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Terms of Reference

Consultancy for Implementing of Sustainable Rice Production in Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary

I. Background

WWF was established in Cambodia in 1998. WWF's mission in Cambodia is to ensure that there will be strong participation and support from all people to conserve the country's rich biological diversity.

Through its Mekong Flooded Forest (MFF) Landscape Programme, WWF supports conservation actions in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces to halt species extinction, habitat loss, and loss of ecosystem services, and to develop sustainable livelihoods with a limited human footprint.

The Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) in Kratie province protects the endangered and iconic hog deer, among other species, and its survival is threatened by several factors, including habitat loss, poaching, snaring, and illegal wildlife trade

One of the main threats to hog deer in Cambodia is agricultural expansion into protected areas and/or remaining habitat corridors. Grassland areas of the PPWS are favoured by the hog deer, where ongoing conversion to paddyland is a key agricultural driver of habitat loss. Meanwhile, unsustainable and poorly managed use of agrochemicals on existing paddyland is detrimental to surrounding ecosystems which support the hog deer and other species. This consultancy focuses on building the case for more sustainable practices that 1) reduce the pressure to expand rice production area by increasing yields, thereby protecting remaining habitat for hog deer; and 2) fostering better management of agrochemicals to stop harmful runoff into the surrounding area, while identifying the potential to move to organic practices in a step-wise approach.

The first stage of the project, the feasibility study evaluates the development of an environmentally friendly value-chain in PPWS. As the results of feasibility study, rice cultivation is most potential crop production within seven villages (Soab Leur, Sre Popel, Chroy Banteay, Kaeng, Vathanak, Along Preahko, Prek Krieng) in three communes namely Saob, Chroy Banteay and Vattanak commune which located in Prek Prasab and Sambo district within PPWS.

Implementing the **Sustainable Rice Production** model through increasing yield of rice farms and improving livelihoods of farmers could contribute to protection and conservation of biodiversity, especially hog deer and associated species. The findings of this consultancy will contribute to wider landscape-level approaches to sustainable rice and agroecology in WWF-Cambodia landscape programming and analysis of scaling potential.

II. Purpose of the Consultancy

Implementing sustainable rice production strategy for ongoing efforts on habitat protection and biodiversity conservation of the PPWS and surrounding landscape, and evaluating upstream agricultural practices outside PPWS to understand viability of transforming to Ibis-rice production standards with the smallholders in PPWS.

Scope of Work

- Promote Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) model in PPWS and surrounding landscape.
- Establish Producer Group of SRP with 3 target communes, Saob, Chroy Banteay, and Vattanak commune.
- Identify and prioritize challenges in rice production with local communities
- Select key SRP lead-farmers to be representative of each group of SRP trainee-farmers
- Facilitates raising awareness of SRP standard within groups through key farmers
- Provide capacity building on SRP standard and seed to selected farmers and connect farmers with potential buyers for long term value chain.
- Evaluate upstream agricultural practices to review runoff into plots in PPWS, to determine capacity to meet Ibis rice standards.

III. Methodology

The consultant(s) will conduct consultation meetings, prepare demonstration plots, and provide ongoing mentoring and capacity building to SRP lead-farmers and trainee-farmers.

IV. Expected Deliverables:

The consultant(s) is expected to produce the following deliverables:

1- Introduction to SRP to WWF and partners

- Offer an introductory session to WWF team and partners on SRP and other practices (at least 01 day)

2- Introduce SRP to local communities and set up internal control system (at least 250 households)

Design a methodology in consultation with WWF, including, but not limited to (e.g.):

- Promotion of SRP at village level and recruitment of SRP members
- Training (2 days) in farmers' diaries for lead-farmers, in Kratie province
- Facilitation training on farmers' diaries, from lead-farmers to their SRP members (trainee-farmers).
- Monitoring of farmers' diaries completion by lead-farmers to their SRP trainee-farmers.
- SRP internal control system training to key farmer
- Cooperate with WWF to implement wildlife compliance
- Conduct SRP field mapping
- Implementing SRP internal control system

3- Provide training on climate smart techniques following SRP standard

- Alternative Wetting and Drying theoretical and practical training.
- Pre planting technique and establishment method of sowing
- Harvest & post-harvest training

- Land levelling training and establishment demonstration
- Training on cover crop
- Field visits to demonstration sites (2 times/year).
- Assessment data from demonstration
- Provide commercial high quality rice seed to farmers

4- Market Linkage

- Connection between producer groups with potential buyers for long term value chain and sustainable livelihoods.

5- Upstream assessments and run-off

- Review impact of upstream agricultural practices in the target farmers' plots, to determine feasibility of complying with Ibis rice standards

V. Required skills and Competencies:

The Consulting team will consist of the following team members:

- Sustainable Rice Platform Expert: at least 10 years of experience in sustainable rice or environmentally friendly rice production for biodiversity conservation.
- Value Chain Expert: at least 5 years of experience in agriculture value chain including, rice, cashew, cassava and other plantations related to organic or GAP products
- Agriculture Expert: at least 10 years of experience in agriculture techniques provider to Cambodia, especially working with indigenous communities.

Submission requirements

- Qualifications and relevant experience with similar assignments
- Reflections on the Terms of Reference and recommendations on approaches and knowledge products
- Draft work plan showing the suggested timing of carrying out the deliverables
- List of any relevant publications or reports
- 2 samples of previous work that show the expertise and experience of the consultancy team; samples must be the original work of the contractor.
- Financial proposal including detailed budgets for professional fees and reimbursable expenses (if any) for all tasks related to this assignment. Please also indicate whether contractual arrangements would be representative of a firm. Kindly note that there is a preference to contract with firms. No payments will be made outside the contractually agreed budget.
- Contact details for 2 references

Proposals will be assessed on a competitive basis and the one with the best quality versus overall costs will be selected. Any questions or clarifications of a technical nature can be sent to: sadeth.khiev@wwf.org.kh.