



Wildlife Conservation Society EU

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Short-term Consultancy: Analysing the Potential to Strengthen Social and Environmental Safeguards for EU Mining Companies Operating in Gabon and Lao PDR
29th January 2026

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Friday 27th February 2026 (at 23:59 CET)

PROPOSALS DELIVERED TO: Wildlife Conservation Society EU

email: gbaralle@wcs.org

INVITATION

The Wildlife Conservation Society European Union Office (WCS EU) seeks a consultant to analyze the potential to strengthen social and environmental safeguards for EU companies involved in the mining and purchase of mined minerals in partner countries, with a focus on Gabon and Lao PDR. This Request for Proposals (RFP) provides detailed information as to the project requirements and the desired qualifications of proposers.

BACKGROUND

WCS EU is a Belgian non-profit organisation established in 2018 as an affiliate entity of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 55 countries, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities.

While global demand for minerals is reaching record-high levels, the mining and mineral extraction sector has been identified as one major threat to biodiversity. More than a thousand species are reported to be threatened by mining activities by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. Mining has multiple direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity causing habitat destruction, pollution, and socio-ecological shifts, including in protected areas.

The European Union (EU) is one of the global major importers of mining products which are critically important to achieve its industrial, energy, and digital transitions. The EU has adopted environmental and sustainability policies and regulations to reduce the ecological footprint of supply chains, including the [EU Green Deal](#), the [Critical Raw Materials Act](#), the [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#), and regulations on deforestation-free products and conflict minerals. It is also delivering the Global Gateway initiative which is incentivizing economic investments in many partner countries.



OBJECTIVES

This consultancy project aims to evaluate the integration of social and environmental safeguards, especially for Indigenous People (IP) and Local Communities (LC) (including women), forests and biodiversity, across the comprehensive framework of EU trade, environmental and import policies involved in the mining and purchase of mined minerals from partner countries. This will include an analysis of how well the current legal framework is being implemented and identify entry-points through which safeguards could be strengthened, with a focus on Gabon and Lao PDR.

RESPONSABILITIES

WCS is seeking a self-employed person or consultancy company with proven skills in EU policy analysis, to conduct an in-depth analysis of the EU trade and environmental policy framework to assess the integration of social and environmental safeguards, especially for IP and LC (including women), forests and biodiversity - delivered in the form of a written report.

Specifically, the report should include :

1. A complete review and mapping of relevant EU legislative instruments and policies that govern the import of mining products (e.g., CSDDD, EU Green Deal, Circular Economy Action Plan, Conflict Minerals Regulation, Critical Raw Materials Act) including:

- An assessment of how social and environmental safeguards are embedded across relevant EU policies and legal instruments, such as trade agreements, procurement standards, and due diligence mechanisms that impact mining supply chains, and the effectiveness of their implementation
- Assess the robustness of compliance mechanisms being implemented by EU member states (certification schemes, disclosure, grievance mechanisms, reporting obligations, penalties) ;
- Identify barriers, issues, gaps, overlaps, and enforcement challenges in the current EU regulatory and policy framework.

2. Provide an analysis of the impacts in Gabon and Lao PDR for products destined for the EU market, including:

- Country specific case studies of selected mined minerals (e.g. gold, cobalt, lithium, rare earths), their associated supply chains and the implementation of EU policies including by local operating mining stakeholders in **Lao PDR** and **Gabon**.
- Analyse the impacts (if any) of current or planned EU investments for mining and/or associated infrastructure, including under the Global Gateway initiative in Lao PDR and Gabon.

3. Provide recommendations as to how the EU policy framework could be strengthened and identify entry points in policy implementation processes that provide opportunities to introduce or strengthen safeguards.



4. Support WCS EU staff in preparing for and delivering a consultation meeting with stakeholders on the report findings. N.B. WCS EU staff will be responsible for the meeting logistics but we require technical support for the preparation of the content of the meeting.

5. Timely cooperate with WCS EU's reasonable information requests for the purposes of WCS EU's reporting obligations to the donor funding this work.

All tasks will be undertaken in close collaboration with WCS EU and WCS relevant technical and country programme staff.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

The main deliverable will be a report as mentioned above.

After a first draft of the report has been submitted and revised in line with WCS EU comments, a revised version will be produced until the documents are accepted by all parties involved.

