains and working to create regenerative food systems. More specifically, deliverables will feed into one key area of strategic support the TFA provides to many corporate partners, which is enabling dialogue and collaboration with governments.

1.2. About the World Economic Forum and the Tropical Forest Alliance

The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests. The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance. Moral and intellectual integrity is at the heart of everything it does.

Our activities are shaped by a unique institutional culture founded on the stakeholder theory, which asserts that an organization is accountable to all parts of society. The institution carefully blends and balances the best of many kinds of organizations, from both the public and private sectors, international organizations and academic institutions.

The Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) is a global multistakeholder platform focused on reducing commodity driven deforestation. Hosted by the World Economic Forum, the TFA works with over 160 public, private and civil society actors to catalyze high-impact partnerships to address the inherent tensions that exist to grow production while protecting the forests - public and private, producer and market, global and local, people and the forest frontier. The TFA operates regional platforms in Latin America, West and Central Africa, China and Southeast Asia. It is supported by the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Germany and the UK and the USA, as well as The Nature Conservancy, Partnerships for Forests, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Cargill Foundation.

1.3. Supplier Instructions

For ease of response and evaluation, Suppliers are required to complete and submit all components of this RFP.

- Requested examples of work may be attached as Appendices. The World Economic Forum retains the right not to review any un-requested material
- Supporting information must be presented in the same order as the questions and must be referenced to the relevant question

- Questions must be answered in English
- Failure of a Supplier to provide the required information, make a satisfactory response to any question, or supply documentation referred to in responses, within the specified timescale, may mean that the Supplier will not be invited to participate further in the procurement.
- Suppliers are asked to provide one electronic copy of the response in a format compatible with Microsoft Word. It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure that the proposal and all other required documents are received at the e-mail address named in this document by the closing date specified.
- Responses will not be returned.
- Participants need to address all information specified by this RFP. All questions must be answered completely. The World Economic Forum reserves the right to verify any information contained in the participants RFP response, and to request additional information after the RFP response has been received.
- Marketing brochures included must be submitted only as attachments and must not be used as a substitute for written responses. Nevertheless, suppliers should include any additional information that they think would help the Forum evaluate their proposal.
- Furthermore, the proposal must be accompanied by a cover letter, signed by an individual authorized to bind the proposed entity (see Proposal Submission Checklist)

1.4. Procurement Key Activities and Dates

Suppliers are asked to provide the response by May 31st, 2022, at 17:00 CET in electronic format to TFA@weforum.org.

Responses received after this time will not be considered.

1.5. RFP Evaluation Criteria

The Forum is looking for the most suitable partner and therefore will not simply select the economical most attractive bid or quotation, but rather use objective criteria to evaluate the best match for its demand. All supplier information provided as part of the RFP will be treated as confidential. The Forum's criteria include, but are not limited to the following key factors:

- Conformity with requirements
- Product and required service pricing
- Implementation approach
- Quality of services as well as quality assurance
- Geographical coverage
- Demand flexibility
- Company values

The Forum will not disclose the detailed results of the selection and scoring process and reserves the sole right to decide whether a proposal complies with the requirements of the RFP and to accept, reject or negotiate modifications of supplier's proposals.

1.6. Queries about the Procurement

Any questions about the procurement must be submitted by e-mail to TFA by May 25th, 2022, at TFA@weforum.org. No other forms of communication or contact will be accepted. It is the World Economic Forum's practice to communicate any question or request for clarification, with both the query and the response, in a suitably anonymous form, to all participating Suppliers. On a case by case basis if any information is deemed as confidential to a particular Supplier, this will be reviewed at the time it arises.

1.7. Proposal Submission Checklist

Proposals must include:

- All proposals must provide examples of similar written products, ideally on similar content to that requested in this scope of work.
- A description of methodology to be used
- A maximum of 10 pages total
- A pricing proposal following the requirements in Section 2.5

1.8. Points of contact

Suppliers are not allowed to contact any World Economic Forum personnel, such as management or other local contacts, regarding this RFP. Any such communication may lead to the proposal received being rejected.

It is expected that the supplier also provides the World Economic Forum with a single point of contact capable of answering questions related to this RFP on a global scale.

World Economic Forum Contacts

Ashley Bastiampillai
TFA Operations Specialist
ashleyerika.bastiampillai@weforum.org

1.9. Provided Information

This RFP contains information believed to be reliable at the date obtained but may not provide all the necessary or desirable information. Neither the World Economic Forum nor its employees or involved advisors, contractors or other representatives guarantee the completeness of these information. The document is intended solely for the information of the party to whom it is issued. All proposals will become the property of the Forum which reserves the right to use without limitations or liability for any ideas from the proposals.

