



Funding Opportunities

hiforSM

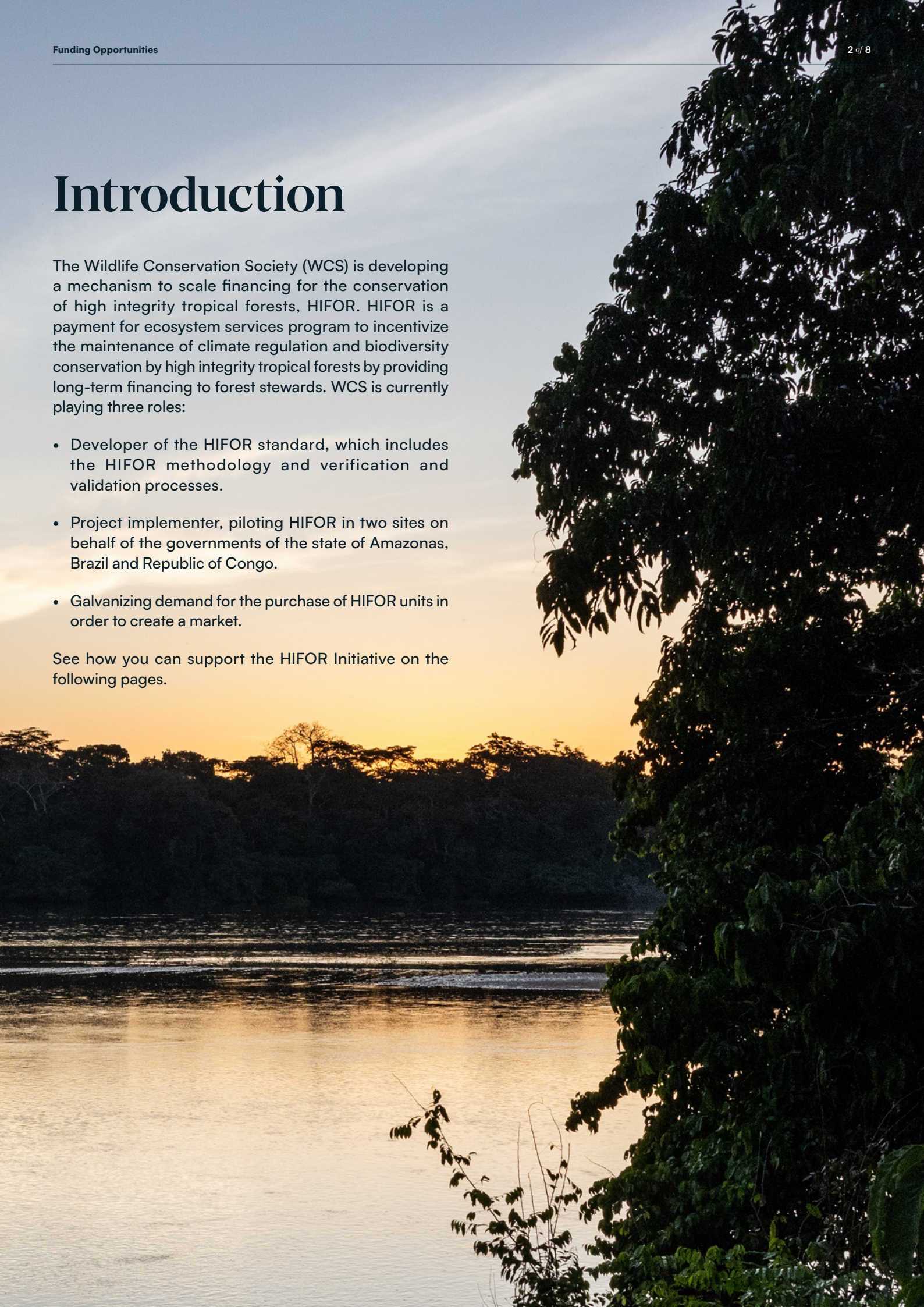
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Introduction

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is developing a mechanism to scale financing for the conservation of high integrity tropical forests, HIFOR. HIFOR is a payment for ecosystem services program to incentivize the maintenance of climate regulation and biodiversity conservation by high integrity tropical forests by providing long-term financing to forest stewards. WCS is currently playing three roles:

- Developer of the HIFOR standard, which includes the HIFOR methodology and verification and validation processes.
- Project implementer, piloting HIFOR in two sites on behalf of the governments of the state of Amazonas, Brazil and Republic of Congo.
- Galvanizing demand for the purchase of HIFOR units in order to create a market.

See how you can support the HIFOR Initiative on the following pages.



Donor Role

1

Development of HIFOR Indigenous Peoples pilot: \$750,000

WCS is in the process of identifying a HIFOR pilot with Indigenous communities. Project preparation requires funding to support the technical and legal work as well as robust stakeholder engagement. Community consultations are a key aspect of this pilot to ensure the pilot is co-developed. We will include partner organizations in this effort.

2

Build out of demand-side work with the private sector: \$200,000

WCS is in the process of building out the business case for HIFOR. To date we have built initial inroads with the broader finance sector that understands the importance of financing HIFOR areas to mitigate global climate and biodiversity risk.

In addition to solidifying the market potential for HIFOR with the finance industry, we have identified four industries that provide core opportunities to scale HIFOR demand: insurance, banking, investment (including pensions and sovereign wealth funds), and pharmaceuticals.

Over the course of the next year, we propose to build out the business case for HIFOR with the aforementioned sectors. This includes:

- Sponsor and present at key conferences.
- Webinars (quarterly) and in person meetings.
- White paper on the business case for the finance sector investing in HIFOR as a risk management/mitigation strategy to address climate change and biodiversity loss.



Market Actor

3

Direct purchase of ex post and/or ex ante HIFOR units

WCS is currently developing two pilots in Amazonas, Brazil and Republic of Congo which will both have HIFOR units for sale. Purchase of the sale of HIFOR units provides the opportunity to make claims to meet voluntary standards (e.g., SBTi, TNFD, etc.).

4

Co-development of innovative finance mechanisms

Financing the long-term conservation of high integrity tropical forests can take many forms. Public or private sector bonds, blended finance, debt for nature swaps, and other innovative finance mechanisms provide an opportunity to work together to develop something new.



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