

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**  
**ACTIVITIES 2.3.3.2.1: DEVELOP AND PILOT PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION ON WETLAND CONSERVATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE USE IN THUA THIEN HUE**

<b>Assignment</b>	Develop and pilot program on communication engagement and participation on wetland conservation and sustainable use in Thua Thien Hue
<b>Position:</b>	National Consultancy Firm
<b>Number of position required:</b>	01
<b>Duty location</b>	Thua Thien Hue Province
<b>Project code and title:</b>	00088048/Conservation of Critical Wetland Protected Areas and Linked Landscapes
<b>Duration of assignment:</b>	June 2018 to December 2018
<b>Reporting to:</b>	PMU/ISPONRE, DONRE TTH, DARD TTH

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Project “Conservation of Critical Wetland Protected Areas and Linked Landscapes” (Wetland Project) is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), being implemented in 4 years from 2015 to 2018. The project was approved under the Decision No. 1131/QĐ-TTg dated July 09, 2014 by the Prime Minister of Viet Nam and Decision No. 837/QĐ-BTNMT dated April 13, 2015 by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam. The Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) is assigned as the National Implementing Partner; the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) is assigned the role of Co-Implementing Partner; and two pilot provinces were selected for project implementation activities - Thua Thien Hue (TTH) Province and Thai Binh (TB) Province.

The project’s immediate objective is “*to establish new wetland Protected Areas and create capacities for their effective management to mitigate existing and emerging threats from connected landscapes*”. The project tries to achieve this by strengthening systemic, institutional and operational capacity for effective wetlands biodiversity management in Viet Nam nationally and at provincial level at selected sites, with a major thrust to strengthen national and provincial capacities for planning, administering and managing Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs). Two WPAs - Tam Giang - Cau Hai (TG-CH) WPA, TTH Province, and Thai Thuy (TT) WPA, TB Province will be established with support of the project.

This consultancy assignment aims to *Develop and pilot programs on community engagement and participation in wetland conservation and sustainable use in Thua Thien Hue province* to achieve the Output 2.3: “*Reduced threats to biodiversity from local livelihoods*”. The main focus of the Output 2.3 is to initiate planning for and demonstration of approaches to reduce the direct and indirect threats to the unique wetlands biodiversity of the proposed TT WPA and TG-CH WPA arising from activities associated with local livelihoods.

## **II. BACK GROUND**

In Thua Thien Hue province, the Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon, with its physical characteristics creates brackish aquatic ecosystems with a diversity of natural resources, supporting the livelihood of a large fishing community in the communes surrounding the lagoon. More than 300,000 people, or nearly 30% of the provincial population, live around the lagoon, and their livelihoods predominantly depend on the lagoon resources<sup>1</sup>, their main income coming from fishing and aquaculture. Agriculture is another important part of livelihood on the lands surrounding the lagoon as well as in the wider landscape.

Over the past decades, the provincial authorities as well as the local authorities of five districts around the lagoon have conducted various interventions to reduce the threats from human activities to the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the TG-CH lagoon. The project on Integrated Management Of Lagoon Activities (IMOLA) has significantly contributed to the protection of TG-CH lagoon ecosystems and natural resources through providing different kind of support in term of implementation a variety of (alternative) livelihoods models and providing financial and technical assistance to the community in the TG-CH lagoon. The Fisheries Associations at provincial and commune levels have demonstrated their role in fisheries management by mobilising local community participation on fisheries protection and sustainable exploitation of the lagoon. The introduction of the community-based co-management approach in the management of natural resources in the area has brought initial positive results in wetland conservation. The establishment of a fisheries associations and self-management teams is considered as an appropriate solution for sustainable management of fishery resources in the lagoon.

At the same time, the biodiversity of the lagoon remains declining in recent decades, specifically the variety of species and their population numbers, especially waterfowl, migratory birds and wild fish. The main reasons for the threats to and degradation of the lagoon’s ecosystems and biodiversity as identified by the project studies include the indirect pressures (i.e. natural disaster, climate change, alterations in salinity) and direct pressures (i.e. environmental pollution from sources within the lagoon and the wider landscape, overexploitation of natural resources in the lagoon, expansion of agriculture (rice fields) and aquaculture (ponds and cages), industrial and infrastructure development, urbanization and tourism expansion, etc.). While many of the pressures are regulated by developments in the wider landscape, also the economic activities of the local community

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<sup>1</sup> Tuan, T. H., Van Xuan, M., Nam, D., & Navrud, S. (2009). Valuing direct use values of wetlands: A case study of Tam Giang–Cau Hai lagoon wetland in Vietnam. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 52(2), 102-112.