After validation of the final version for the report a consultation workshop will be planned by WCS EU. For the workshop, a powerpoint presentation will be developed and validated by WCS EU. In close collaboration with WCS EU, the proposer will be responsible for presenting the report findings, sharing key recommendations and answering questions by invited stakeholders.

The first draft of the report will be due by **Friday 15th May 2026**.

The final draft of report and strategy revisions due **2 weeks after receiving comments**.

The restitution workshop should occur by the end of June 2026.

Working locations:

- Remote for data collection, analysis and reporting ;
- Brussels, Belgium for the workshop.

The project cost range is estimated to be 22,000.00 EUR and the duration is 30 days, spread across 3-4 months.

The project is being funded by Forest Governance Markets and Climate (United Kingdom) and is subject to certain requirements. All work must be done in compliance with the terms set forth in "Scope of Services and Desired Qualifications" hereafter, and WCS EU Terms and Conditions, Contract, Insurance, and Regulatory Requirements, available on request and provided for signature following the selection of a proposal.

The work will be paid within 30 days from WCS EU's receipt of a valid invoice submitted after completion of the applicable milestone, as per the following schedule: 30% upon submission of the first version of the report, 30% upon submission of the final and approved version of the report, and 40% upon completion of the restitution workshop.



PROPOSAL ADMINISTRATION

All requests for clarification and questions concerning this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than Friday 20th February 2026 via email to gbaralle@wcs.org (indicate “Consultancy EU mining policy analysis” on the subject line). Responses, if determined appropriate by WCS EU, will be issued in writing to all known proposers.

All proposals shall be submitted as an attached digital file to the submission email including attachments, exhibits or appendices. Emails shall be submitted to: gbaralle@wcs.org

An interview may be requested of any proposer either in-person or online. . Such a request for an interview does not constitute a contract award.

Proposals must be received no later than **Friday 27th February 2026, by 23:59 (CET)**.

Key Dates:

Last day to submit questions	13 th February 2026
Proposals due	27 th February 2026
Interviews of proposers	mid-March 2026
Notice of Award	end of March 2026

SCOPE OF SERVICES AND DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The selected consultant is expected to have overall responsibility for delivery of the services indicated above, including, but are not limited to, the following:

General Services:

- Comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations governing such projects, including but not limited to, all such laws, rules and regulations described in WCS EU Terms and Conditions.
- Maintain insurance for itself and all sub-contractors, suppliers and vendors, in the types and amount set forth in WCS EU Terms and Conditions, Contract, Insurance and Regulatory Requirements, available on request.
- Comply with any WCS EU rules, requirements or directives as set forth in WCS EU Terms and Conditions or provided prior to contract execution.

Qualifications:

The selected vendor (either a consultancy company or self-employed individual) is expected to have the experience, resources, qualifications, and capacity to successfully meet the objectives of this RFP, including:

- a master's degree (or higher education level) in environmental policies, natural resource management or other consultancy related relevant background;
- proven experience in EU policies and legal framework analysis;



- high degree of knowledge in environmental and social safeguards, particularly related to biodiversity and IP&LCs
- proven understanding environmental and social issues related to the mining sector in a global south context;
- experience in African and/or Asian contexts is a plus;
- excellent written and oral communication skills in English;
- Understands and aligns with WCS work and values.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

Proposals should be clear and concise, and should address in detail and with appropriate documentation each of the items listed below. Proposals that fail to do so may be disqualified as non-responsive. WCS EU may request clarification of any proposal during the evaluation process, but it is not bound to do so, and proposers should not assume they will have any further opportunity to clarify their proposals subsequent to the proposal due date.

Each proposer is requested to submit, on or before the submission deadline, a package containing its proposal addressing the following items in the order listed:

A. Technical Qualifications

1. Contact Information

On a single cover sheet, please provide:

1. The proposer's name.
2. The proposer's contact person.
3. Contact information for the principal(s) or lead individual(s) who are anticipated to work on the project, including e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers.
4. Street address and web address of proposer.
5. Year proposer was established (if a company)
6. Size of proposer (if a company).
7. List of proposed staff assigned to this project (if a company).
8. Signature of Principal and date of the signature.

