



together possible

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Terms of Reference

Pilot-test the WWF Forest Based Diversity Framework

Supervised by : Parry Sanixay – Programme Manager WWF-Laos
Work location : Vientiane Capital, Provincial and remotely
Duration : 20 March – 30 May

Background:

World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF has had a presence in the country since the late 1980s, when it contributed to some of the first biodiversity surveys that established Laos' protected area system. The office in Laos was officially established in 2001. Our main office is in Vientiane Capital, with field offices in Savannakhet, Champassak, Salavan, and Xekong provinces. WWF-Laos works with government, civil society, and the private sector partners to address the threats to biodiversity and to move towards a greener nature-based future.

Our vision for Laos is 'Laos' unique biodiversity, cultural diversity, and ecosystems are maintained or enhanced and contribute to the sustainable development and wellbeing of Laos, the Greater Mekong region, and the planet as a whole.'

WWF-Laos is implementing the WWF network 'Forests For Life (FFL)' programme which aims to help advance biodiversity recovery projects in managed forests. WWF looks to secure new projects through public and private sector organizations that can make considerable investments in activities to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the Forest-based Interventions and Investments pillar of the WWF Forests Forward program. A draft guidance document - A Guide for WWF Staff on Establishing Impactful Production Forest-Based Biodiversity Recovery Projects (draft v December 2021) - has been developed to help WWF staff ensure best possible outcome. The intention is to use the assessments before developing a proper project to be funded by an investing organization within the Forests Forward program.

Before launching the assessment framework actively, the guidance will be pilot tested with three WWF country offices, of which Laos has been chosen, in order to see potential gaps, difficulties, areas of improvement and to be able to estimate time required and if any, what kind of external consultants is needed. The pilots will be used as show cases for coming projects. The intention is to be able to present the pilots as much as possible in a digital way using Arc GIS.



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Objectives of the consultancy:

To pilot test the *A Guide for WWF Staff on Establishing Impactful Production Forest-Based Biodiversity Recovery Projects*, in 3 proposed sites within Khammuan and Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR. The sites are located within the Mekong Timber Plantations (MTP) concession area.

Scope of work:

Conduct the assessment for the location as outlined in *A Guide for WWF Staff on Establishing Impactful Production Forest-Based Biodiversity Recovery Projects draft v December 2022*:

- The assignment includes desk work (collection, processing and analysis of the available relevant information and data), as well as field work and meetings.
- Note: Field work and meetings should be carried out in a cautious manner in view of the pandemic situation of the country and strictly following the “anti-Covid” measures imposed by the national authorities.

Expected outputs:

1. A combined report of data of all parts #1-5 of the framework.
2. Present the data/findings etc, in a report in a table format also including reference articles, data etc. As much as possible data should be collected and analyzed using GIS applications and be shared with WWF as map layers.
3. Comments related to undertaking of the actual assessment, i.e. how much time was needed to do the assessment, who have been involved in the meetings, unclarities in the framework, sticky issues, possible difficulties to get GIS data, from where the data was taken etc.
4. Overall comments on the guidance document.
5. A final project concept based on the findings and data of the assessment
6. A Project proposal Pitch # 8.
7. Presentation of the report and findings to WWF Forests Forward team.

Expected outputs:

Tasks	Key performance indicators
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<p>Prior to field work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Propose methodology and approaches including timeframes, proposed consultation meetings with stakeholders, others;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agreement with WWF-Laos (1 week after contract signing)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Work and consultation Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Document stakeholder consultation with Minutes of Meetings (On-going)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ReportingDraft Report – Submit to WWF-Laos for reviewFinal Report – For review and final endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft Report (Mid May)Final Report (30 May)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation to WWF Forest Forward Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 30 June 2022

Timeframe:

- 2 months from contract signing, with the final report due 30 May and Presentation delivered by 30 June 2022

Required profile:

Required Qualifications

- Minimum Bachelors degree in General Biology, Geography and/or Natural Resources Management related field;
- Preferably also a MSc in forest ecology, biodiversity conservation and forestry, natural resource economics, sustainable land management, ecosystem management or similar.

Required experience, skills and competencies

- Minimum 10 years of experience related to biodiversity/forestry/sustainable land management;
- Previous experience evaluating biodiversity or eco-systems naturalness and potential or related work;
- Understanding of land use legislation and its application in Laos in relation to relations between Government authorities, villagers and concessions;
- Relevant experience in development and implementation of sustainable land management related projects is a great advantage;
- Knowledge of land conservation and management tools, preferably in the area of biodiversity conservation;



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- Awareness and understanding of the relevant land degradation, biodiversity, climate change issues;
- Experience with the use of GIS software;
- High level english proficiency is required – for reporting and presentation to the FFL team.

Application:

Prior to submission of a proposal, interested candidates are strongly advised to contact WWF-Laos for a copy of:

1. *A Guide for WWF Staff on Establishing Impactful Production Forest-Based Biodiversity Recovery Projects* (draft v December 2021) &
2. Site specific information of the proposed locations.

Applications then to be emailed to procurement-laos@wwf.org.la with the following:

1. Preliminary research plan, methodology used, including timelines;
2. The proposed budget, excludes costs related to transportation, accommodation, interpretation;
3. Cover letter and CV.

Closing Date: 13 March 2022

Note:

- Due to the ever-changing travel requirements into Laos, preference will be for consultants currently based in Laos.
- The consultancy can be undertaken by an individual or as a team.