

Consultancy for a Professional English Science Writer/Science Journalist to Assist in the Revision of the Draft Global Biodiversity Outlook 3

Introduction and Context

Global Biodiversity Outlook is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity and will be formally launched in 2010, the year proclaimed as the [International Year of Biodiversity](#). The third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3), as expressed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in [decision VIII/14](#), will along with the third and fourth national reports serve as the basis for the [review of implementation](#) of the Convention during the tenth meeting of the COP. Given the importance of GBO-3 in informing a variety of audiences of the importance of biodiversity and the progress made in meeting the [2010 Biodiversity Target](#) it is crucial that GBO-3 be presented in a written style which is easily accessible to a broad audience, from an educated public to decision makers and revised in the light of review comments from a large number of stakeholders.

For this reason the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is seeking the assistance of a professional English science writer/journalist who will assist in revising and completing the draft text of GBO-3. The science writer will work under the direct supervision of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Services required

The science writer will update and complete the first draft of GBO-3 in the light of peer review comments and additional scientific evidence and information and will prepare a Summary for Decision Makers on the basis of the final text. The science writer will assist in ensuring the effective integration of graphic elements, infographs and text boxes into the final product. The science writer will also provide advice and guidance on the preparation of summaries targeting specific groups of stakeholders or being prepared in collaboration with relevant partners.

Timeframe

The period of the contract will be from 15 September 2009 to 31 January 2010. The science writer will work closely with the Secretariat staff in evaluating and incorporating review comments received on the first draft. During the contract period the science writer may be required to spend a period of time (up to 2 weeks) at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in Montreal, Canada, in order to work directly with SCBD staff to ensure the coordination of the project and that the main messages are being presented in a coherent manner. For candidates located outside Montreal the costs of travel and subsistence for the stay in Montreal will be covered separately.

Requirements for the science writer

The science writer/journalist should have a proven track record and ample experience in the writing of popular science texts of a sizeable length (at least 10,000 words) in English. The science writer should have extensive experience and training in journalism and communications as well as experience in reporting on international environmental initiatives and issues. He/she should be familiar with major issues related to biodiversity science and policy. Familiarity with the operations of the Convention on Biological Diversity is an asset.

How to apply

The application deadline for this contract is 15 August 2010. Interested applicants should send the following information to secretariat@cbd.int:

- a.* An expression of interest
- b.* A curriculum vitae
- c.* A writing sample

For further information on this contract please send your inquiries to GBO3@cbd.int.