

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position title:	Protected Areas Management Lead (SA2 Lead), USAID Biodiversity Conservation
Reports to:	Chief of Party, USAID-Viet Nam Biodiversity Conservation
Technically reports to:	Conservation Director, WWF-Vietnam
Supervise:	Technical advisors, relevant consultant
Duration:	3 years
Based in:	Hanoi, Hue, or Tam Ky

I. Background

WWF was one of the first International non-government organizations working in Vietnam. In 1985, WWF began working on a national conservation strategy and since then has worked closely with the Vietnamese Government on a diverse range of environment issues and implemented field activities across the country. Find out more at <http://vietnam.panda.org/>.

WWF recognizes that its employees are its most important asset. A competent workforce, thoroughly trained, properly motivated, and bound together by mutual trust and common objectives is crucial to the success of WWF.

Viet Nam is recognized as one of the world's most biodiverse countries. However, decades of illegal logging, wildlife poaching and trade and agricultural expansion, have led to losses of natural forests and wildlife, and several species are on the brink of extinction. To secure the remaining intact forests and wildlife populations in Vietnam, we need new approaches to address those problems in Special-use Forests (SUF) and Protection Forests (PF) - the backbone of Vietnam's protected forest system.

The USAID Biodiversity Conservation Activity (BCA) is a 5-year project, started in 2020, and aims to maintain and increase forest quality, and protect and stabilize wildlife populations in five high conservation value provinces (Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, TT Hue, and Lam Dong), plus Vu Quang and Cuc Phuong National Parks – in total, 21 protected areas are supported. USAID BCA is the single largest ever investment in biodiversity conservation in Vietnam.

II. Major Functions:

The Protected Areas Management Lead (SA2 Lead) is responsible for the overall technical direction, management, and thought leadership of Strategic Approach 2, including support to provincial team members implementing SA2 activities at the site-level. This role will ensure the integration of SUF/PF forest management, biodiversity monitoring, species conservation, (and law enforcement approaches through close collaboration with the SA3 Lead – Law Enforcement) both within and outside protected forests. The SA2 Lead reports to the Chief of Party, and technically reports to WWF Viet Nam Conservation Director.

The SA2 Lead should have extensive experience in protected areas management – with good knowledge on global best practice, including deployment of law enforcement approaches. The role requires a solid understanding of how to engage communities in biodiversity conservation. The candidate will preferentially understand Vietnamese legal frameworks. The candidate should have at least 10 years of applied work experience in this areas.

III. Major duties & Responsibilities

- Provide overall technical oversight for the SA2 component of USAID BCA, and in close coordination with Provincial Coordinators, and other SA Leads, ensure SA2 activities are delivered according to the approved work plan.
- Design and adapt a program of work that ensures improved Special-use Forest and Protected Forest governance and management including putting into place new or improved Protected Areas Management Plans, capacity assessments and training, and ensuring law enforcement-related inputs (e.g., SMART patrolling) are fully integrated and aligned through close collaboration with SA3 Lead.
- Ensure the delivery of a biodiversity monitoring system (camera trap surveys) in all sites, including high quality analysis to inform decision makers and appropriate management interventions.
- Ensure the delivery of a Species Conservation Fund for high value species including in-situ and for ex-situ approaches.

- Institutionalize formal/informal community co-management models with protected areas and provincial management authorities that contribute to improved conservation outcomes and local community stewardship, and which are supported through sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g., PFES).
- Support IUCN with the process and delivery of certification of at least two Green Listed protected areas within the project domain.
- Lead development of a pilot protected areas performance tracking and reporting system.
- Provide timely input into project documents including quarterly and annual reports, AMELP and annual workplans.
- Identify communications opportunities, and contribute to reviews, learning, adaptation, and reporting by the project as part of the BCA core team.
- Performs other duties as requested by the Chief of Party or his/her designate.

IV. Profile

Qualifications

- Higher degree in conservation-related field or natural resource governance/law enforcement.
- At least 10 years of applied working experience in protected areas management, governance, and law enforcement mechanisms, preferably inside and outside of Vietnam.
- Deep understanding on the application of systems in protected areas planning, protection, performance monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management, (e.g., Sustainable Forest Management Planning (PA), IUCN Green list, SMART, COPS, METT).
- Expertise in development of collaborative management mechanisms for local communities and in mobilizing local communities in forest and wildlife protection activities.
- Experience in the application of safeguards, including FPIC, in relation to protected areas management and law enforcement.
- Experience in rewilding/species reintroductions an advantage (to inform policy/strategy development/advocacy).
- Excellent understanding of Political, Economic, Social, Technology, Legal and Environment (PESTLE) contexts in Viet Nam will be an advantage.

Assets

- Working experience with USAID-funded or WWF projects.
- Working experience in a multi-cultural environment and with international organizations.

Skills and competencies

- Strategic and innovative thinking
- Presentation, communications, public speaking, and negotiation skills
- Networking and interpersonal skills
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Identifies and aligns with the core values of the WWF organization: Courage, Collaboration, Respect & Integrity
- Adheres to WWF's values, which are: Knowledgeable, Optimistic, Determined and Engaging

V. Working Relationship

Internal: Works closely with other SA Leads, Provincial Coordinators and SA managers for protected areas in each province within the USAID project domain; CarBi II Project Director and protected areas and law enforcement staff to ensure cross-collaboration and synergy; Helvetas, to ensure synergy with SA1 work on conservation-friendly enterprises; Social Policy and Safeguards Manager to ensure all PA and Law Enforcement activities comply with the safeguards framework. Works with partnering technical teams from IUCN in the Green Listing process in identified national parks and the ENV team on illegal trade assessments and enforcement activities including engagement with judiciary in the target landscapes. Provides technical input into FFI work in Quang Binh province to ensure project logic is consistent across partners and sites. Provides input, coordination and integration of issues relating to conservation criminology application in coordination with GWC and partners. Provides input into research activities relating to law enforcement effort and impact with IZV

WWF Network: Liaise closely with WWF-US technical staff in Forest and Wildlife as well as the broader WWF Network's Wildlife and Forest leadership including at regional and global levels

External: Works extensively with central and local government partners responsible for protected areas management and law enforcement, including Management Boards, DARD/FPD, Environment Police, and Judiciary. Supports engagement with local communities in buffer zones around target protected areas. Engages with other International NGOs and national CSOs working on protected areas management in Vietnam.

This job description covers the main tasks and conveys the spirit of the sort of tasks that are anticipated proactively from staff. Other tasks may be assigned as necessary according to organizational needs.