

USAID Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta

SCOPE OF WORK

Short-term: Climate-Resilient Livelihoods Consultant, Soc Trang Province

1. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta Project (CRM) works with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to enhance the resilience of the Mekong Delta's communities, ecosystems, and livelihoods. The overall goal of CRM is to advance low-emissions, climate-resilient, agricultural livelihoods combined with biodiversity conservation to support carbon sequestration, healthy ecosystems, and resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mekong Delta.

CRM works across five provinces of Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh and focus on 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 (WI) with a consortium of Vietnamese and international partners. GVN counterparts are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Management Board of Forest Projects (MBFPs).

As part of the project preparation phase, the CRM team has been conducting three interconnected and complementary assessments/analyses to inform activity planning upon project approval. These analyses include (i) Climate vulnerability assessment (CVA), to identify the most vulnerable areas to climate change and their most significant risks to be addressed through CRM; (ii) Value chain analysis (VCA), to further understand the market dynamics of rice, horticulture, aquaculture and other potential business opportunities for local

communities and businesses; and (iii) Rapid biodiversity assessment (BA) to identify opportunities for improved biodiversity conservation inside and outside of PAs. CRM just finished the field survey for CVA and VCA. The project is planning to conduct the biodiversity assessment in the next three months.

To enable the project to identify appropriate measures for improved biodiversity conservation inside and outside of PAs as well as gather additional data on climate resilient/low emission livelihood models in Soc Trang, CRM is seeking a short-term climate-resilient livelihoods consultant to support CRM, including the Objective 2 team and experts and contribute to delivering of the relevant deliverables.

2. TASK DESCRIPTION

Together with other members of the biodiversity assessment from WI, IUCN and other specialists, the Climate-Resilient Livelihoods Consultant will be responsible for collecting relevant secondary data and good practices in climate-resilient livelihood development models; participating in field surveys and data collection in Soc Trang province as an integral part of the CRM assessment team (details to be further developed in coordination with the CRM team) to work on the following purposes:

- ✓ Review the climate and non-climate stressors/risks of the identified vulnerable communities¹ and identify applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied under CRM aimed at increasing resilient capacity for these vulnerable communities in Soc Trang Province.
- ✓ Assess and identify appropriate measures for improved biodiversity conservation in PAs and other mangrove, wetland areas in Soc Trang province.
- ✓ Collect additional data and identify specific low emission livelihood models relating to rice, horticulture, and aquaculture value chains in Soc Trang province.

TASKS

- i. Assist the BA team in coordinating activities with local government bodies and stakeholders at the district and provincial level of Soc Trang province.
- ii. Review the CVA and VCA reports to have a better understanding of what climate stressors, non-climate stressors are, where vulnerable communities are and what types of low emission value chains are available in Soc Trang.
- iii. Gather secondary data, documents, annual reports, plans, and other related policies, including, but not limited to:
 - Master plans and land use plans (including maps) of Soc Trang, selected districts, and communes.
 - Reports on the socio-economic development of Soc Trang, selected districts and communes.
 - Report of climate adaptation and mitigation in Soc Trang province.
 - Development and management plans for agriculture, forestry and aquaculture of Soc Trang, and selected districts and communes.
 - Green growth plans and climate change adaptation action plans of Soc Trang.
 - Action plan for disaster reduction in Soc Trang including maps of disaster prevention.
 - Sustainable forest management plans for protected areas in Soc Trang.

¹ These vulnerable communities were identified through the climate vulnerability assessment in May 2024.

- iv. Conduct field trips to gather data/information on (i) applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied under CRM aimed at increasing resilient capacity for these vulnerable communities in Soc Trang Province; (ii) good practices of management of biodiversity and ecosystems outside protected area by communities, groups of households and individuals; and (iii) applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied under CRM aimed at increasing resilient capacity for these vulnerable communities in Soc Trang Province.
- v. Write three field notes on (i) applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied for vulnerable communities; (ii) good practices of management of biodiversity and ecosystems outside protected area by communities, groups of households and individuals; and (iii) applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied under CRM.

3. ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF EFFORT (LOE) AND DELIVERABLES

The estimated LOE for this assignment is **40** person-days to be implemented within two months, starting from **July 1 to August 31, 2024**. Deliverable #1 can be in Vietnamese Deliverable #2 must be in English. The specific deliverables and timeframe are listed below in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1. Level of effort and associated deliverables

#	Activities	LOE (day)	Description of the outputs/deliverables	Deliverables (D)	Due date (of deliverable)	Means of Deliverable Verification
1	i, ii, and iii	15	A pack of data (including interview, meeting and group discussions minutes), reports, plans, and policies of vulnerable communities, climate resilience livelihood, good practice of natural resources management, emission/resilient commodities and suitability of rice, horticulture, and aquaculture species in Soc Trang province	D1: 01 pack of primary and secondary data	July 25, 2024	Approved by the direct supervisor
2	iv and v	25	Three field notes on (i) applicable climate resilient livelihood models; (ii) good practices of management of biodiversity and ecosystems outside PAs; and (iii) applicable climate resilient livelihood models to be applied under CRM.	D2: 03 notes on climate-resilient livelihoods	August 31, 2024	CRM technical team provides comments and approved by the direct supervisor

4. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Advanced degree in sustainable international development, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, forest, agriculture, aquaculture environmental science, climate change and adaptation sustainable development studies, or related field.
- Minimum of 10 years of professional experience with a strong understanding of current issues in Vietnam related to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, green growth, and community development. Particularly, experience in working with a diverse range of stakeholders and implementing projects in Soc Trang province.
- Proficiency in applying sustainable landscape approaches within the framework of climate change is advantageous.
- Experience with diversity, equity, and inclusion related to gender and vulnerable populations and communities.
- Good social, analytical and planning skills.
- Be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently as well as in a team.
- Generating creative, practical approaches to overcome challenging situations.
- Excellent speaking and writing skills in Vietnamese and English.

5. SUPERVISOR

The consultant will report to the Biodiversity Conservation Specialist.

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 with subject line of “Your full name – Climate-Resilient Livelihoods Consultant: Soc Trang” no later than 21 June 2024.

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