Terms of Reference

For consultant services

Baseline Assessment Consultancy
for Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and Consumption in Sekong and Salavan Provinces
for Carbon and Biodiversity Phase II (CarBi II) project

Supervised by: WWF-Laos Programme Manager – Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade
Work location: Remotely and field assessment in Salavan and Sekong Provinces
Duration: 2 months (January and February 2021)

WWF-Laos, November 2020
1 BACKGROUND

The CarBi II project is implemented by WWF through KfW financial support, and part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. This is one of the priority conservation programmes in the Central Annamites Landscape, which holds one of the biggest contiguous natural forests in continental Asia, constituting a reservoir of rich and unique biodiversity. The landscape is home to many endemic species including the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), large antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*), Truong Son muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsonensis*), Owston’s civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*), crested argus (*Rheinardia ocellata*), Annamite striped rabbit (*Nesolagus timminsi*), as well as other species of high conservation value including gibbons (*Nomascus annamensis*), red and grey shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix spp*) and several pheasants (*Lophura spp*). The landscape as a whole contains 134 mammal species and over 500 species of birds. The Central Annamites is included as part of the Annamite Range Moist Forests, one of the Global 200 Ecoregions which have been identified as the most crucial areas for conservation of global biodiversity (Olson & Dinerstein, 1998). Within the Indochina region it is recognized as being an important biodiversity corridor containing multiple Key Biodiversity Areas within the CarBi II target areas of Xe Sap Protected Area covering Saravan and Sekong Provinces of Laos.

CarBi II will be implemented over a 6-year period (2019 – 2024) by WWF-Vietnam and WWF-Laos. Key partners of the project in Laos are the provincial Departments of Agriculture and Forestry (PAFO), Forest Protection Departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF), communities of participating districts of around 24 villages in three districts Samouay, Ta Oi in Saravan province, and Kaleum in Sekong province.

Although the Central Annamites and specifically the CarBi II landscape are characterized by high biodiversity, it is also under high anthropogenic pressures, predominantly due to large scale legal and illegal forest conversion, logging and poaching which have reduced the population sizes of the region’s most important threatened and endemic taxa. Communities of villages adjacent to and inside protected areas are also not organized to manage their forests and concomitant natural resources, and there is also insufficient participation in decision making processes regarding natural resource management which impact directly on their socio-economic well-being.

**CarBi II is aimed at addressing the following intervention strategies:**

1. Effectively expand the protected area network, establish specialised Forest Ranger patrol capacity on the Laos side and continue to grow the value offered by the Viet Nam Forest Guards, conduct cutting edge biodiversity monitoring and data management systems, scaling up of conservation best practice lessons learnt, and policy transformation.

2. Enhance the capacities of local stakeholders to implement national policies and international regulations on illegal wildlife and timber trade, support multi-agency law enforcement interventions, promote trans boundary cooperation to reduce illegal wildlife trade, conduct demand reduction and consumer behaviour change interventions to disrupt the bushmeat supply chain.

3. Increase effective community engagement in sustainable natural resource management and protection through the establishment and capitalisation of Village Development Funds and
Biodiversity Conservation Agreements in priority villages, supported through a fit-for-purpose livelihoods enhancement strategy and implementation support, a robust community awareness raising and behaviour change approach, as well as the strengthening of Volunteer Community Groups.

4. Develop sustainable financing mechanisms and promote lessons learnt to key decision makers, with specific focus on the development and piloting of a Biodiversity Offsetting regime, and enhancing the Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) and benefit sharing system in Viet Nam, and the piloting of a Payment for Forest Environmental Services scheme in Xesap NPA.

The Illegal Wildlife Trade in Lao PDR

Lao PDR acts as a source, consumer, and conduit for the illegal wildlife trade (IWT), and therefore represents an opportunity for addressing the illegal trade on all these fronts. IWT is driving a rapid decline and even extinction of key species throughout the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), and is arguably the most pressing driver of biodiversity loss in the region. WWF Laos IWT country program and the CarBi II project funded by KfW, aim to combat the illegal wildlife trade in and around the Central Annamites Provinces of Sekong and Salavan.

By understanding the current situation of the wildlife trade and consumption patterns in Sekong and Salavan province, WWF-Laos and concerned government partners will be better informed to identify and implement strategies to address the issue and enforce the law.

WWF Laos is seeking the services of an **IWT Baseline Assessment and Consumption consultant** to determine the extent and nature of IWT and consumption in Sekong and Salavan Provinces, with possible expansion areas into neighbouring provinces (Attapeu, Champasak and Savannakhet) subject to intelligence gathered of the IWT trade.

