TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for the drafting of an integrated Livelihood Strategy for CarBi 2 villages in Saravan and Sekong provinces

1. Background

The Carbon and Biodiversity Project phase II (CarBi II) is implemented by WWF through KfW, 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 (CAL), which holds one of the biggest contiguous natural forests in continental Asia, constituting a reservoir of rich and unique biodiversity. The CAL 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 gibbon (*Nomascus annamenis*), 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 birds.

The CAL 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 Saravan and Sekong Provinces.

CarBi II will be implemented over a 5-year period (2019 – 2024) by WWF-Vietnam and Laos. Key partners of the project in Laos are the Department of Forestry (DOF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAFO), Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO) of Saravan and Sekong.

Although the CAL 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 significantly reduced the population sizes of the region’s most important threatened and endemic taxa. Communities of
Buffer zone villages of protected areas (National Park and Nature Reserves) are also not well-organized to manage their allocated 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.

In the coming time, the project will continue to extend its engagement with the key stakeholders to contribute to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity in the project domain. The main Outputs are: (1) Protected area network is expanded and effectively protected; (2) Capacities of local agencies to implement national policies and international regulations on illegal wildlife and timber trade, including CITES are enhanced; (3) Community engagement in sustainable natural resource management and protection has increased; and (4) Sustainable financing mechanisms are developed and promoted to key decision makers.

It’s strongly believed that the promotion of sustainable agriculture-based and forest conservation orientated livelihood interventions are necessary to generate alternative livelihood opportunities, while decreasing incentives for unsustainable and illegal exploitation of natural resources. These interventions will also be a catalyst for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity in the project area.

CarBi II will also conduct a structured Village Development Fund (VDF) strategy in selected villages which are negatively impacting on XeSap National Protected Areas (NPA), and also support prioritised interventions for improving selected CFMs’ capacity and management. CarBi II has thus adopted a strong multi-pronged community engagement programme which is aimed at providing impacted communities with feasible alternative livelihood opportunities, sustainably.

2. Aim of Consultancy

CarBi II is seeking an accomplished and highly motivated livelihood consultancy to develop a livelihood strategy and action plan that will provide a clear roadmap with pilot models which will promote sustainable livelihoods in tandem with the establishment of Village Development Funds (VDFs), linked to forest and wildlife conservation, forest restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources in the project area, including an impact monitoring framework.

3. Objectives
Conduct a comprehensive review of the current livelihood situation in the CarBi II project area, with specific focus on the target villages in Kaleum District of Sekong and Ta Oi and Samouay Districts of Saravan province. This should include an in-depth assessment of applicable livelihood models, with its respective strengths and achievements, as well as weaknesses and failures, and lessons learnt.

Conduct a desktop study of all recent livelihood related studies in and adjacent to the CarBi project area in the CAL.

Based on the above two Objectives, identify appropriate feasible livelihood models which fit local conditions, meet communities’ capacities as well as market needs, for CarBi II’s consideration.

Develop a CarBi II Livelihood Strategy and Action Plan with proposed alternative sustainable livelihood models, including a robust M&E system for impact monitoring.

4. Scope of work

Conduct a comprehensive review of the current livelihood situation in the CarBi II project area to get a clear understanding of the effectiveness of different livelihood strategies and the impacts on the respective communities.

- Study/review the CarBi II ESMF report to ensure appropriate alignment with the proposed livelihood strategy.
- Review available information/data and reports of relevant organizations and institutions based on previously conducted alternative livelihood models as well as feasibility studies.
- Comprehensive assessment of strengths and achievements, as well as weaknesses and non-achievements and lessons learnt.
- Create socio-economic profile for the CarBi II target villages (population demographics, livelihood assets, distance to district centre, income sources and ranking, food-security status, House hold wealth ranking etc.).
- Assess available resources (human, knowledge, level of interest/motivation to participate, financial, natural, land use options available)
- Review capacities and capacity-gaps

Conduct a detailed and structured village consultation process to establish a list of feasible alternative livelihood options for target villages and ensure villagers participation in a proposed livelihood strategy, ensuring equitable participation from the whole spectrum.
of community members, including vulnerable groups from a gender, age, educational status, etc. point of view.