living in the vicinity of the lagoon have significantly contributed to the degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

The Wetland project is now supporting TTH province to establish the TG-CH WPA in line with the regulations as stated in the Biodiversity Law 2008. The Conservation Area Establishment Project (“Profile”), describing the biodiversity conservation purposes of the WPA, zoning, management and implementation arrangements, etc., will be submitted to the TTH Provincial People’s Committee (PPC) for approval in June 2018. To date, the draft profile for establishing the TG-CH WPA has identified the spatial zoning for the TG-CH WPA, including the proposed core zone of 2,090.35 hectares based on three existing zones including O Lau, Con Te – Ru Cha and 23 Aquaculture Conservation Areas in Quang Dien, Phong Dien, Phu Vang, Phu Loc and Huong Tra districts. Within the proposed core zone, the strict protection zone covers 834.8 ha, in Quang Thai commune (Quang Dien district) and Huong Phong commune (Huong Tra district) as well as the 23 existing Aquaculture Conservation Areas in five districts. During the development of the Profile, the local communities have been closely involved in agreeing to the zonation of the WCA and the anticipated uses of natural resources to be permitted in the different zones.

In support of the formal establishment of the TG-CH WPA, and to assure its sustainable operation and development in the long term, the Wetland project has been collaborating with relevant TTH authorities at the provincial and district levels to address the threats to the lagoon that arise directly from the local peoples as well as from the linked landscape. At provincial and district levels, the project is collaborating with DONRE, DPI as well as the People’s Committees of five districts around the lagoon to mainstream wetland conservation and sustainable use into planning documents, including the adjusted Land Use Planning of TTH province to 2020, the Master Plan for Development of TG-CH lagoon, relevant District Land Use plans, as well as planning processes for Huong river basin management.

At community level, a key strategy for reducing the negative impacts of local economic activities on wetlands will be through greater voluntary community engagement and participation in actual wetlands conservation and sustainable use. Currently, the project is supporting the TTH Agriculture Extension Center under DARD TTH in applying suggested alternative, more biodiversity-friendly, income generation models in five districts around the lagoon. This activity aims to contribute to reducing the threats in the proposed TG-CH WPA through providing increased and stable income for households whose current unsustainable livelihood activities will be directly impacted by the establishment of the TG-CH WCA.

At the same time, the Wetland Project recognizes the need for strengthening the awareness, interests and capacity on wetland conservation and sustainable use in the wider community of the TG-CH lagoon, through mobilizing the community involvement/participation in conservation of the lagoon wetland system.

As such, the project is seeking for a national consultancy firm to develop and pilot program for strengthening community engagement and participation in wetland conservation and sustainable use in 5 districts around the TG-CH lagoon.

### **III. OBJECTIVES**

Develop and pilot the program for strengthening community engagement and participation in wetland conservation and management, to improve the awareness of community members, specifically land and natural resources users, women and youth, and mobilize their involvement in wetland conservation as well as to ensure reduced pressures on wetland biodiversity from local activities in the TG-CH WPA in the long term.

### **IV. SCOPE OF WORK**

#### ***1) Design community participation program***

- Prepare the Inception Report that describes the consultant's understanding, methodology and detailed work plan of the assignment, including the description of the specific tasks for each team member.

- Review past, currently ongoing and planned programs/projects related to (wetlands) conservation and sustainable natural resources use in Viet Nam in general and in Thua Thien Hue province in particular, assess the activities implemented, results/achievements and impacts, and remaining gaps, observed challenges and lessons learned regarding the effectiveness of engaging local citizens and households in such programs/projects.

- Design the community participation program for the community surrounding the proposed TG-CH WPA in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including DONRE, DARD, LWWG, the authorities of five districts around the lagoon (Huong Tra, Phu Loc, Phu Vang, Phong Dien and Quang Dien) and representatives of key community associations such as the Fishing Association, Farming Association and Women's Union. The design program should include but not limited to:

- Identify appropriate areas and timing to conduct a pilot community participation program.
- Identify the relevant stakeholders' role (including a range of direct and indirect partners) during piloting the community participation program.
- Propose a coordination and collaboration mechanism from provincial to district and commune levels (co-management mechanism and commune based management), taking into account the specific focus and engagement of women and youth in the pilot program.
- Develop the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework with SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Relevant and Time-bound). The M&E framework and tools should not be too complex to apply, ensure accountability, transparency and objectivity, in support of informing the project, its

stakeholders and relevant decision makers at provincial, district and commune level about the impact of the program.

