

Background of this search:

The Climate and Sustainable Development Sector (CSD) is looking for an environmental economist with a background in forest conservation in Latin America. Largely driven by the expansion of commercial agriculture, deforestation remains a pressing problem in the region. Between 2015 and 2020, South America lost almost 3 million hectares of forest per year, the second-highest total for any of the world's regions (FAO 2020). Forest degradation is also an urgent problem. An estimated 240 million hectares of tropical forest in LAC is in a critical state of degradation (Armenteras et al. 2016). Forest loss and degradation contribute to a host of local and global environmental problems including soil erosion and loss of hydrological and provisioning services (Chomitz 2007), biodiversity loss (Gibson et al. 2011), and emissions of a sizable share of LAC's total greenhouse gas emissions (Baccini et al. 2012; Harris et al. 2012).

The team's mission:

CSD advises Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Management on climate change and sustainable development issues and develops overall Bank policies, strategies, operational guidelines and programs in these areas. It is also responsible for conducting relevant sector research, analytical work, best sector practices and case studies on climate change and sustainability and provides specialized technical sector support to climate change and sustainability related operations and activities. |

What you'll do:

The consultant will

- Work closely with IDB specialists in CSD front office and RND to evaluate the efficacy of Bolivia's new 'environmental cadaster' (established in conjunction with a recent IDB operation BO-L1234) that will not only define property boundaries but also the land uses and regulatory restrictions inside these boundaries.
- Help to design and implement a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to evaluate the environmental cadaster.
- Help to design and implement a baseline survey.
- Help to analyze the data from the impact evaluation.
- Help to write a high quality publication to be published as an IDB Working Paper and submitted to an international peer reviewed journal
- Help to write a non-technical policy brief focused on the implications of the impact evaluation for policymakers
- Actively participate in a network of scholars and practitioners focused on climate and disaster risk management policy by engaging in the discussion and providing feedback on research questions and knowledge gaps, methodological issues and policy implications.

What you'll need:

Citizenship:

- You are a citizen of one of our 48-member countries.

Consanguinity:

- You have no family members (up to fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including spouse) working at the IDB Group.

Education:

- Ph.D. in Economics, Public Policy or a related field. Over ten years of relevant experience in Latin American and Caribbean contexts

Experience:

- At least ten years of high-level professional experience as a senior researcher.

Languages:

- Fluency in English and Spanish is preferred.

Core and Technical Competencies:

- Areas of specific expertise: (a) environmental economics; (b) large-scale RCTs; (c) land use change; (d) LAC environmental policy.
- Skills: (a) familiarity with academic and gray literature, (b) excellent communication skills, both written and oral; (c) proven ability to communicate complex concepts and prepare reports that are clear, concise and meaningful; (d) ability to apply theory to the specific policy context to identify creative, practical approaches to overcome challenging situations.

Opportunity Summary:

- Type of contract and modality: Products and External Services (PEC) consultancy
- Length of contract: 36 months
- Starting date: To be determined.
- Location: remote
- Responsible person: Allen Blackman (CSD/CSD)
- Requirements: You must be a citizen of one of the [IDB's 48 member countries](#) and have no family members currently working at the IDB Group.

Deliverables and Payments Timeline:

| Deliverables | Percentage | Planned date to submit |
|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| Work plan for meeting consultancy's objectives | 10 | 15 days after signing contract |
| Report #1: Impact eval. design and data compilation | 15 | December 1, 2025 |
| Baseline survey data base | 10 | December 1, 2026 |
| Report #2: Data analysis | 20 | December 1, 2027 |
| IDB Working Paper | 40 | December 1, 2027 |
| IDB Policy Brief | 5 | December 1, 2027 |

Our culture: Our people are committed and passionate about improving lives in Latin-America and the Caribbean, and they get to do what they love in a diverse, collaborative and stimulating work environment. We are the first Latin American and Caribbean development institution to be awarded the EDGE certification, recognizing our strong commitment to gender equality. As an employee you can be part of internal resource groups that connect our diverse community around common interests.

Because we are committed to providing equal opportunities in employment, we embrace all diversity and encourage women, the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities, afro-descendants, and indigenous people to apply.

About us: At the IDB, we're committed to improving lives. Since 1959, we've been a leading source of long-term financing for economic, social, and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. We do more than lending though. We partner with our 48-member countries to provide Latin America and the Caribbean with cutting-edge research about relevant development issues, policy advice to inform their decisions, and technical assistance to improve on the planning and execution of projects. For this, we need people who not only have the right skills, but also are passionate about improving lives.

Our team in Human Resources carefully reviews all applications.