The information gathered will then be developed into a database on IWT in the study area, which not only serves as an important reference source for the project’s output indicators as well as its mid-term and final evaluations, but also aims to support related agencies to better understand the current IWT and consumption/demand situation and support enforcement of the relevant laws.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- To comprehensively understand the extent and nature of current wildlife trade and consumption in the Carbi2 XeSap landscape project area of Sekong and Salavan Province, with a specific understanding of the following:
  - Understanding of trade routes, supply chain dynamics, major stakeholders and key locations for interventions by enforcement agencies.
  - Identifying locations where illegal wildlife is traded and/or wildlife products are sold for consumption. This will require an intensive inspection of an appropriate sample of all restaurants, markets, traditional medicine shops, bars, hotels, and pet shops in each of the 2 target provinces.
  - In addition to identifying the retail sales outlets (restaurants, market stalls, folk medicine shops), the consultant(s) to identify the transportation modes these wildlife, parts and products are moved from Xe Sap to the retail locations, and the middlemen involved in
driving the supply chain, so law enforcement interventions could be made on these key nodes.

- The report will also differentiate between supply chains for local and urban consumption.
- Separation of the IWT being supplied from Xe Sap/CarBi landscape by the type of products - e.g. wild meat, folk medicine, ornamental products, and live "pets", and ensure that the assessment explicitly covers the supply chain of different types of wildlife parts/products.
- For the wild meat trade, surveying the adjacent provinces to confirm if the supply of wildlife is coming from Xe Sap. Conversely determine if the wild meat trade has also been imported into Sekong and Salavan province.
- For the medicinal products trade (monkey bones, civet meat, bear gall bladders, serow hooves, pangolin scales, etc.), determine if the IWT supply chain is likely to go beyond the two adjacent provinces, into other urban centres of Savannakhet, Pakse and Attapeu, and across the border to Viet Nam.
- For the live "pet" trade (monkey young ones, song-birds, etc.), additionally confirm if the retail markets and consumer base of the IWT supply chain is likely to extend across the border in Thailand or Viet Nam
- Violations are to be reported to a wildlife crime database initiating immediate law enforcement responses in cases where live animals and other violations are detected.
- For clarification: ‘Wildlife’ in this ToR assessment encompasses mammals, birds and reptiles (and not amphibians, fish and plants).

The above forms the minimum outputs required of the Baseline assessment report. Additionally, the final report submitted to WWF-Laos will include entire results of the IWT baseline assessment data (including all raw data and evidences) and recommendations.

**Methodology selection criteria:**

- In accordance to the donor’s procurement requirements, the selection of the winning consultant will be based on 80% Technical proposal, competencies and related experiences, and 20% Cost/Price comparison.

**3 EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- IWT Baseline Assessment Report and recommendations
- Develop a user friendly wildlife crime data/information template which will be populated with the baseline information/data and provided to concerned law enforcement authorities to take the required enforcement action.

**4 DELIVERABLES & TIMELINES**

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<td>During the interview stage, shortlisted candidates will be invited for a detailed discussion of the consultancy, following which, the candidate will be given the opportunity to resubmit a detailed assessment plan, methodology and cost of the assignment for final assessment by WWF.</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
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Completion of a Baseline report of current IWT market assessment and inspection of establishments of all kinds, identifying trade routes, supply chain and locations where trade and consumption of illegal wildlife is prevalent. Including consumption patterns of residence of Sekong and Salavan urban centres.

Additionally, inform concerned law enforcement authorities to take action on identified violations using the user-friendly wildlife crime statistics template.

By 1 March 2021

5 WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Internal

• The consultant will report technically and contractually to the WWF-Laos Programme Manager – Combatting IWT
• Other relevant technical support and input will be provided by the Carbi II implementation project team members (IWT Project Officer and Landscape Manager).

External

• Work with all partners especially Government authorities at Central, provincial and district levels, namely the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI), Lao-WEN and their respective provincial counterparts, and other government stakeholders as needed.

6 REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

• Bachelor’s degree in biodiversity/environmental related law enforcement or equivalent, and proven work experience in wildlife law enforcement and/or Species identification and research.
• Successful track record of at least 5 years in Law enforcement, demonstrated IWT baseline assessment experience, and the proven capacity to conduct the required activities based on the specified methodology as per the TOR effectively, efficiently and within the given timelines in the targeted provinces.
• Familiarity with Laos and lao language an advantage.
• Excellent written and spoken English.
• The consultant must have a successful and proven track record in reducing illegal wildlife trade and consumption in Laos or South East Asia
• The consultant must have demonstrated previous experience in working closely with the relevant law enforcement and government departments such as DOFI, POFI, Environmental Police, Anti-money laundering unit (AMLIO), within a framework of cooperation and strong
trust

**General requirements**

- The consultant needs to cooperate with and support the participation of WWF staff in the study, where and when required.
- The consultant needs to provide updates regarding the study progress when requested by WWF.
- The consultant must submit their study work-plan, including methodology, sample sizes, timelines etc., for WWF’s consent before the study may commence.
- Adhere to WWF’s values: Knowledgeable, Optimistic, Determined and Engaging;

Interested consultants should apply by sending the following in English language to parry.sanixay@wwf.org.la

- Preliminary research plan, including timelines;
- Proposed budget, including any reference of excluded costs (i.e. transportation, accommodation, interpretation);
- At least 2 reference letters from previous similar contracts.
- Cover letter and CV

Applicants are requested to mention the name of the position applied for in the email subject. Please note only shortlisted applications will be contacted for further detailed discussion on the assignment.

**Closing date: 13 December 2020**