

Call for Proposals: Global Synthesis on the True Value of Forests

The Wyss Academy (WA) is looking for a dedicated partner to support us with the harvesting, sensemaking, and reporting on one of our key projects in 2024: the Wyss Academy Dialogues with Purpose (WAD) on the true value of forests.

Introduction and background

The Wyss Academy Dialogues with Purpose

The WA is committed to becoming a recognized actor for its innovative, open-minded, and engaging approach to policy dialogue, involving all WA units and offering horizontal and vertical knowledge exchange on pressing policy issues for just nature-people relations. Central to achieving this vision are the Wyss Academy Dialogues with Purpose (WAD), a series of events that facilitates open, evidence-based discussions on pivotal issues at the intersection of biodiversity, climate change, and land use. These dialogues not only aim to enhance the scalability of innovative solutions and establish new global norms but also to emphasize the importance of context-specific solutions in addressing global challenges. By engaging a diverse array of stakeholders from various sectors, the WAD seeks to cultivate a rich environment for collaboration, integrating a wide range of perspectives into the development of actionable strategies for sustainable development and conservation efforts worldwide.

Why the True Value of Forests

Forests play a critical role in the functioning of Earth's ecosystems and offer a vast array of economic, environmental, social, cultural, and spiritual benefits and values. Yet, despite their significance, the benefits derived from sustainable management and conservation of forests are often undervalued compared to short-term gains from their exploitation and destruction.

To address this issue, various schemes and mechanisms have been developed to assign a value to certain services provided by forests, such as carbon sequestration and storage through carbon markets at international level, but also payment systems for environmental services (willingness to pay by agricultural stakeholders) provided by forests in the water cycle at regional and national level. However, there remains a significant need for more operational, innovative, and sustainable schemes that can effectively assign a direct value to the diverse range of services provided by forests and integrate them into mainstream markets, value chains, and policy.

Given the paramount importance of forests for climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and human well-being, the WA is actively engaged in research and on-the-ground initiatives to assess and promote the value of standing forests as a fundamental element of sustainable development and a just human-nature relationship.

The WA works with diverse actors and stakeholders to identify, develop, and implement innovative and sustainable schemes that assign a direct monetary value to forests and promote their true value as an essential component of positive, transformational, and systemic socio-environmental change in how we value and treat forests.

About the Synthesis Project

The global synthesis within the WAD plays a crucial role, assimilating insights from regional dialogues into a comprehensive, actionable narrative that shapes the agenda for a global dialogue. This synthesis not only ensures the integration of a wide range of perspectives and knowledge but also sets the foundation for informed, strategic actions towards sustainable environmental stewardship.

This process involves identifying common challenges, innovative solutions, and opportunities for strategic partnerships highlighted throughout the dialogues. The project is instrumental in crafting a unified framework that reflects the multifaceted value of forests, aligning with the WAs mission to foster sustainable interactions between humans and nature. Ultimately, the synthesis project serves as a critical bridge to the global dialogue, poised to unify regional insights into a comprehensive strategy for global forest conservation and sustainable use.

Application Process

To apply for this project, please send your application to sandra.feuz@wyssacademy.org **by the 17th of March**. Please use the following [template](#). We will not be able to consider applications in other formats.

We acknowledge the ambitious scope of this project, especially in terms of the required expertise and language proficiency. If you are keen on applying but do not fully meet these requirements, we urge you to get in touch. We are dedicated to exploring collaborative avenues to facilitate your involvement.

Contacts:

- Sandra Feuz (for questions on the application process).
- Dr. Fiona Stappmanns (for questions around this call and the synthesis report).
- Tatjana von Steiger (for questions on the format of the WADs).

Timeline

Publication of call	21.02.2024
Deadline for submission of proposals	19.03.2024
Presentation of three best offers in online meeting	08.04.2024
Selection of partner	08.04.2024
Regional WAD Latin America	14. - 15.05.2024
Regional WAD Southeast Asia	30. - 31.05.2024
Regional WAD Europe	04.- 05.06.2024
Regional WAD East Africa	13. – 14.06.2024
Deadline for Global Synthesis	Presumably early September 2024, exact date will be decided on jointly.
Global WAD	October/November 2024

Requirements

Applicants for this call must comply with the following requirements:

- Knowledge and experience in valuation of nature and/or approaches to materialize the value of forests.
- Good facilitation and coordination skills.
- Excellent writing skills and proficiency of the English language.
- Working knowledge in the other Hub languages (see below) is a plus.

Tasks

- Project lead for the global synthesis on the true value of forests, including various coordinative tasks, quality assurance, and alignment within the project team and overall project goals. Including, but not only:
 - Coordination with our global and regional partners to organize and conduct the harvesting of the regional and production of regional synthesis reports.
 - Coordination with our Communications team to identify and use synergies and collection and process the content created in the regional WADs.
 - Coordination with the project team to ensure results from the regional WADs feed into the global synthesis.
 - Coordination with the Global Outreach and Synthesis Team to ensure alignment.
- Attendance of all four regional WADs (see below for dates and times).
- Sensemaking of the content created in the regional WADs and co-creation of concept for final knowledge product/global synthesis report.

- Preparation and conduction of a series of workshops and meetings to ensure alignment within the team working on this process.
- Development of a draft for the global synthesis report, including consultation with regional partners and WA team.
- Finalization of global synthesis report to inform, prepare, and feed into the global WAD.
- Support in the preparation of the global WAD.
- Attendance of global WAD.

Deliverables

- Structured harvesting of regional WADs (in collaboration with regional partners)
- Process workshops leading up to the global WAD.
- Presentation of results from global synthesis at global WAD
- Global synthesis report (the format of this report will be co-designed together with our regional partners).

Budget

CHF 80.000

Overview of Regional WADs

Regional Dialogue Latin America

Date: 14th and 15th of May, 2024

Location: Manaus, Brazil

Languages: Spanish, (Portuguese)

Regional Partner: FCDS

Regional Dialogue Southeast Asia

Date: 30th and 31st of May

Location: Thailand TBD

Languages: English

Regional Partner: RECOFTC

Regional Dialogue Europe

Date: 4th and 5th of June

Location: Bern, Switzerland

Languages: German, (Swiss German)

Regional Partner: Cycad, Amt für Wald und Naturgefahren (AWN)

Regional Dialogue East Africa

Date: 13th and 14th of June, however, around 10 days in total should be allowed for international and domestic travel within Madagascar due to local logistical constraints, meaning the travel time is between the 8th and 18th of June.

Location: Maroantsetra, Madagascar

Languages: French, (Malagasy)

Regional Partner: ESSA Fôrets