Call for Applications

CONSULTANCY TO WORK ON THE IAI-UNEP/GAN-EPIC-N PROJECT TO ESTABLISH THE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION IN COMMUNITIES (EPIC) NETWORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PHASE I

CONTEXT

The United Nations Environment Programme Global Adaptation Network (UNEP GAN) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) announce a call for consultancy to develop the scoping launch of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) for Latin America and Caribbean. The consultancy is funded by UNEP.

The EPIC-Network and its members have completed more than 1700 collaborative projects between cities and their local universities since 2010. EPIC-N has been a GAN partner for several years and in 2017 it successfully expanded from its native North America to Africa and most recently to Asia to create a sustainable, locally anchored method of using existing capacities in a city to meet a demand or need – directly related to increasing resilience of vulnerable local communities, including, most recently, to the impacts of Covid-19. GAN has supported EPIC-N in its launch and expansion in Asia and Africa and would now like to continue this successful collaboration, supporting the expansion of EPIC-N's EPIC Model to the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region with IAI as the executing agency.

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), an intergovernmental organization with 19 Parties in the Americas, promotes transdisciplinary research and the enhancement of capacities to improve public awareness and provide information to governments and other stakeholders for the development of public policy relevant to global environmental change (GEC), based on scientific excellence, international and intersectoral cooperation, and the open exchange of knowledge.

SCOPE OF WORK

Phase 1 of this project describes a collaborative effort among EPIC-N, IAI, and UNEP/GAN to extend application of the EPIC Model of university-community engagement throughout LAC. The EPIC Model organizes faculty-directed and credit-bearing student work to address community problems, using the goals and evaluation framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in their treatment. Respecting the distinct organizational cultures of universities and community organizations, the Model enables universities to more efficiently meet community demands for assistance in ways respectful to them both.

The Project seeks 1-2 consultants to support institutional, programatic and training processes for implementing EPIC in LAC and support the establishment of platforms for an EPIC LAC network. The main tasks and responsabilities of the consultant(s) will be to work on the Phase I objectives and deliverables and report to the Project Steering Committee.

See the Terms of Reference for more information on tasks, responsibilities, deliverables and requirements.

REQUEST We invite eligible consultants to apply. Individuals from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Interested consultants must provide the following in English:

1. Complete application form: https://forms.gle/DqDaCGqRyYQbV9cd9
2. One-page CV focusing on key experiences/products related to the expertise required for this consultancy.
3. Two references from previous supervisors, including name, email address and phone number.

Shortlisted candidates for the position will be invited to participate in one or more virtual interview(s).

Eligible applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of an IAI member country (https://www.iai.int/en/structure/focal-points).

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Required qualifications include:

- Written and verbal fluency in English and Spanish/Portuguese is required. Fluency in the 3 languages will be considered a plus.

- Masters degree or higher qualification.

- Excellent writing and speaking skills. (Consultants should be prepared to translate materials from English into Spanish and/or Portuguese. Professional simultaneous interpreters will be hired by the Project for pre-training workshops)

- At least 5 years of working experience related to knowledge management, inter-institutional collaboration, alliance creation or similar responsibilities.

- Experience with training/capacity-building using a participatory or joint-learning pedagogy in person and in a virtual learning environment.

- Experience working with local governments, particulary in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Experience working with universities, particulary in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Familiarity with and commitment to the following:

  o The EPIC Model

- - The UN SDGs

  - Transdisciplinary, applied and/or basic research

- Proficiency with key programs in Microsoft Office and Google Suite.

- International experience (i.e. working on international projects, living, working and/or studying abroad).

- International aid experience (with UN or other intergovernmental or public-interest organizations), ideally focused on adaptation and/or sustainable development.

- Fundraising experience (prospecting, grant writing, etc.).

COSTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The maximum value of the consultancy is approximately USD $30,000, including any applicable local taxes. Provided the funds from the donor agencies are available, the intended start date is 9 March 2022 and the period of implementation of the contract is until 1 June 2022.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Deadline: 25 FEBRUARY 2022

All documents should be submitted in **English**.

Consultants must first submit their application by completing a Google form (https://forms.gle/XcFGV3dyaDWRRQ12A). They should then send additional documentation (CVs) via email to: opportunities@dir.iai.int. In the body of the email, they should state their name and provide an email address.