

# **BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PROGRAM**

## **REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS No. 2009-2/PO**

### **Cover Letter**

OCTOBER 28, 2009

The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP), a program of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the IFC, and several donors, is seeking grant applications for projects that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity of global significance within palm oil agricultural landscapes by reducing the negative impacts of palm oil production and commercialization and promoting biodiversity-friendly production, demand, and commercialization of sustainable palm oil.

Grants awarded in response to this Request for Grant Applications (RFA) will fall within the strategic directions outlined in the BACP Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil, which is part of this RFA and is available for download from the BACP website ([www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net)). BACP has already awarded grants to projects dealing with improving the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil's biodiversity Principles and Criteria, testing methodologies for High Conservation Value Assessments, testing Better Management Practices, and policy formulation and reform in Indonesia. Descriptions of the projects being implemented by current BACP grantees can be found at [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net).

In this cycle of applications, BACP is particularly interested in projects that 1) compliment the work already being undertaken by BACP grantees, or 2) address the issues identified in the Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil under Component 3 (Support increased demand for products with more positive biodiversity impacts) and Component 4 (Encourage the development of financial services to support biodiversity friendly practices). Unless otherwise amended, BACP will only evaluate proposals for projects to be implemented in the BACP target countries of Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea under this RFA

Interested and eligible applicants are requested to submit a project proposal following the guidelines and submission instructions provided in the BACP Implementation Procedures Manual, posted on [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net). The BACP evaluation committee will review all project proposals. Applicants whose project proposals best 1) respond to the goals of the BACP and the Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil, and 2) fulfil the Project Selection Criteria as outlined in the BACP Implementation Procedures Manual, will be invited to enter a phase of negotiation towards signing a Grant Agreement. Others will receive an explanation of the reasons why they have not been selected.

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This RFA will be in effect from the date of publication, October 28, 2009, to December 31, 2010 and applicants are encouraged to submit their project proposals at any time during this period. For planning purposes, it is requested that proposals be preceded by an email notifying the evaluation committee of your intention to submit a proposal *no less than* one month prior to your submission. Proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis, but must be submitted before December 31, 2010.

This RFA package consists of this cover letter and the following documents:

1. Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil
2. BACP Implementation Procedures Manual
3. Template for Submission of Proposed Project M&E Plan
4. Template for Submission of Proposed Project Budget

All proposals must be submitted electronically only to the following email address: [bacppmu@chemonics.com](mailto:bacppmu@chemonics.com). Proposals **must** be submitted in English.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute a grant award commitment on the part of the BACP, nor does it commit the BACP to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a grant application. Final award of any resultant grant cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed.

This RFA may be amended at any time from October 28, 2009 to December 31, 2010. All amendments will be made public through e-mail announcements and postings on [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net).

Any questions concerning this RFA should be submitted by email only to [bacppmu@chemonics.com](mailto:bacppmu@chemonics.com) and should reference the RFA number (2009-2/PO). All questions must be submitted in English.

**— End of RFA Cover Letter —**