**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**(Individual Contractor Agreement)**

**Title:** Evaluator for a 10-year evaluation of the Equator Initiative (2010-2019)

**Project:**  [Project name/number]

**Duty station:** home-based with mission travel

**Section/Unit:** SDC/DSIP

**Contract/Level:** ICA, Level [Specify level according to fee scale]

**Supervisor:** Jamison Ervin, Senior Technical Manager, Global Programme on Nature for Development

**1. General Background**

The Equator Initiative, housed in UNDP’s Global Programme on Nature for Development and implemented by UNOPS, brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

The Equator Initiative is a multi-sector partnership that brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, and grassroots organizations. Current partners to the Equator Initiative include: Conservation International, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ecoagriculture Partners, Fordham University, The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Government of Norway, IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, PCI Media Impact, Rare, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Foundation, Estee Lauder Companies and One Earth.

The Equator Initiative recognizes the successes of local and indigenous initiatives, creates opportunities and platforms to share knowledge and good practice; informs policy to foster an enabling environment for local and indigenous community action; and develops the capacity of local and indigenous initiatives to scale up their impact.

The Equator Initiative works through three modalities:

* The Equator Prize is awarded biennially to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. As local and indigenous groups across the world chart a path towards sustainable development, the Equator Prize shines a spotlight on their efforts by honoring them on an international stage.
* Equator Dialogues are an ongoing series of community-driven meetings and exchanges, held in conjunction with related international forums. Equator Dialogues provide opportunities for people to share experiences, develop capacities and influence policy.
* Equator Knowledge is a research, documentation and learning program focused on local best practice in sustainable development. The Equator Initiative works with partners to identify, document, and analyze the success factors of local best practice, and to catalyze ongoing peer-to-peer learning, knowledge exchange and replication of best practice.

Since the Equator Initiative was founded in 2002, it has supported 245 Equator Prize winners from 81 countries, during 10 Equator Prize cycles. As the Equator Initiative looks to the next decade, where local nature-based solutions are increasingly important, it is imperative to learn from the past decade, to understand what has worked, and what needs improving, in order to achieve the goals of the Equator Initiative. Dissemination of lessons drawn from the Equator Initiative will inform the next decade of the Equator Initiative. The last evaluation of the Equator Initiative took place in 2010 and this evaluation will cover the decade 2010-2019.

**2. Purpose and Scope of Assignment**

(Concise and detailed description of activities, tasks and responsibilities to be undertaken, including expected travel, if applicable)

Working in close collaboration with Nature for Development Team, the consultant will lead a comprehensive review of the past decade of the Equator Initiative, with a focus on the following areas:

* Impact that the Equator Initiative has had on the recipient communities, including (but not limited) through the award of the Equator Prize, as well as capacity-building and knowledge management efforts.
* Track the impact and consequences of media attention on the winning communities after receiving the Equator Prize, and subsequent contact with government officials and/or other donors.
* Contributions of the Equator Initiative on national policy and global discourse on the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, and nature-based solutions to biodiversity conservation, climate change, and local development, with a particular focus on the CBD.
* Effectiveness of the multi-sector partnership structure

Based on the findings, the evaluator is expected to issue strategic recommendations for the project structure and further development of the Equator Initiative project activities.

The consultant will be expected to liaise with the Nature for Development Programme team, with Equator Prize recipients, and with Equator Initiative partners.

The consultant is expected to participate and lead an inception meeting in New York, followed by virtual communications as a home-based consultant.

**3. Monitoring and Progress Controls**

(Clear description of measurable outputs, milestones, key performance indicators and/or reporting requirements which will enable performance monitoring)

1. Summary of consultations with previous Equator Prize winners
2. Summary of consultations with Equator Initiative partners
3. Summary of consultations with third parties, as appropriate, such as members of the Equator Prize Technical Advisory Committee
4. A prepared evaluation report, highlighting the key findings of the consultations and issuing recommendations based on findings.

Expected duration of the evaluation will be approx. 2 months (approx. 30 working days).

**4. Qualifications and Experience**

(List the required education, work experience, expertise and competencies of the individual contractor. The listed education and experience should correspond with the level at which the contract is offered.)

**a. Education** (Level and area of required and/or preferred education)

* Master’s degree in a field related to environment, anthropology, human rights, or resource management

**b. Work Experience**

(List number of years and area of required work experience. Clearly distinguish between required experience and experience which could be an asset.)

* Minimum of 10 or more years of professional experience in the area of protected areas, sustainable development and/or community-based management of natural resources.
* At least 3 years of experience conducting evaluations of development projects or programmes in environment, social or closely related fields
* Strong knowledge of nature-based solutions to achieve local sustainable development.
* Additional professional experience working with local communities and indigenous peoples is preferred.

**c. Languages**

* Excellent knowledge of English is required
* Fluency in Spanish, French and/or Portuguese is an asset.

**d. Key Competencies**

(Technical knowledge, skills, managerial competencies or other personal competencies relevant to the performance of the assignment. Clearly distinguish between required and desired competencies)

**Strategic Perspective**

Develops and implements sustainable business strategies, thinks long term and externally in order to positively shape the organization. Anticipates and perceives the impact and implications of future decisions and activities on other parts of the organization.

**Integrity & Inclusion**

Treats all individuals with respect; responds sensitively to differences and encourages others to do the same. Upholds organizational and ethical norms. Maintains high standards of trustworthiness. Role model for diversity and inclusion.

**Leading Self and Others**

Acts as a positive role model contributing to the team spirit. Collaborates and supports the development of others. **For people managers only:** Acts as positive leadership role model, motivates, directs and inspires others to succeed, utilizing appropriate leadership styles.

**Partnering**

Demonstrates understanding of the impact of own role on all partners and always puts the end beneficiary first. Builds and maintains strong external relationships and is a competent partner for others (if relevant to the role).

**Results Orientation**

Efficiently establishes an appropriate course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a goal. Actions lead to total task accomplishment through concern for quality in all areas. Sees opportunities and takes the initiative to act on them. Understands that responsible use of resources maximizes our impact on our beneficiaries.

**Agility**

Open to change and flexible in a fast paced environment. Effectively adapts own approach to suit changing circumstances or requirements. Reflects on experiences and modifies own behavior. Performance is consistent, even under pressure. Always pursues continuous improvements.

**Solution Focused**

Evaluates data and courses of action to reach logical, pragmatic decisions. Takes an unbiased, rational approach with calculated risks. Applies innovation and creativity to problem-solving.

**Effective communication**

Expresses ideas or facts in a clear, concise and open manner. Communication indicates a consideration for the feelings and needs of others. Actively listens and proactively shares knowledge. Handles conflict effectively, by overcoming differences of opinion and finding common ground.

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| Project Authority (Name/Title):      | Contract holder (Name/Title):      |
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| Signature | Date | Signature | Date |