

## USAID CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN THE MEKONG DELTA

Hanoi, 4 March 2024

### RECRUIT

<b>Title</b>	<b>Team Leader: Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems</b>
<b>Project</b>	USAID Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta
<b>Deadline for CV submission</b>	22 March, 2024

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Team Leader: Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems will be responsible for technical leadership, management, and oversight of activities under Objective 2 of the USAID Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta (CRM) project.

CRM is a five-year project working to enhance the resilience of the Mekong Delta's communities, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Working across five provinces of Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh, CRM will further strengthen the effective partnership between USAID and the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to support Vietnam's development goals and contribute to U.S. government strategies and targets.

CRM activities are organized within three interconnected objectives and one cross-cutting theme:

- **Objective 1: Strengthen climate change resilience of the most vulnerable populations.** CRM will engage stakeholders to assess and address vulnerability through enhanced climate information services, resilient livelihood and safety net models, improved provincial plans, and increased access to finance.
- **Objective 2: Strengthen management and restoration of natural ecosystems to provide ecosystem goods and services.** CRM will take an inclusive participatory approach to identify entry points to support evidence-based transformation of legal and governance frameworks, improve management capacity, and incentivize natural resource conservation.
- **Objective 3: Reduce methane emissions through low-emission and sustainable agriculture practices.** CRM will work with GVN and stakeholders across value chains to assess gaps and opportunities and harness payment for environmental services schemes and other results-based finance mechanisms to reduce intensive rice farming and GHG emissions and drive transformation through a market systems approach.
- **Cross-cutting focus: Develop and implement policies to advance climate actions and biodiversity conservation.** CRM will also work with GVN and stakeholders to enhance development, harmonization, and implementation of policies, as well as to strengthen national and sub-national coordination. CRM will engage key stakeholders to influence and incentivize policy, practice, and behavior in favor of transformation.

CRM will be implemented during the period of 2023-2028 by Winrock International with a consortium of Vietnamese and international partners. GVN counterparts are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Management Board of Forest Projects.

## **2. POSITION DESCRIPTION**

The Team Leader: Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems will be responsible for the overall technical design, implementation, monitoring, and delivery of Objective 2: “Resilience to climate change strengthened for the most vulnerable communities.” This position will supervise Objective 2 staff and partners while working closely with additional cross-cutting team members (GESI, MEL, communications, other objective staff). The Objective 2 Lead will coordinate with the other Team Leaders and provincial teams, monitor on-the-ground performance, coordinate with government and partner organizations, ensure the achievements of results under Objective 2. The Team Leader will serve as a key representative of the project at external meetings and events related to coastal ecosystem protection and restoration, protected area management, and related topics.

Objective 2 is expected to focus on two key outcomes of (1) enhanced protected area management and expanded coverage, and (2) increased area of critical ecosystems and biodiversity conserved outside of protected areas. The Objective’s targets will be related to indicators including, but not limited to:

- Hectares of natural ecosystems in the Mekong Delta conserved, restored, and managed
- People receiving livelihood co-benefits
- People trained in sustainable natural resource management

### **Position location**

Based on CRM’s organizational structure, it is strongly preferred that the Team Leader: Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems be based in Can Tho, with frequent travel to the project’s target provinces. In unique circumstances, it may be possible for the Team Leader to be based in Hanoi, with frequent travel required to Can Tho and project provinces.

## **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Technical leadership and activity management**

- Oversee the implementation of Objective 2, providing technical leadership for work planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Identify opportunities for expanding and/or improving protected area coverage in target provinces.
- Coordinate development of improved management strategies for local protected areas.
- Work closely with GVN counterparts and communities to identify opportunities for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation outside of protected areas.
- Engage with local stakeholders to develop payment for ecosystem services or other innovative mechanisms to incentivize coastal ecosystem protection.
- Supervise staff under Objective 2 team to ensure effective teamwork and completion of activities.
- Develop and maintain strategic partnerships with related government agencies, other organizations and local communities that contribute to protection and restoration of natural ecosystems.
- Foster coordination across the team to ensure collaboration and to support integrated implementation and management for cross-sectoral approaches as well as cross-cutting issues (including policies, GESI, environmental mitigation and monitoring plan).

- Oversee project delivery related to timelines and required resources, ensuring on-track delivery and/or adaptive management systems are in place to manage and mitigate further delays.
- Lead design of training and other events related to Objective 2 outcomes to partner organizations, local actors, communities, and GVN partners.
- Monitor outputs and milestones to ensure Objective 2 targets and indicators are being met.

#### **Project representation and communication**

- Lead development of inputs and contributions from Objective 2 to project quarterly reports, annual reports and to the annual work planning process and final documents.
- Contribute to and coordinate development of external communication materials and such as assisting in production of press releases, communication materials, technical documents.
- Represent the project at external meetings and events related to coastal ecosystem protection and restoration, protected area management, and related topics.

#### **Other**

- Travel regularly to project provinces to meet with local partners and monitor project activities.
- Other support to the project as required.

### **4. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

#### **Education:**

Advanced degree in conservation of biodiversity, natural resource management, forestry, biology, environmental science, climate change, sustainable development, or related field.

#### **Experience:**

- Minimum 7 years of professional experience managing and implementing conservation, ecosystem services, and NRM for international development projects, preferably with USAID-funded projects in Vietnam.
- Demonstrated experience in protected area management as well as ecological restoration of mangroves, wetlands, and forests.
- Deep understanding of freshwater hydrology and restoration of disrupted hydrological systems.
- Experience supporting capacity building, training, and mentorship of government officials.
- Experience with climate finance, carbon markets, PES, private sector engagement and/or resource mobilization for climate adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation.
- Experience with diversity, equity, and inclusion related to gender and marginalized/vulnerable populations and communities.

#### **Knowledge and Skills:**

- Knowledge of environmental and agricultural policy in Vietnam.
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills, creative problem-solving, conflict mitigation, ethical management skills, and excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Experience developing practical applications of scientific concepts and technical innovations for conservation, NRM, and ecosystem services.
- Excellent organizational and management skills Excellent organizational and management skills.

- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Vietnamese required.

## **5. SUPERVISOR**

The Team Leader: Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems reports to the Technical Deputy Chief of Party.

## **6. HOW TO APPLY**

Interested candidates with the required qualifications and experience are invited to send a letter of interest and a full CV in English to [vietnamjobs@winrock.org](mailto:vietnamjobs@winrock.org) with subject line of “Your full name – Team Leader: Ecosystems” no later than 22 March 2024.

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest but only candidates who meet requisite criteria and are shortlisted will be contacted.