

Request for Proposals
Legal Consultant – Legal protections for the Tapajós
May 2024

About International Rivers

International Rivers envisions a world in which healthy rivers and the rights of local communities are valued and protected. Since 1985, International Rivers has been at the heart of the global struggle to protect rivers and the rights of communities that depend on them. Armed with on the ground evidence and cutting-edge research, International Rivers mobilizes civil society and communities to advocate for improved river basin governance, transparent and accountable energy infrastructure, and human rights.

Consultancy purpose and background

The Tapajós River has faced increasing threats from deforestation, industrial development, and infrastructure projects, including hydroelectric dams and mining operations. These activities disrupt the river's natural flow and ecosystem and infringe upon the rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities who rely on it for their livelihoods. Recognizing the urgency to protect the Tapajós River and uphold the rights of its ecosystems and communities, there's a growing call for legal mechanisms to safeguard its integrity.

International Rivers is seeking a legal consultant to produce a comprehensive legal analysis report outlining the legal strategy for the protection of the Tapajós River. The purpose of this work is to analyze the legal framework in Brazil to identify avenues for achieving the permanent legal protection of stretches of the river. This will include an assessment of legal tools, including constitutional provisions, litigation and decisions; national, state and local laws, international agreements, conservation areas, and Indigenous territories. It will also entail presenting to and consulting with stakeholders including legal experts, civil society, and relevant authorities, and integrating feedback into the report.

Consultant location: Remote, preferably from Brazil.

Application deadline: May 25, 2024

Start date: As soon as possible.

Duration of consultancy: June 1, 2024 - December 30, 2024

Reporting: The consultant will report to International Rivers' Latin America Manager and work closely with the Director of Programs and Brazil Manager.

Deliverables

A comprehensive report, in English, detailing the legal analysis, key findings, and recommendations for the protection of the Tapajós River. The report should detail specific strategies, approaches, and likely activities to attain legal safeguards.

The report should focus primarily on: 1) what legislation would be required to deliver effective legal protection for designated stretches of the Tapajós River; 2) the prospects and likelihood of succeeding in

being granted a recognition of the intrinsic rights of the Tapajos River; and 3) other mechanisms for securing effective protections for rivers, such as FPIC requirements, Indigenous land ownership, water rights, and protected areas.

Qualifications, skills and experience

- At least 5 years' of relevant experience, including legal expertise related to Brazilian and international environmental law
- Excellent writing ability in English and Portuguese
- Experience working in Brazil

Competencies

- Well-organized, ability to produce detailed reports
- Flexibility to work across different time zones and to tight deadlines

Fee:

A fee up to US \$15,000 will be paid for this project (including VAT if applicable). Prospective candidates should submit a financial proposal with expected hourly or daily fee and breakdown of project costs along with their application.

How to apply

Interested applicants are required to submit the following:

- A letter of interest including: CV/resume
- Your fixed fee/hourly or daily rate (including taxes if applicable), including a breakdown of costs.

To apply, email your proposal to jobpost@internationalrivers.org with the subject line Legal Consultant – Tapajos

For further information please contact Monti Aguirre at monti@internationalrivers.org.