2. Overview

Proposers should provide a summary of their understanding of the objectives of this RFP (no more than 350 words) and a description of the methods they will use to achieve those objectives, including technical quality assurance, and general management practices for comparable projects (no more than 3 pages).

3. Qualifications

Proposers are requested to provide detailed information that demonstrates their capacity, capability, expertise and experience providing the services requested in this RFP.

The provided document should be limited to 5 pages for a consultancy company or to a 2-page CV for self-employed individuals. The document will demonstrate relevant qualifications and



experience for the role they will perform under this project and a description of relevant experience in similar assignments. For each referenced project, include the project name, dates of implementation, name of the client, a brief description (maximum 50 words), highlighting relevance to the current assignment and name of a contact person who can provide a reference or site visit.

If a consultancy, proposers should list the principals and key employees who will carry out the work, including their prior, related experience, identifying the proposed project manager and staff members. A short resume of each key member of the project team should also be included, indicating that member's responsibilities for the project and relevant experience. Upon award of the contract, substitutions of personnel will not be allowed without the prior written consent of WCS.

4. Timetable/Schedule

Proposers should produce a draft schedule that outlines critical milestones for the work.

5. References

Proposers are requested to provide examples of at least 2 similar projects, recently completed or in progress, with the following information for each:

- Client
- Description of the work (maximum 350 words)
- Name of a contact person who can provide a reference.

References may be contacted directly by WCS EU.

B. Fee Proposal

Fee proposal (in EUR) will include a breakdown of costs showing staff time to be spent on the project, overall cost and reimbursable expenses tied to each deliverables (e.g. travel, physical equipment) to perform the service.



GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

The following general conditions apply to all proposals submitted in response to any RFP issued by WCS EU.

- **Non-Binding:**
WCS EU's solicitation of proposals in response to any RFP does not commit WCS EU to award a contract, and this RFP is not an offer to enter into a contract for the services to be provided as described herein.
- **Proposal Materials and Costs:**
WCS EU is not liable for any costs incurred in the preparation, submission or negotiation of a response to its RFP or incurred for any other purpose or reason in connection with the RFP. No materials submitted with this RFP will be returned.
- **Confidentiality:**
All information and material contained in any WCS EU RFP or issued by WCS EU or any of its agents as part of any WCS RFP process is confidential and is the exclusive property of WCS EU.
- **Modifications:**
As a condition of award, WCS EU may request any proposer to make revisions, additions, or deletions to its proposal.
- **Subcontractors:**
After award of contract, WCS EU will have no obligation, financial or otherwise, to any subcontractor of the awardee. Nevertheless, any subcontract will be required to be subject to and consistent with the prime contract between WCS EU and the awardee, and WCS EU may require any subcontract to include specific terms and conditions.
- **Reserved Rights:**
WCS EU at any time in its sole discretion may, without notice and without liability to any proposer or any other party for their expenses incurred in the preparation of the responses hereto or otherwise, do any and all of the following:
 - o Amend or withdraw this RFP;
 - o Accept or reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP;
 - o Award the contract to a proposer other than the proposer offering the lowest fee;
 - o Request additional materials and clarification or modification of any submitted proposal;
 - o Extend the time for submission of all proposals after notification to all prospective proposers;
 - o Terminate negotiations with a selected proposer and select another proposer;
 - o Take such action as WCS EU deems appropriate if negotiations fail to result in a signed agreement within a reasonable amount of time;
 - o Terminate or modify the solicitation and selection process at any time and re-issue the solicitation to whomever WCS EU deems appropriate.



The selected vendor will be required to execute a written agreement with WCS EU, generally consistent with the terms set forth herein, including the provisions in the WCS EU Terms and Conditions.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Selection Process:

- WCS EU will review and evaluate all proposals to determine each proposer's rating. This evaluation may include a request by WCS EU to interview proposers for purposes of clarifying their proposals.
- The proposal offering the most advantageous terms based on the criteria below will be selected for the award. WCS EU may reject any and all proposals if, in its sole opinion, no proposal satisfies its criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

The evaluation criteria and weight will be as follows:

- The vendor's technical capability to provide the services (35%);
- Project related experience of the proposed staff (20%);
- Proposed methodology for executing the scope of work (25%);
- Value for money (20%).