

SERVIR West Africa: 3 project positions

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Colleagues at the IRI have been invited to work with TetraTech on a proposal for SERVIR West Africa project, to be funded through USAID West Africa. TetraTech needs to identify some well-qualified and potentially interested candidates for 3 project positions (see below) before they will move ahead with an expression of interest.

The project will invest substantially in AGRHYMET's capacity — on issues that I consider quite relevant, and complementary to things that CCAFS is working on. From the Request for Task Order Proposals: "SERVIR/WA will increase the ability of AGRHYMET Regional Centre, the technical arm of CILSS, and other institutions in the region ... to apply geospatial technologies and analyses to improve the resilience of the region to the impacts of climate change and ensure land use management is sustainable and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The initial phase of activities will focus on institutions in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Niger, coordinated by AGRHYMET to cover both Sahelian and coastal issues and engage countries with varying levels of capacity. Over time, based on performance, and additional funds from USAID or others, activities will expand to additional institutions in other countries across West Africa, in line with CILSS's mandate."

1 Chief of Party

The Chief of Party (COP), based at AGRHYMET headquarters in Niamey, Niger, will be responsible for the technical leadership and administrative oversight of SERVIR/WA and will serve as the principal institutional liaison to USAID. He /she will, and his/her counterpart, represent the hub in regional and wider contexts and be responsible for the hub's activities. He/she, working with his/her counterpart, is responsible for ensuring development and implementation of the sustainability roadmap for SERVIR/WA. The COP will have the following minimum qualifications:

- Ten years of professional experience in managing scientific/technical projects, in progressively more responsible posts. The projects managed will have included the production of new scientific tools to meet client needs and requirements. Management includes the development of work plans and control of budgets.
- A graduate degree (Master's Degree or higher) in a field of study relevant to SERVIR/WA, such as GIS/Geography, natural resources management, climate change, sustainable development, or international development.
- Proven ability to communicate, coordinate, and effectively work with diverse stakeholders, including senior government officials, and including in regard to politically sensitive topics.
- Proven ability to develop and communicate a common vision among diverse partners and the ability to lead multi-disciplinary teams.
- Proven success in building a client base and partnerships, including with the private sector, strongly desired.

- Strong communication skills, both interpersonal and written, to fulfill the diverse technical and managerial requirements of the program and to effectively coordinate with a wide range of regional stakeholders. Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and French.
- Knowledge of USAID policies and procedures as related to program management preferred. Knowledge of the political, social, cultural, environmental, and development context of Africa based on the ground experience.

2 Science & Data Lead

The Science & Data Lead, based at the AGRHYMET headquarters in Niamey, Niger, working closely with his/her counterpart, will be the principal technical expert in the hub and the primary technical contact with the NASA science team. He or she will have primary operational responsibility for the achievement of IR 3, developing new high quality user-tailored data, tools, applications, and models to address on-the-ground priorities, and for the data sharing components of IR 2. This position will be phased out after year 3. The Science Applications Lead will have the following minimum qualifications:

- At least a Master's level degree in GIS, Remote Sensing, Geography, Natural Resource Management, or other field relevant to this position
- At least seven years of experience in developing user or client driven geospatial tools, or applications, including modeling, database management and data quality control Project management experience focused on geospatial or other science based tools desired
- Familiarity with proprietary and open source software for spatial analysis and data management Proven record of productive engagement and collaboration with scientists
- Proven record of productive engagement with government stakeholders or other clients/users of geospatial tools and applications
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and French.

3 User Engagement Lead

The User Engagement Lead is responsible for ensuring that user consultation and participation are integrated across SERVIR activities. This position, based at AGRHYMET headquarters in Niamey, Niger, will work closely with the Science and Data Lead, as well as with technical staff working on specific products, tools, trainings, and events, to ensure that necessary user engagement activities are planned and that the right mix of skills are in place for engaging users effectively. He or she will have primary responsibility for developing approaches and templates that guide systematic user engagement as well as working closely with other key personnel to define roles and responsibilities for completing user engagement tasks. The position will be responsible for ensuring that all SERVIR activities: a) systematically identify stakeholders and assess their needs; b) develop user engagement strategies to ensure stakeholder involvement up front, in design and prototyping, and in uptake and maintenance; and c) regularly contribute information to the user database and other knowledge management tools related to user engagement and outreach. This position will be phased out after year 3. The User Engagement Lead will have the following minimum qualifications:

- At least a Master's level degree in International Development, Sustainable Development, Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Adult Education, or other field related to this position.
- At least seven years of experience in international development approaches relevant to this position, including engaging with various users of geospatial applications including policy
- Ability to identify relevant collaboration partners within and outside the institution; maintain existing linkages and effectively communicate with stakeholders on different levels.
- Proven record of productive engagement with government institutions, NGOs, and scientists. Knowledge of the political, social, cultural, environmental and development context of the Africa.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and French.

Counterpart Personnel

The project will be co-implemented by the contractor and members of the consortium of project partners led by AGRHYMET, the composition of which is discussed in details in Section C. Therefore, in addition to the key and non-key personnel directly hired and managed by the contractor, the offer or should include in its proposal the following personnel that will be designated by the project partners' institutions.

- i. 1 Project Focal Point at CILSS who will dedicate 10% of his/her time to the project;
- ii. 1 Project Coordinator at AGRHYMET who will be the Deputy to the COP of the contactor's team, and will dedicate 70-80% of his/her time to the project;
- iii. 1 senior level expert from AGRHYMET who will be the Counterpart of the Science and Data Lead of the contactor's team, and will dedicate 70-80% of his/her time to the project;
- iv. 1 senior level expert from AGRHYMET who will be the Counterpart of the User Engagement Lead of the contactor's team, and will dedicate 70-80% of his/her time to the project; and
- v. 2 senior level experts from CERGIS, CSE, and and RECTAS, each, who will dedicate 50% of their time to the project.