The World Economic Forum reserves the absolute right to:

- Accept or reject any or all proposals
- Negotiate with any, all or no bidders
- Modify or cancel this RFP

It is the Bidder's responsibility to:

- Properly understand and examine the RFP
- Examine all other information available on reasonable inquiry relevant to the risks, contingencies and circumstances affecting its response

- Satisfy itself as to the completeness, correctness and sufficiency of its response

1.10. Confidentiality

The Invitation document is confidential. The Forum may update or revise the document or any part of it. The recipient acknowledges that any such revised or amended document shall be received subject to the same confidentiality undertaking. The Recipient will not disclose or discuss the contents of the document with any officer, employee, consultant, director, agent, or other person associated or affiliated in anyway with the World Economic Forum or any of its customers or suppliers without the prior written consent of the World Economic Forum.

1.11. Cost of Responding

All costs and expenses incurred by bidders in any way associated with the development, preparation, and submission of their responses to this RFP, including but not limited to attendance at meetings, discussions, presentations, demonstrations, etc. and providing any additional information required by the Forum will be borne exclusively by the bidder.

1.12. RFP Errors

Each recipient should notify the World Economic Forum of any error or discrepancy found in this document. Notification should be made to the contact found in proposal related details.

1.13. Liability

This invitation is not an offer by the World Economic Forum, but an invitation for responses. No contractual obligation on behalf of the Forum whatsoever exists from this process unless and until a formal contract is signed and executed by authorized people of the Forum and the select bidder.

2. Specifications

2.1. Requirements

- The supplier must have significant expertise and experience in
 - i. Communicating with a corporate audience
 - ii. Writing briefing documents, or similar
 - iii. Summarizing complex information into simple, easy to understand narrative
 - iv. Analysis of existing and upcoming policies in China, particularly those relating to forest protection, land use, agricultural production & trade, climate and land rights.
 - v. Understanding of Chinese Government structure, key stakeholders and politicians, and policy development process
- All proposals must provide examples of written products on similar content to that requested in this scope of work.

2.2. Scope of work

TFA has identified a need to build stronger awareness of relevant policy developments in key producing and consuming markets amongst corporate stakeholders, starting with China, Brazil and Indonesia. The scope of this work is to provide comprehensive, impartial information on policy and political context in China, to help corporate stakeholders stay informed and develop and implement

strategic engagement with policy makers. More specifically, the selected supplier will develop periodic policy briefings summarizing the latest information on relevant political developments and policy discussions linked to the forest positive agenda in China.

Objectives:

- Increase companies' awareness of relevant policy developments in China.
- Strengthen companies' understanding of how the evolving political environment in China may impact collective and individual implementation plans to meet No Deforestation commitments.
- Enable companies to plan and execute constructive engagement with Chinese policy makers.

2.3. Description of the Deliverables

- 1) 6 briefings from start date (Q2 2022) through June 2023. The candidate should engage with TFA to align the content and key insights of each journal.
 - a. Each briefing should be 2-3 pages as per below description.
 - b. The first 1-2 briefings may need to include an overview of relevant laws & regulations to bring readers up to speed.
 - c. 1-2 of the briefings may be "special edition(s)" focused on specific and relevant events such as COP15, COP27, national elections, etc.

The briefings should cover:

- Latest developments (or lack of) on key policy proposals, recently adopted legislation or regulation, or new commitments relating to:
 - climate and carbon neutrality, net zero transition, biodiversity etc.
 - Forest law and its implementation plans, forest management and trade
 - China National Strategy Initiative on soft commodity green value chains (Framework, Roadmap, inter-ministerial mechanism, and development insights)
 - Land use, sustainable trade and green finance and green consumption
 - other identified key priority topics by TFA team and candidate
- Relevant political developments, including leadership changes for relevant Ministries such as Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Industry, and Information Technology and etc.
- Any relevant developments resulting from broader multilateral processes (COP15, COP27, etc.)
- Perspectives from key local stakeholders about latest developments (e.g. CSOs, companies – domestic & international, IPLC representatives, trade groups, media)

Target audience:

- PRIORITY: Global and Chinese supply chain companies relevant to soft commodity trade and land use issues. Starting with downstream actors (manufacturers and retailers).
Within businesses:
 - Audience would include sustainability, responsible sourcing, procurement and public policy/government affairs teams, at global and regional levels.

- Additional possibilities to be explored:
 - Traders/producers
 - Financial sector actors

2.4. Timeline

Proposals are due on May 31st, 2022, and award will be made by June 6th, 2022. Expected completion date of all work is June 2023.

2.5. Pricing

- Proposals should include a fixed price per briefing and for the entire work, including all expenses and taxes, in Swiss Francs (CHF)
- Offers based on input-based pricing will not be considered
- Proposals will be evaluated on both total cost and on value-for-money

The products/services proposed by the prospective supplier must be aligned with the values, principles and criteria set out in the Forum's [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#).