**Technical justification for the “*Fundação Amazonas Sustentável”* to provide services to develop PES guidelines for the Amazon**

The services being sought are for outstanding, internationally-recognized, quality technical expertise in the design, implementation and monitoring of payments for ecosystem services (PES) to develop PES schemes tailored to the Amazon Region from an independent institute of international standing with a strong work record in the Region. The institute will be contracted to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the *Bolsa Floresta* PES program (BFP) and to develop, disseminate and promote a stepwise tested approach for design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PES schemes through a robust set of guiding tools and a multi-stakeholder and consensus-based process, for use in LAC.

The BFP is currently the largest public-private financed PES program in the world. This program benefits over 38,000 people within more than ten million hectares within 15 of 42 State Protected Areas. Since 2008, the program is managed by the *Fundação Amazonas Sustentável* (FAS), an internationally recognized non-profit nongovernmental organization, founded in 2007. Investments undertaken by FAS foster the avoidance of deforestation and the improvement of living standards of traditional populations by supporting sustainable local productive businesses, leadership, capacity building, local association’s empowerment and Protected Areas’ management.[[1]](#footnote-1) The institute has experience of significant worth in pioneering REDD operations and conservation projects in the Amazon, as well as South-South cooperation with countries in Africa, Asia and LAC to foster REDD-based PES initiatives.

Consequently, the IDB can directly contract *Fundação Amazonas Sustentável* (FAS) for the unique requirements of this consultancy, in accordance with the current policies and procedures, because it is the only organization qualified and has experience of exceptional worth for the assignment demonstrated by: (a) extensive and in-depth experience in designing and implementing the largest public-private funded PES scheme in the Amazon and the world; (b) extensive expertise, with highly-qualified team of (internal and external) experts in PES who will be directly involved in this project; (c) stakeholder-driven approach; and (d) demonstrated experience in building a broad network of collaborators and partnerships with the governments (local, state and federal), private companies, universities and international organizations, as well as operational experience in initiatives fostering south-south cooperation. In addition, FAS has participated in an initial evaluation of the *Bolsa Floresta* Program and therefore it is specially positioned to further collaborate in an in-depth independent evaluation as foreseen in this TC.

As such, FAS is uniquely qualified to perform the activities to be undertaken under this TC, making a competitive selection process inefficient and costly to contract the services needed.

1. Further information can be accessed at <http://www.amazonfund.gov.br/FundoAmazonia/fam/site_en/Esquerdo/Projetos/Lista_Projetos/FAS> and at <http://www.amazonfund.gov.br/FundoAmazonia/fam/site_en/Esquerdo/Projetos/Maiores_Informacoes/FAS>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)