RFP Title: Open-source decision support tool for Climate Positive Land Use Strategy (CPLUS)
RFP No: FY23/022-MCS
Clarifications
Distributed on: March 9, 2022

Question	Response
1. Would you consider a web app instead of a QGIS plugin for CPLUS, as long as it is open source and provides the functionality outlined in the RFP?	Yes, we would consider a web app instead of a QGIS plugin, however, our experience with data licensing, security and privacy has proven that providing both options will increase user adoption. Some users have limited bandwidth, where a web app will not provide the utility required, users need to be able to work offline, and web apps/cloud based systems may increase concern with data security and privacy when uploading data.
2. If a QGIS plugin is preferred, is there a reason why? For example, do stakeholders have pre-existing experience with QGIS? Is there another reason?	We anticipate building this into land use planning processes where the decision maker will work closely with a technical GIS analyst to run the tool. We have experience building and maintaining QGIS plugins, so we have the internal capacity to support our users after the tool is built.
3. Will this QGIS plugin (or other solution) integrate with the CPLUS work already done on Google Earth Engine, or will it replace it?	This will replace the prototype tool in Google Earth Engine (GEE). We found GEE had limitations that we were not able to overcome, with computation timing out and customizing some features. The GEE code will be made available to the selected vendor so that it can be used as a basis for the work done under this contract.
4. Is the QGIS plugin (or other solution) intended to do the requisite analysis on device, or send inputs to Google Earth Engine and do the analysis using the CPLUS implementation there?	We can consider either approach to ensure that that our users do not experience bandwidth or data privacy issues. We anticipate that some may prefer to use the solution offline, as we have experienced in the past with other tools. We have an existing API interface that can send tasks to be run on the cloud on Google Earth Engine (GEE), including handling logins, retrieving the status of tasks, notifying users when tasks are complete, etc. That API can be used to support this tool if needed.

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5. What is the available budget for this project?	We are not able to disclose that information at this time.
6. Will this be a fixed price budget?	Yes, it will be fixed in price and term (ending no later than 31 December 2023).
7. Is the firm that participated in the initial designs, able to bid on this project?	Yes, the firm can bid on this project.
8. Is there any flexibility on the project timeline provided in the RFP?	The timeline is tied to a grant, so there is no flexibility at this time.
9. Will the selected vendor be working with any incumbent vendors on this project, either in terms of design or the existing Google Earth Engine framework?	No incumbent vendors will not be required on this project. There is existing expertise in house on how to connect to Google Earth Engine (GEE). We have an existing API interface that can send tasks to be run on the cloud on Google Earth Engine (GEE), including handling logins, retrieving the status of tasks, notifying users when tasks are complete, etc. That API can be used to support this tool if needed.
10. Will the selected vendor also be responsible for creating the marketing site referenced in the RFP (for outreach purposes), or is this a separate project to be undertaken by Conservation International?	The vendor will set up the support documentation website in an open source framework (e.g., ReadtheDocs) and CI will be responsible for maintaining the website and adding support documentation.

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11. Will the selected vendor be responsible for placing the completed solution on other public websites to support broader uptake, as referenced in the RFP, or will Conservation International be responsible?	Conservation International will be responsible for socializing the information.
12. What is the greatest opportunity for ongoing program growth? What is the greatest challenge?	We anticipate that this will be the first step in tool development, and we will continue to make feature enhancements on the tool in future years, pending successful fundraising efforts.