TERMS OF REFERENCE

Security and risk assessment for operating a hotspot in the Brazilian Amazon
June 2023

SUMMARY

The Freedom Fund (freedomfund.org) is a global non-profit organisation that identifies and invests in the most effective frontline efforts to eradicate human trafficking and exploitation.

The Freedom Fund is seeking to work with a consultant to conduct a security and risk assessment of the Brazilian states of Pará and Amazonas to assess if it is feasible for Freedom Fund to operate a hotspot program through providing support to local partners.

The security and risk assessment will examine the following risks and security measures:

1. Provide an overall risk assessment for the Freedom Fund to operate a program and fund local organisations in the Brazilian states of Pará and Amazonas.
2. Provide a detailed security analysis and mitigation measures of specific pre-determined categories that should be included in the assessment (more on this below).
3. Conduct an actor mapping with associated risks and mitigation efforts, with a special focus on local NGOs and human rights defenders.
4. Include a detailed analysis on the feasibility of the Freedom Fund staff to travel to Pará and Amazonas to conduct project site visits and any safety measures that would need to be in place to promote staff safety while traveling.

ELIGIBILITY

• The Freedom Fund would like to commission a consultant by 19 July 2023.
• Applicants should be based in Brazil or have a colleague who is based in Brazil and able to assist as needed in conducting the security assessment.
• Deep knowledge/understanding of the Brazilian Amazon and its complex issues is essential.
• Experience in conducting security assessments and developing mitigation plans is essential.

DEADLINE

Applications should be submitted to jobs@freedomfund.org with Brazil Security Assessment in the subject line by 7 July 2023.
BACKGROUND ON THE FREEDOM FUND AND OUR HOTSPOT APPROACH

The Freedom Fund identifies and invests in the most effective frontline efforts to eradicate modern slavery in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent. Partnering with investors, governments, anti-slavery organisations and those at risk of exploitation, we tackle the systems that allow slavery to persist and thrive.

The Freedom Fund carries out most of its work through support for multi-year “hotspot” programs, providing support through clusters of civil society organisations. This allows us to concentrate significant resources in geographic areas with high levels of modern slavery, so that we can achieve greater impact. Much of our support focuses on community-based local organisations; we see them as the most effective agents of change, with capacity to deeply understand and challenge the status quo.

When considering new programming, whether it’s exploring a new issue area or geography, the Freedom Fund finds it prudent to conduct security and risk assessments, inclusive of risk mitigation measures, to ensure that a proper understanding of the context has been captured. This allows for better decision making when determining the feasibility of operating in a new location or in addressing a new issue area within the modern slavery landscape.

The security and risk assessments conducted should include detailed information that is reflective of not only high-level statistics or government reports but is also informed and clarified by local voices and experiences. The security and risk assessments are also meant to be tailored to the Freedom Fund’s specific needs and detail out the risks and reasonable mitigation measures related to supporting and funding community-based local organisations. With this focus in mind, assessments should be geographically specific with relevant mitigation measures that can have a local impact.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The use of slave labour to deforest the Amazon is widely documented. Since 1995 more than 56 thousand workers have been rescued from slavery-like conditions in Brazil, nearly half in the Amazon. Deforestation in the region has been increasing rapidly in recent years. Last year alone, the Amazon lost an area of forest equivalent to 1.6 million soccer fields. The deforested areas are often replaced with pasture and farms. But as deforestation increases, suggesting a parallel increase in slave labour, there have been major setbacks to the institutions working for human rights and environmental protection in the region. The change in government may bring about a reversal of those setbacks, but the challenges and scale of exploitation in the region remain enormous.
In the Brazilian Amazon, the Freedom Fund has the opportunity to build a model for combatting slavery while also protecting the rainforest - a model of combined anti-slavery-environmental programming that is increasingly essential around the world. The Freedom Fund has funded scoping studies and solicited input from experts, indigenous communities, and frontline organisations, which have resulted in the identification of three broad goals for a Freedom Fund hotspot:

1. Strengthening civil society to work in defence of traditional and indigenous people and their territories
2. Challenging impunity and ensuring access to rights for rescued workers
3. Increasing transparency and accountability in supply chains sourcing from the Amazon (especially the timber, beef, and leather industries)

The target areas for the hotspot are the zones under the greatest pressure from the advance of the agricultural frontier and deforestation, located in the south of Amazonas and the east and southeast of Pará. These areas have been selected based on the high level of illegal economic activities that drive the destruction of natural resources on which the communities depend, and which force workers into coercive and violent conditions. The hotspot program will focus initially on the following areas:

1. **State of Pará**: The Alto Xingu (São Felix do Xingu, Ourilândia do Norte and Tucumã) and Volta Grande do Xingu Regions, along the transamazon highway and BR 163. The municipalities of São Felix do Xingu and Altamira are areas already known as having the state’s highest number of rescues from slave labour alongside large scale deforestation and cattle ranching. It includes riverside communities around the Belo Monte hydroelectric reservoir, in the municipalities of Altamira and Senador José Porfírio, the settlement in the BR 163 region, and indigenous communities without official recognition of their land located downstream of Belo Monte.

2. **State of Amazonas**: The municipalities of Humaita and Manicoré are areas at an earlier stage of emergence of slave labour alongside extraction of higher value trees (the start of the sequence of logging leading to full deforestation). The federal highways BR230 and BR319 play a special role, increasing access to the forest and serving as the main outlets for livestock and illegally harvested wood. The areas of focus for the hotspot program are the district on the BR230 and BR319 roads, riverside communities on the Madeira River, indigenous communities of indigenous lands in the Trans-Amazonian region and Conservation Units.

**SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY**

**DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES**

The consultant will work with the Freedom Fund to create a tailored, location-based security and risk assessment for the Freedom Fund to operate a program in the Brazilian states of Pará and Amazonas with special details provided on the specific areas noted above.
The assessment may be conducted either locally or remotely by the consultant who should already have detailed knowledge of the area and/or is able to access locally based colleagues to better analyse security concerns and accurately reflect the dynamic and rapidly changing security landscape. The consultant will work in cooperation with the Freedom Fund Program Development Manager.

The assessment should take into account the following categories and include both a summary of risks and mitigation measures as they relate to both the broader context in Brazil, the states of Pará and Amazonas, and the specific areas as identified above:

1. **Political environment**, inclusive of stability of government at both a local and national level and perceived government acceptance or hostility to the Freedom Fund addressing modern day slavery and related environmental issues in the Amazon. The analysis should consider a range of relevant government agencies and institutions.
2. **Crime**, concerns about crime broadly and specific to the geographies stipulated. This is expected to include a mapping of criminal activities existing in each region identified by type of crime, including but not limited to land grabbing, drug trafficking, illegal timber, sex trafficking, among others. Potential engagement of government authorities in criminal networks (e.g., mayors or secretaries engaged in slave labour or environmental crimes) should be considered.
3. **Terrorism and conflict**, including land conflicts and terrorist work of extremist political groups.
4. **Health**
5. **Natural hazards**
6. **Travel**, related to Freedom Fund staff and consultancy travel to and within Pará and Amazonas, and inclusive of risks of violence and conflicts in local territories.
7. **Safeguarding**, related to the structures that support or challenge safeguarding of communities and potential project participants. Risks related to threats to leaders and NGO partners should be considered. Public or private stakeholders with opposing interests to the program should be identified. Risks of infiltrated personnel (“double agents”) should be considered.
8. **Legal and Financial**, as it relates to the ability of the Freedom Fund to provide funds to local organisations and for local organisations to both receive and use foreign funds, and the ability of local partners to operate. Should include potential sanctions from banking institutions, uncommon inspections by government agencies, costs of defence against defamation or criminalization of FF and local partner NGOs,
9. **Technology**, related to both digital privacy and infrastructure, i.e., access and stability of internet or other telecommunications. Areas of high risk due to lack of or poor communications should be mapped. The analysis should include potential online threats, harassment and political persecution, among others.

The assessment report should provide a broad overall risk assessment and summary, as well as detailed information on the categories listed above, including risk levels, potential impacts on the Freedom Fund’s work and mitigation measures. Furthermore, the report should include an actor mapping that captures both risks and mitigation actions for relevant stakeholders such as
government, NGOs, UN agencies, grassroots organisations, and local communities, as well as programs/services available, including programs to protect human right defenders, witnesses and survivors. The assessment should be developed in English and take into consideration the Freedom Fund nature of work, knowledge of the field, and possible threats with associated mitigation measures for each category. Risks to Freedom Fund’s reputation and potential retaliation to staff and local NGOs should be part of the analysis.

Any other details to be incorporated in the risk assessments will be prior discussed with the Freedom Fund Program Development Manager.

**SCHEDULE**

The consultant should provide the following specific deliverables according to the schedule below, unless otherwise agreed with Freedom Fund in writing.

- A first draft of the risk assessment will be shared with the Freedom Fund for feedback by **18 August 2023**.
- A final draft, inclusive of Freedom Fund feedback, will be submitted by **31 August 2023**.

**BUDGET**

Applicants should provide the rate for delivery of a draft and final security report as part of their application.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Informal queries relating to the consultancy should be submitted to Hannah Elliott at the following address: helliott@freedomfund.org

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE:**

- A cover letter outlining relevant skills and experience.
- Up-to-date CVs of the team.
- Estimated number of days and daily rate to complete the consultancy.
- A sample of a security assessment you have developed in the past (if applicable).
- A suggested work-plan for development submission of the security assessment.
- All documents must be written in English and submitted electronically in Microsoft Word or PDF form.
TIMELINE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- 21st June 2023: Circulation of consultancy opportunity
- 7th July 2023: Deadline for submission of applications for the consultancy. Applications should be submitted to jobs@freedomfund.org with Brazil Security Assessment in the subject line.
- 10th July 2023: Shortlisted applicants will be notified and contacted for interview.
- 19th July 2023: Contract signed with selected applicant.