



REDD+ Technical Specialist/Consultant

Terms of Reference

Location: Home-based and Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Expected Start Date: March 2021

Expected Delivery Date: December 2021

Language: English

Background

Conservation International (CI) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization that works to spotlight and secure the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity. Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership, and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity. We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature, for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

CI's Cambodia program began in 2001 in recognition of the nation's rich natural capital and the need for nature-based development. Our efforts helped to create the nation's first protected area, the Central Cardamoms Mountains National Park (CCMNP), and have expanded to help create several more protected areas, totaling 9,450 square kilometers. We have improved livelihoods, driven sustainable practices helped communities adapt to climate change and gender equality directly benefiting thousands of Cambodians. We have provided technical assistance to government enforcement and supported management planning at all our project sites. To ensure longevity, we have secured a range of sustainable financing solutions, including conservation trust funds, and are currently establishing a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) project. Our vision is to amplify sustainable financing for nature through a centralized governance structure that improves access to funding and provides a transparent distribution of funding for forest management.

CI and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) wish to certify the Central Cardamoms Mountains National Park (CCMNP) landscape as a REDD+ project under the the Verified Carbon Standards (VCS) and Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCBS). The CCMNP created by sub-decree on 9 May 2016, is the heart of the Cardamom Mountain landscape with 4,010 km² (401,000 ha) of area formally protected as a national park (IUCN Category II) connected to a 1,357 km² (135,700 ha) Biodiversity Corridor. A pre-feasibility assessment of this landscape has determined its suitability as a REDD+ project with significant expected climate, biodiversity, and community benefits. The CCMNP stores an estimated 193 million metric tons of carbon and is a crucial watershed for the Tonle Sap, the largest lake in Southeast Asia. Joint validation and verification submitted for certification latest by December 2021.

Position Overview

The Consultant's primary purpose is to provide technical support and support the

process to successfully validate and verify the CCMNP REDD project under the VCS and CCB Standards. This includes: writing the PD and MIR following the rules and requirements established in VCS and CCBS documents, including but not limited to VCS Standard version 4.0, VCS Program Guide version 4.0, Program Definitions version 4.0, VM0015 version 1, CCB Standards version 3.1, CCB Program Definitions version 3.0, CCB Program version 3.1, and the most updated version of the associated tools. The PDD and MIR should be delivered in English.; supporting the landscape team in the design of and collection of necessary data and information; providing technical direction and collaborate to CI in-house technical units; and leading the validation verification process.

The Consultant will collaborate with a range on internal and external stakeholders, including: CI landscape-based field teams and managers; technical support teams (e.g. GIS/Remote Sensing team); CI Cambodia Management Team; CI's Conservation Finance team; and Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) and the Verra Secretariat.

Position Responsibilities

- Lead the design, collection and analysis of all data and information required to successfully achieve project validation and verification according to the requirements of the VCS, including VM0015 version 1.1, CCB Standards version 3, and Cambodian national nesting rules. Ensure data collection and analysis represents most up-to- date scientific findings and best-practice approaches. This includes, among others:
 - General
 - Collation and analysis of key documentation to provide the necessary insights into the project background, implementation plans and arrangements.
 - Climate
 - Identifying project spatial and temporal boundaries (project zone, accounting area, leakage belts, reference region, crediting period, carbon pools and GHG emission sources)
 - Analysis of agents and drivers of deforestation and underlying causes
 - Demonstrating the project's baseline scenario and additionality arguments
 - Developing the project activity data
 - Determining the project's emission factors
 - Calculating the project's GHG emission reduction over the monitoring period and the potential over the crediting period
 - Community
 - Identification of and consultations with project stakeholders and communities
 - Ensure alignment of project activities and interventions with CCB safeguard requirements and VCS requirements, including FPIC requirements.
 - Identification of baseline and project scenario community impacts
 - Development of project monitoring protocols
 - Biodiversity

- Collate and analyze existing CI biodiversity monitoring data
- Ensure alignment of project activities and interventions with CCB safeguard requirements, including identification HCV areas
- Identification of baseline and project scenario biodiversity impacts
- Confirm alignment of CI monitoring approaches with CCB requirements and provide adjustments if where necessary
- Spend substantial time on site working with partners in CCMNP for consultations/ workshops/ data gathering, and collaborate with and train, where necessary, landscape field teams to collect necessary project data/information and key project monitoring indicators.
- Review or develop the following plans and policies following all the requirements of the relevant CCBS and VCS documents, as required for verification and on-going project implementation, including:
 - AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (VCS),
 - Health and Safety Plan,
 - Equal opportunity policy,
 - Benefit sharing mechanism, and
 - Grievance resolution mechanism
- Gather and organize evidence to demonstrate compliance with standards requirements
- Address any VVB findings and provide support on the accuracy review performed by Verra as part of the registration process.

Deliverables

Key deliverables are listed below. It is recognized that interim deliverables will also be required:

- Detailed project plan identifying tasks, interdependencies, stakeholder responsibilities and milestones/deliverables to achieve submission for validation and verification by December 2021
- Project Document and Monitoring and Implementation Report, using the joint VCS and CCB template
- All supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Standards' requirement, including but not limited to: emission reductions calculation / methodology workbooks, biodiversity and community monitoring plans, AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (VCS), Health and Safety Plan, Equal opportunity policy, Grievance resolution mechanism etc.
- Accompany CI and the VVB for the audit visit; provide support in responding to findings and questions from the VVB, Standards or Registry

Qualifications & Competencies

This consultancy is open to both individuals and firms that meet the following requirements:

- Master's degree in forestry, environmental science, geography, conservation or a related field.
- Prior experience and familiarity with the design and implementation of large, landscape- level forest conservation and rural development projects.
- 6+ years' experience in the assessment, development and implementation of forestry and land-use projects, preferably for the carbon markets under the VCS and CCB Standards.
- Proven track record of successfully developing, validating and verifying REDD+ projects under the VCS and CCBA.
- Strong analytical and writing skills; extreme attentional to detail.
- Professional experience in leading project management and project reporting.
- Demonstrated professional-level fluency in both oral and written English is required.
- Ability to travel to project sites, as required, for extended periods.

Applications

Interested consultant(s) must submit the following documents and information to demonstrate their qualifications, experience and skills:

- CV of each member of the team (if more than one);
- Cover letter demonstrating the individual and/or organization's competencies and experience with similar projects, and any experience in Cambodia;
- A narrative proposal for delivering the services as per this ToR including (1) a draft workplan/timeline for completion of the scope of work; (2) a detailed budget and accompanying budget narrative. The budget should include an overall summary by cost category as well as an activity-based budget for each of the deliverables stated in the section above

Applications must be prepared in English and submitted to info-cicambodia@conservation.org by **10th February, 2021**.

Successful applicants will receive written notice informing that CI intends to engage in further negotiations with respect to a potential contract, during which details of the contract will be discussed including development of detailed work plans.

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Personal qualifications (20 points)
- Experience with similar assignments (20 points)
- Proposal, timeline, and cost (60 points)

Any resultant contract will be subject to the terms and conditions of Conservation International. This is a request for proposal only and does not obligate CI to execute a contract nor does it commit CI to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals.