



ESMC/ESMRC Ecosystem Services Market Protocols and Standards Manager Position Description

Location: Remote, minimal travel expected

Position term: Annual Contract Basis

Required: Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume, along with salary requirements and possible start date to info@ecosystemservicesmarket.org. Position is open until filled.

ESMC/ESMRC Background Information

The Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) is a member-driven consortium working with partners and collaborators across the agricultural supply chain and value chain to build a technologically advanced ecosystem services market to reward and incentivize farmers for beneficial impacts of sustainable agricultural systems. The research arm of the consortium – known as the Ecosystem Services Market Research Consortium, or “ESMRC” – is investing in critical R&D for a cost-effective and scalable approach to farmer and rancher engagement in ecosystem service markets, an approach needed to scale the beneficial impacts of sustainable practice adoption on working agricultural lands. The ESMC, aided by the ESMRC, will meet corporate and societal needs by quantifying, monitoring, and verifying the environmental benefits achieved on an annual and ongoing basis. Four ESMRC Working Groups have been established and tasked with developing and implementing specific research and development initiatives. The Working Groups, co-led by ESMC members and informed by Science Advisors chosen from a slate of national experts, will focus on the research, development, demonstration and deployment of cost-effective, scalable technologies and investments to launch the fully functioning market.

SUMMARY OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Protocol Maintenance, Refinement.** Work as ESMC and ESMRC lead responsible for protocol maintenance and refinement and conformance with relevant standards and guidance; and ensure ESMC project and program conformance with protocols. Position will provide support during ESMC 2022 market launch and provide continued support as ESMC program continues to expand. This will include working to develop new market program protocols and refine and maintain existing protocols as needed, for all ESMC credits or assets generated or in development. Ensure clear and accurate documentation of ESMC protocols and requirements are developed and maintained for program users.
- **Standards and Guidance Engagement and Expertise.** Work with external standards and guidance bodies and organizations to ensure ESMC protocols meet established standards and guidance as necessary. Work with these same organizations to advocate for pragmatic and beneficial improvements and enhancements to standards and guidance as reflected by the work of ESMC/ESMRC and its members and stakeholders, including via pilot projects. Ensure successful validation, verification/certification of protocols, projects and outcomes.

- **ESMC Team Member.** Work in a team environment with ESMC and ESMRC staff and members, working groups and other stakeholders as necessary to aid in accomplishing goals and objectives of ESMC's market program and operations and its research program that serves as an innovation pipeline to continuously improve ESMC's market program for ecosystem services from the agricultural sector. This may include variable assignments as necessary to assist with core project duties and responsibilities and ensure tracking and reporting of all ESMRC project deliverables.

POSITION DUTIES

Protocol Maintenance, Refinement

- Serve as ESMC Team Lead to adapt protocols or develop new protocol modules as necessary; to refine and maintain existing protocols as necessary; and to ensure clear, concise and accurate documentation of protocols and requirements are developed and maintained for program users.
- Serve as ESMC Team Lead to coordinate with Protocol Team consultants.
- Incorporate new or emerging technologies invested in, tested and/or developed through ESMRC into protocols and through the validation and verification process.
- Plan, schedule and lead bi-weekly ESMC Protocol Team Calls.
- Provide support to ESMRC Protocol Strike Team and Verification Strike Team and other relevant Working Group and Strike Teams as appropriate for protocol adaptations.

Standards and Guidance Engagement and Expertise

- Work with and monitor activities of external standards and guidance bodies and organizations to remain abreast of standards and guidance relevant to ESMC and ESMRC programs and operations to ensure the success and continued growth and relevance of ESMC and ESMRC
- Ensure ESMC protocols meet established standards and guidance as necessary and appropriate.
- Serve as ESMC Team lead in engagements with Gold Standard and SustainCERT, ESMC/ESMRC's current partners validating ESMRC program, protocols and project approach and verifying ESMC/ESMRC projects
- Ensures ESMC outputs conform to reporting practices and business requirements of member buyers
- Coordinate with ESMC/ESMRC and Protocol Team as necessary to lead and complete all validation and verification and all associated processes to be conducted by Gold Standard/SustainCERT, global carbon offset and ecosystem service asset certification bodies. Gold Standard/SustainCERT will continue to certify ESMC Protocols for Scope 3 at the Program and Pilot levels, and Scope 3 corporate GHG reporting requirements and outputs.
- Actively engage with external standards and guidance bodies on behalf of ESMC and ESMRC to advocate for relevance, scalability, cost-effectiveness and pragmatism for activities relevant to the agricultural sector, and to promote beneficial improvements and enhancements to standards and guidance as reflected by the work of ESMC/ESMRC and its members and stakeholders, including via pilot projects.

Program Conformance with Protocols

- Ensure core elements of ESMC programs and projects conform to ESMC protocols.
- Support pilot project and market project activities by working with project leads, including to ensure projects and training and program materials conform with protocols, validation, verification and certification.

- Strategize on design and positioning of ESMC's protocol/market program relative to external developments, challenges and opportunities.

General ESMC/ESMRC Support

- Contribute to relevant development of ESMC's business case and cost analysis of using third parties for market program accreditation.
- Participate in member, stakeholder and external engagement and education on ESMC protocols.
- Support relevant ESMC/ESMRC grant development and reporting requirements, including contributing to drafting grant proposals and reports; and providing technical input for grant reports.
- Support relevant presentations and publications of results and outcomes for topic areas reflected in roles and responsibilities.
- Assume additional relevant roles and responsibilities as necessary to achieve the success of ESMC and ESMRC.

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- Graduate degrees in Ecosystem Management and Administration or Ecosystem Science and Sustainability or equivalent
- 3 years working in food supply chains, agricultural auditing/quality management systems/standards, producer technical assistance provision, regenerative agriculture, grant writing/management/administration, and oversight of staff/remote contractors
- Demonstrated familiarity with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria.
- Demonstrated high productivity/efficiency; prior start-up experience and entrepreneurial mindset
- Demonstrated excellent written and communication skills for both internal and external audiences