



Call for Consultants

Final Evaluation of the Operation Sunlight Project

Climate Advisers Trust
1320 19th St NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
United States of America

Deadline for Applications: All applications must be submitted before January 3, 2021 by 11:59 PM EST.

Application Submission Instructions: Please submit a CV and cover letter via e-mail to info@ca-trust.org with the subject line “**Project Evaluation Consultant_Last Name**”. Questions are accepted on a rolling basis to the e-mail address listed above.

Summary

Climate Advisers Trust (CAT), a U.S. non-profit organization, seeks a qualified consultant to conduct a final project evaluation and review of its Operation Sunlight initiative. The review will focus on the verification of the project’s results, assess its M&E systems, and provide recommendations for future implementation of the project. The ideal candidate will possess at least five years of technical knowledge of and applied experience in monitoring and evaluation of donor funded projects in an environment context. Ideally, the candidate will have direct experience conducting M&E for projects funded by the Norwegian international development assistance agency (Norad) as Norad is the main funder of Operation Sunlight.

Interested candidates should submit their application materials as soon as possible but no later than **January 3, 2021**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The assignment is expected to start in mid-January.

About CAT

Climate Advisers Trust is a respected research and public policy group dedicated to strengthening climate action in the United States and around the world. We work with governments, non-profit organizations, and private firms to develop the low-carbon economy through sound policy, strategic communications, and innovative advocacy efforts.

About the Project

Operation Sunlight aims to protect forests by catalyzing corporate and financial reforms in the global soft commodity sector. This will occur through the realization of three workstreams of the project: Lucida, Orbitas and Strategic Litigation. Together these initiatives will illuminate who funds deforestation, the financial risks of climate policy response to deforestation and holding those accountable who commit forest crimes.

Lucida aims to provide unprecedented insights into how companies, financiers, and individuals are linked to deforestation and unsustainable land use and illuminate wrongdoing by these economic actors. Based on a ground-breaking database created by the initiative, the platform will surface compelling information on the linkages among companies and financiers using dynamic visualizations, interactive modules, and user-driven story case studies.

Orbitas aims to develop a Center of Excellence for financial research and analysis of climate response risks within the land use sector. Our mission is to identify risks associated with efforts to combat climate change, limit deforestation and promote sustainability that are currently not factored into the financing of leading companies within the soft commodities sector.

Strategic Litigation aims to curtail funding for deforestation by leveraging developed countries' extra-territorial laws and courts to help tropical forest nations heighten legal liability risks for financiers of deforestation, much of which involves illegal activity. Unlike other forest legality initiatives, Strategic Litigation focuses on harnessing the power of non-environmental laws, including statutes against corruption, bribery, money laundering, racketeering, and more. The criminal and civil prosecutions facilitated by Strategic Litigation will discourage investments in illegal deforestation and land conversion.

Project Goal and Outcomes

Operation Sunlight seeks to prevent deforestation in the target countries of Indonesia, Colombia, and Peru. Three outcomes guide the project's implementation:

Outcome 1 (Lucida): Improved transparency of the companies and financiers involved in commodity driven deforestation.

Outcome 2 (Orbitas): As a result of engagement by major investors and financiers who recognize the risks presented by responses to climate change, agricultural commodity producers¹ in select NICFI Priority Countries are adopting strategies that do not rely on deforestation.

Outcome 3 (Strategic Litigation): U.S. prosecutor/enforcer actions deter forest crime in NICFI Priority Countries

¹ Landowners, medium and large scale farmers, processors, traders and financiers

A detailed project Results Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be provided to the successful Applicant.

Scope of Work and Outputs/Deliverables

Consultant will conduct a final evaluation to assess the quality of Operation Sunlight.

While revisions may be made in consultation with the evaluator and the donor to respond to programmatic questions or issues that emerge, it is expected that the evaluation will explore the following:

- (1) Is the project achieving the results it has set out?
- (2) If not, what factors are within the project’s control to modify implementation to further those results?
- (3) What organizational strengthening and project management measures did CAT institute to manage the project? Were these effective?
- (4) What challenges did CAT and its partners face implementing the project?
- (5) Are there areas for improvement in the project’s data policies and implementation of existing processes?
- (6) Are any results indicators no longer relevant for project implementation?
- (7) Are there new indicators that can be applied retrospectively and/or moving forward? If so, what additional impact would they capture?

In addition to examining existing program data, the external evaluator will interview at least four (4) sub-grant recipients of the project’s deliverables to evaluate their impact and recommend any modifications to improve the project’s implementation.

Through a literature review and consultative discussions with Operation Sunlight project staff, sub-grantees, and consultants, the Consultant will be expected to produce the following:

Deliverables	Deadline
1. An outline of the final report and detailed list of stakeholder interview questions for review by CAT	December 15, 2020
2. Draft of the final evaluation report for CAT feedback (between 20-30 pages)	January 15, 2021
3. Final evaluation report integrating feedback	February 15, 2021
4. Participation in Partner Steering Committee to review final report and discuss recommendations with CAT staff and project partners	March 1, 2021

Consultant shall adhere to the DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluations (OECD, 2011) and in accordance with recognized professional evaluation standards. The consultant is expected to act with integrity and honesty, and show sensitivity to gender, beliefs, manners and customs of all stakeholders. Consultant shall maintain anonymity and confidentiality of individuals when and as requested.

Key Skills and Experience:

The successful candidate will possess the following skills and experience:

- At least five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in designing, managing and implementing results-based MEL activities.
- Demonstrated relevant technical skills in analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, with excellent organizational as well as English oral and written communication skills.
- Progressively responsible experience in monitoring and evaluation of environmental programs, including working with development agencies and organizations, government officials, civil society leaders, community leaders, program beneficiaries and program staff.
- Extensive knowledge of reporting procedures, best practices, guidelines and tools for monitoring, evaluation, and learning, including impact evaluation.
- Prior experience conducting M&E for Norad-funded projects preferred.
- Bachelor's degree in any of the following or related fields: social science, international development, evaluation research, statistics or economics.

Guidelines for Submission of Applications:

Applicants should be able to demonstrate capacity in similar work, particularly operational, technical, cost and management requirements. A successful application will:

- Submit a CV;
- Submit a cover letter that provides an overview of the individual's capacity to perform similar work, and
- Describe the consulting rate and/or fee structure and how Climate Advisers Trust will be charged.

We suggest that applications do not exceed 5 pages in length.