

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: GIS Analyst and Technical Expert

Duration: 36 months

Duty station: RECC Caucasus Armenia

Supervision: WRI Project Manager and RECC Caucasus Director

Background:

Maintaining and expanding forest cover in Armenia is critical in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the Armenia lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are an important biome for biodiversity conservation, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of Armenia make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

The Region Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC) and World Resources Institute (WRI) aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in Armenia. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The overall objective of this role is to lead the development of national atlases, developing data management and diffusion protocols, compiling data content, conducting research and analysis related to forests and building the capacity of project partners in Armenia on the use of GFW tools to apply information to the management of forest resources.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:

The GIS Analyst and Technical Expert will:

- Lead development and implementation of technical aspects of activities nationally;
- Lead the conceptualization, development and implementation of GIS-based tools and analytical methods in support project partners;
- Support communicating about forest data and analysis to technical and non-technical audiences at national and international levels (e.g. by producing maps, graphs, figures, contributing to writing blog posts and articles);
- Respond to technical inquiries related to project work;
- Represent the project and give presentations at conferences and workshops, when necessary;
- Provide technical assistance to relevant processes such as land use planning, monitoring of activities, and other relevant areas of natural resource management nationally;

- Advise and support enhancing the compatibility of data and metadata structures with related systems, standards or regulations;
- Provide training for partners in GIS, remote sensing, management of forest databases, as well as in the application of forest data to key forest management processes;
- Promote the exchange of geographical data and metadata between the members of the team, and those of other related projects and institutions;
- Provide support in developing strategies for acquiring new datasets relevant to the project, in the context of identified thematic and geographic research priorities;
- Collection, compilation, or integration of external cartographic data as required for analysis or reporting needs;
- Prepare and analyze spatial data, including deriving spatial statistics by using geoprocessing tools (e.g. Model Builder and other analytical tools using ArcGIS and Python);
- Project management and support of other tasks outside of GIS when necessary;
- Create visually appealing and high quality maps and posters;

Deliverables:

- National atlases for interactive forest resources and land use built and customized;
- Database with all relevant data (data relevant to forestry and land-use), including metadata;
- Completed technical trainings on use and upkeep of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government and other important stakeholders and national users.

Required Qualifications:

- Degree from accredited university in Geography, GIS, Information Systems, Forestry, Natural Resource Management or another related field;
- Minimum of three years of professional experience relevant in GIS and data management;
- Proficiency with GIS software, including ESRI tools such as ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Enterprise and ArcGIS Hubs;
- Familiarity with website development languages and concepts including JSON notation, HTML, and CSS;
- Strong analytical skills;
- Understanding and experience of the forest sector in Armenia;
- A demonstrated willingness to take initiative and get things done with little guidance;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work with teams of individuals and colleagues from different cultures and in different time zones;
- Ability to travel internationally, including the United States, when needed.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience writing small programs and scripts using Python and or similar tools;
- Preference for experience working with international or government organizations.

Languages: Fluency in Armenian (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary. Proficiency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is also necessary.