- What are traditional livelihood practices can be potential of livelihood improvement at both households and community level
- Do local residents understand why alternative livelihoods are inevitable?
- What livelihood options do local people currently practice?
- Which protocols were followed? Any success or failure? What lessons were learnt?
- What are the preferred livelihood options which worked best for them, and which are potential alternatives which they would want to pursue, and why?
- What specific support would they require to make these options work sustainably?
- What support do they currently get, and from who? Is it helping them well?

- Propose feasible livelihood strategy to apply in CarBi II villages with clear recommendations and proposed action planning, including a robust M&E system.

  - Reinforce and develop communities’ capacity, livelihood assets, and resources toward enhanced resiliences. Particularly, capacity gaps and enhancement of their access to employment/self-employment will be addressed
  - Potential sustainable and fit for purpose livelihood models proposed, also based on market research for potential products and a value chain assessment, with an outline of action planning, including a robust impact M&E system. The proposed models should also be proposed based on the following analysis:

    - Value Chain evaluation
    - Market links’ feasibility
    - Cost-profit assessment
    - Technology transfer feasibility (community capacity and service providers’ availability/capacity)
    - Scalability feasibility
    - The level of feasibility should be indicated for final selection purposes (high, medium, low)
    - Proposed production scope for each model/product (community, group of households, Cooperation?)
    - What are the long term prospects for sustainability beyond project end?
5. Outputs

- A comprehensive review report of the current livelihood situation in the CarBi II project area, including an analysis of achievements and strengths, weaknesses and non-achievements, lessons learnt of implemented livelihood models, as well as recent livelihood feasibility studies conducted in the area.

- Structured village consultation process

- Proposed feasible livelihood models and outline of a proposed plan of action

- One consultative workshop

- CarBi II’s Livelihood Strategy and Action Plan, including an M&E Protocol

6. Deliverables & Timelines

The consultancy will start on 16 November 2020 and will end on 15 February 2021 or when all deliverables are approved by responsible managers.

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<th>#</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Estimate Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A comprehensive review report of the current livelihood situation in the CarBi II project area, including an analysis of achievements and strengths, weaknesses and non-achievements, lessons learnt of implemented livelihood models, as well as recent livelihood feasibility studies conducted in the area of each target districts (English and Lao)</td>
<td>30 November 2020</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Structured village consultation process for 24 villages</td>
<td>18 December 2020</td>
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7. Requirements

- Relevant Bachelor degree or higher in related subjects such as socio-economics, sustainable development, etc. Post graduate training in socio-economic development will be advisable.
- At least 10 years of experience and a successful track record in building and operating alternative livelihood strategies, with priority given to consultants who have experience in working with WWF and relevant government partners, especially in Saravan and Sekong provinces.
- Proven experience and track record of success in developing impact monitoring systems, especially in the area of measuring the effectiveness of funding mechanisms in enhancing socio-economic and biodiversity impact.
- Some experience in KFW projects’ village development is advisable.
- Experience in the areas of environmental/resource economics, forestry or conservation services would be advantageous.
- Proven track record of working with local communities, especially in remote and ethnic minority communities.
- Skilled in assessing training needs, and drafting as well as implementation of participatory training programmes.
- Good report writing skills in both English and Lao.
Application submission:

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents to Mrs. Chanhla Nanthavong, Project Procurement committee chanhla.nanthavong@wwf.org.la and khampanh.keovilaysak@wwf.org.la

Application are including of:

- Proposed methodology
- CV of main consultant(s)
- Financial proposal (excluding travel and accommodation costs, which will be covered by WWF)

Deadline for submission: **by October 30, 2020**

Selection criteria:

Methodology selection criteria: the selection of winning bidder will be based on **80% Technical proposal, education degree and related experiences, and 20% Cost/Price comparison.**