
World Economic Forum

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR

**CONSERVING PRODUCTION
RESEARCH IN THE
PARAGUAYAN CHACO**



[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 multi-stakeholder 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.

[Background](#)

The “Gran Chaco Americano” biome covers approximately 1,000,000 km² of South America. It encompasses the central-north region of Argentina (53% of the total area of the Gran Chaco and 22% of the country’s surface area), western Paraguay (25% of the Gran Chaco area and 60% of the country’s area), and the southeast region of Bolivia (14% of the Gran Chaco area and 13% of the country’s area). The total population in the Gran Chaco is approximately 3,985,000 inhabitants, of which 90% live in the Argentinean Chaco, 3% in the Paraguayan Chaco and 7% in the Bolivian Chaco. Population density overall is low, with 70% of the people living in urban areas and the remaining 30% living in rural areas with a density of only one inhabitant per square kilometer. The Gran Chaco represents the largest dry forest ecosystem in South America. Its identified biodiversity includes 3,400 plant species, of which 400 are endemic, 150 mammal species, 12 of which are endemic, almost 500 species of birds, 186 amphibious species, and 297 reptilian species. The Gran Chaco comprises a mosaic of environments from savannahs to wetlands, as well as one of the largest remaining tracts of dry forests in the world and the second largest forested ecosystem outside the Amazon in South America. The Chaco spans the gap between the Brazilian Cerrado savannahs, Pantanal wetlands and savannahs, and the Andes Mountains, harboring significant diversity and endemism in its fauna and flora, which define it as a key area for conservation of biodiversity.

The natural resources of the Chaco have been severely degraded by biological and socio-economic processes, which have led to an accelerated process of desertification and recurrent flooding. The impacts of human activity on this fragile ecosystem, with very sandy and poor soils, scarce and irregular rainfall, strong winds and high temperatures, make the production of the necessary amount of biomass by the native vegetation difficult to attain a substantial recovery and overcome the degradation processes. A set of threats affecting ecosystem stability, along with their functions, causes, and barriers,

have been identified throughout the three participating countries. These threats include the following: deforestation of native forests, overdependence on livestock production and forest exploitation, overgrazing, forest and grassland fires, unsustainable management of water resources, loss of biodiversity, and climate change.

The causes of these significant threats to the Gran Chaco are varied. The deforestation of native forests is due to the fact that traditional forestry has an extractive nature and overexploits the forests for timber, wood or charcoal, with few or no practices favoring regeneration of the native forest. Overdependence on livestock production and forest exploitation stems from many sources, including: (i) poor soils and low rainfall of the Chaco; (ii) lack of agricultural diversification of the small and medium sized producers; (iii) unsustainable animal husbandry and forestry practices; and (iv) lack of economic incentives to promote other traditional activities or alternative uses of the forest. Overgrazing is a problem that derives from the disappearance of the most palatable plant species and the appearance of woody unpalatable species, which reduces the quality of the rangelands on which livestock depends, as well as erosion, loss of habitat for native species, and a considerable reduction in cattle stock and productivity. Forest and grassland fires are used to clear the lands for cultivation of crops or pastures, to clear crop residues, and to stimulate renewal and growth of grasses in either native grasslands or cultivated pastures. Due to mismanagement during these operations, the fires reach an uncontrollable status and affect much larger areas. Unsustainable management of water resources can be traced to the use of crop irrigation and water supply to cattle without complying with existing water management regulations and without sufficiently assessing the impacts on the local and downstream environments. Loss of biodiversity is caused by deforestation and replacement of natural environments by agriculture and livestock breeding, irrational and abusive use of pesticides and pollution, overexploitation of certain native species, and lack of awareness by society in general on issues related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Lastly, climate change and global warming come from losses of forest cover due to the expansion of agricultural and livestock producing areas and road infrastructure, fires and inadequate use of fire, and their associated root causes, and an increase in cattle stocks.¹

Objectives

To develop a technical study to analyze the potential of the agro-industrial expansion dynamics in the Paraguayan Chaco. Hence, analyze the context, and push-pull factors that are driving frontier expansion dynamics, and assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of agricultural and cattle-based production sites. It is also expected to describe the infrastructure investments and potential development of the Chaco region taking into account navigable rivers and roads with access to ports on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as part of the multi-national road Bi-oceanic corridor.