- Estimate the budget for implementation of the community participation program.
- Prepare a detailed implementation plan of the program.

- Work with the Wetlands Project PMU and DONRE TTH province to conduct consultations with relevant stakeholders on the proposed program, and finalize the program after consultation.

## ***2) Pilot the implementation of the program on community engagement and participation in wetland conservation and management***

- Work with the PMU and DONRE TTH , select the target audiences to participate in the community engagement program based on their commitments/engagement

- Conduct the program according to the detailed implementation plan, ensuring the participation of different stakeholders/associations in the area.

- Provide technical support during the pilot implementation process; assess the impacts of the program in term of threat reduction to the TG-CH lagoon.

- In collaboration with DONRE/DARD and the project team, conduct the M&E during the pilot implementation; assess the impacts of the program in term of threat reduction on ecosystems and biodiversity in the TG-CH lagoon.

- Regular reporting to the PMU on the progress in implementation of the pilot program.

- Develop a Final Report of lessons learnt and assessment of the impacts of the program in term of threat reduction to wetlands biodiversity in the TG-CH lagoon, including recommendations for expanding and upscaling the successful implementation of pilot activities and their embedding into WPA operations in the long term.

## **V. EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

1. Inception Report including proposed methodology, detailed work plan, division of responsibilities and time table as well as agreed Table of Contents for the Final Report.

2. Designed community participation program with detailed implementation plan and budget to strengthen community engagement and participation through implementation of the pilot program

3. Guide the implementation of the pilot program in line with the detailed implementation plan and approved budget, targeting ensuring positive impacts to reduce threats to wetlands biodiversity in the TG-CH lagoon.

4. Progress report following the M&E framework and agreed SMART indicators.

5. Final Report of lessons learnt and assessment of the impacts of the program in term of threat reduction to wetlands biodiversity in the TG-CH lagoon, including recommendations for expanding and upscaling the successful implementation of pilot activities and their embedding into WPA operations in the long term.

All reports to be submitted in Vietnamese and English.

## **VI. REPORTING AND TIMING**

The consultancy will be implemented from June 2018 to December 2018. The reporting requirements are as follows:

1. Inception Report with detailed work plan, including anticipated missions, as well as proposed methodology and an agreed Table of Contents for the Final Report, no later than 10 days after signing of the contract.

2. Designed community participation program with detailed implementation plan (June 2018).

3. Progress report on results of implementation of the pilot program, following the M&E framework and selected indicator (October 2018)

4. Consolidated Final Report on implementation of the program, including progress in indicator M&E and the assessment of the impacts of the program in term of threat reduction to the TG-CH lagoon (December 2018).

## **VII. PAYMENT METHOD AND SCHEDULE**

Payment method is TTR. Payment schedule is as follows:

1. Payment of 20% contract value within 07 days after acceptance of the Inception report.

2. Payment of 20% of the contract value within 07 days after acceptance of the designed community engagement program.

3. Payment of 20% of the contract value within 07 days after submitting the progress report on implementation results and M&E report.

4. Payment of 20% of the contract value within 7 days after receiving the draft consolidated report.

5. Payment of 20% of contract value within 07 days after appraisal the achievement of the program and receive the final consolidated report.

Issuing of any payment is subject to any deliverables being formally accepted by the Wetland project PMU and UNDP. The detailed payment schedule and conditions will be finalized in the Consultancy contract.

## **VIII. REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS**

The consultation firm has to have extensive experience in the environmental and biological field as well as expertise in conducting the activities related to the development, appraisal writing and implementing of awareness raising in the field of biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam, preferably related to wetland conservation and/or Protected Areas. In particular, the firm has to:

- meet requirements of the Law on Tendering No. 43/2013/QH13 dated Nov 26, 2013 (Article 5 - Validity of the bidder);

- have a minimum of 5 years experiences working in the field of environment and/or wetland conservation and livelihood implementation.
- have implemented at least 2 projects/assignments related to the design and implementation of community engagement and participation in relation to livelihood interventions in rural areas; specific experiences with wetland areas is preferable.
- be able to mobilize a team of experts/consultants in the fields of biodiversity, community capacity building, socio-economy and rural livelihoods, others as needed.
- preferably have an established working relations with authorities, scientists, NGOs & CBOs in TTH Province.

Individual team members proposed by the firm for implementing this assignment should comply with the following requirements:

- At least 5 years of experiences (at least 10 years for the Team Leader) in the related fields.
- At least a Master degree in the field of proposed assignment and role in the project.
- Good writing, oral and graphic communication skills in both Vietnamese and English.