Deliverables

1. Consultancy report: A written report of 30 or more pages.
2. Presentation of results via webinar with relevant actors. It includes the design of a Power point presentation to showcase results and the presentation on a webinar to generate debate, followed by a Webinar executive summary report.
3. Communicational report: One publishable document of no more than 10 pages with the main elements and recommendations derived from the analysis and the webinar.

¹ OAS. --. Sustainable Forest Management in the Transboundary Gran Chaco Americano Ecosystem. Access on: 3/11/2022. Available in: https://www.oas.org/dsd/waterresources/projects/Chaco_eng.asp#:~:text=The%20Gran%20Chaco%20represents%20the,species%2C%20and%20297%20reptilian%20species.

Requirements

It requires a well-prepared technical team for the development of this specific assignment. The consultancy team will be responsible for developing the research based on current experiences in the Chaco Region from precedent projects focused on sustainable development, continuous improvement and environmental, social and productive risks analysis. Previous work experience done with national institutions, private companies, academia and NGOs is desired, considered relevant and will be valued positively.

Procurement Key Activities and Dates

Suppliers are asked to provide the **response by November 30th** at 5pm CET in electronic format to TFAprocurement@weforum.org.

Timeline

Proposals are due on November 30th and award will be made by December 15th, 2022. Expected completion date of all work is February 28th, 2023.

Pricing

- Proposals should be for a fixed price for the entire work, including all expenses and taxes, in US Dollars.
- 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](#).

Please note that any services requiring access to personal data will need to adhere to the EU's [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#).

The Intellectual Property Rights clause to be included in the consulting agreement is as follows:

1.1 Except as expressly stated in the Agreement, nothing contained herein shall be construed as the Forum granting the Service Provider, either expressly or implied, any right, interest, or license in or to any of the Forum IP. The Service Provider expressly agrees that the applicable Forum Entity shall be, at all time, the sole and exclusive owner of all right and title in and to all Forum IP.

1.2 Unless otherwise explicitly agreed in the Agreement, all Results shall be, at all times, the sole and exclusive property of the Forum. The Service Provider shall transfer, and hereby transfers, all such Results (in whatever form held) to the Forum free of charge. Specifically, all Results shall be deemed work-made-for-hire and the exclusive property of the Forum.

1.3 The Parties agree that, unless otherwise explicitly agreed in the Agreement, all Service Provider Pre-Existing Material shall be and remain the sole property of the Service Provider. As to any Service Provider Pre-Existing Material, the Service Provider shall grant and hereby grants to the Forum Entities (as well as the Forum members, partners and/or constituents, as the case may be) a worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, copy, modify, distribute, display, broadcast and create derivative works of such Service Provider Pre-Existing Material, including the right to have third parties do any of the foregoing, to the extent required for the Forum Entities' use of the Results, Services and/or Deliverables.

1.4 The Service Provider warrants that the Results do not and shall not violate the intellectual property rights of any third party.

1.5 The Service Provider shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Forum Indemnified Parties against third party claims that any Results infringe or violate such third party's intellectual property rights. The Forum shall promptly notify the Service Provider of any claims by third parties received by the

Forum Indemnified Parties that any Results infringe such third party's intellectual property rights. The Service Provider shall provide all reasonable cooperation or participate in or take over the court proceedings where possible under applicable law (at Service Provider's expense), and shall otherwise provide full authority to the Forum to defend or settle the claim or suit. All costs and risks associated with any legal action under this Section 10.5 shall be the sole and exclusive liability of the Service Provider. The Service Provider shall reimburse the Forum Indemnified Parties for any expenses associated with any Forum Indemnified Party's participation in any action and or settlement discussions, including without limitation, court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

1.6 Further, if an action is filed on account of violation of intellectual property rights with respect to Results or if any such item is deemed to violate third party intellectual property rights, the Service Provider, at its own expense, shall have the option to either replace any item which is deemed to infringe third party intellectual property rights with an equivalent item or obtain the third party's consent for the Forum Entities (as well as the Forum members, partners and/or constituents, as the case may be) to continue to use the item in dispute. If neither option is possible or available, the Service Provider shall be liable for all damages to third parties as well as the costs incurred by any Forum Indemnified Party to obtain an equivalent replacement item on its own.