

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **A national consultant to assess alternative options for cultivation of high value crops in three communes of Trung Khanh Cao Vit gibbon conservation area**

**Position:** National agriculture consultant

**Duration:** 15 days, expected from April 23, 2018 to May 18, 2018

**Duty station:** Trung Khanh Species and Habitat Conservation Area, Cao Bang province

**Reporting to:** Primate Projects Manager

#### **1. Background**

FFI's mission is to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science, and which take into account human needs. FFI's strategy to achieve this mission is to work with in-country organizations at all levels to support them in identifying and implementing country led sustainable solutions.

The strategic goal of the FFI Vietnam Primate Programme is to identify primate populations in most need of conservation interventions and provide strategic species-focused conservation in the field, based upon sound science and participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Cao Vit gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*) also known as Eastern black-crested gibbon was, after about 40 years without information on the existence, found by FFI's scientists<sup>1</sup> in 2002 in the remote forests of Trung Khanh district, Cao Bang province, at the border of China. Since the rediscovery of the rarest ape in the world, FFI and governmental agencies of Vietnam took a lot of conservation measures and efforts to keep the remnant population from immediate extinction. As the results, the Cao Vit gibbon population gradually recovered from 26 individuals in 2002 up to about 130 individuals<sup>2</sup> in 2016.

The success of gibbon conservation and its habitat has been generating benefits for other wild animals living in Trung Khanh Cao Vit gibbon Species and Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA), and one of those is macaques. There are three species of macaques, namely Rhesus, Assamese and Stump-tailed macaques. The total number of these macaques is now as many as Cao Vit gibbons and they are competing with Cao Vit gibbons for food and habitat. These macaques also eat agricultural products and destroy crops, mainly maize, of local resident in places outside of the protected area, causing loss and damage of crops.

Conservation and development are sometimes in conflict with each other and can be viewed as separate. Right from the beginning, FFI has had initiatives to integrate conservation and economic development activities into this area, to one hand sustain the Critically Endangered

<sup>1</sup> La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang (2002). Report on survey of eastern black crested gibbon (*Nomascus sp. cf. nasutus*) in Trunh Khanh District, Cao Bang Province. Fauna & Flora International Indochina Programme, Hanoi, Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> Trinh Dinh Hoang, Nguyen Van Truong and Le Van Dung (2016). Cao Vit Gibbon transboundary census survey report (*Nomascus nasutus*) at the CVG SHCA in Trung Khanh, Cao Bang, Vietnam and the Biang Liang, Jingxi, Quangxi, China. Fauna & Flora International – Vietnam Programme, unpublished report, Hanoi.

Cao Vit gibbon population, and to help local people in 13 villages close to forests to improve their livelihood to reduce their dependence on forest resources. The development activities, supported by FFI, include: fuelwood plantation, improved stoves, growing elephant grass, conversion of wood waterwheel into steel waterwheel, goat removal, etc. Currently, the main incomes<sup>3</sup> of villagers in the 13 villages are from crops (55.62%) and livestock (30.38%).

FFI is now recruiting an agriculture consultant to assess existing crops and give innovations of cultural practices and options for cultivation of high value crops.

## **2. Objective**

To improve livelihood of local people and to harmonize their economic development with nature conservation<sup>4</sup>.

## **3. Deliverables**

- A report on assessment of sustainable and potentially alternative options for cultivation of high or higher value crops in the 13 villages, highlighting the crops that would provide the largest conservation and economic impact. The report will contain, but not be limited to:
  - + Up-to-date socio-economic development condition;
  - + SWOT analysis of the plants/crops that are currently farmed and those that can be introduced;
  - + Analysis of loss and damage of crops caused by wild animals;
  - + Conditions of soil, climate, hydrology, and terrain;
  - + Quick assessment of commodity market for high value crop plants;
  - + Provincial and district level agriculture development policies;
  - + Recommendation of suitable and high value crops/plants;
  - + A review of options to 'add value' from such approaches as: Certification; market chain analysis (domestic and international); farmer cooperatives; added-value products (post-harvest processing);
  - + Meeting minutes and attendance list;

## **4. Scope of work**

The scope of work for the consultant will include but not be limited to:

- Conduct a literature review;
- Review crops/plants that are currently farmed in the 13 villages;
- Undertake a quick commodity market research for existing and potential crops;
- Review local agriculture development policies;

---

<sup>3</sup> Fauna & Flora International (2016). Socio-economic Assessment in Ngoc Con, Ngoc Khe, and Phong Nam communes of Trung Khanh district, Cao Bang province. Fauna & Flora International Vietnam Programme, Unpublished report, Hanoi.

<sup>4</sup> The key is to offset economic 'losses' associated with stricter forest protection, reduce local dependency on the forest itself, and build the trust and 'buy-in' of local communities with regard to gibbon conservation.

- Assess loss and damages of crops caused by wild animals over the last five years;
- Review models and good practices of crops of other areas that have similarity of soil, climate, hydrological and meteorological conditions of Trung Khanh district;
- Conduct a field work to 13 key villages of three communes in Trung Khanh district, Cao Bang province;
- Carry out gender disaggregated focus groups in the 13 villages to assess their understanding and needs of high value crops;
- Propose potential high value crops/plants;
- Compile the report and submit to FFI.

## **5. Time Span**

This assignment is expected to be carried out in a period of 15 man-days. All cost for the field trip shall be covered by FFI. Travel days are not paid.

## **6. Qualifications and experience**

- University degree (Master is an advantage) specified in one of the following fields: Agriculture, crop science, plant biology or other related fields;
- At least 10 years of working experience in the field of crop plants;
- At least three years of experience in providing consultancy services of suitable crops for Northern mountainous provinces or similar assignments;
- Experience facilitating focus groups and collating socio-economic data;
- Experience in agricultural extension;
- Experience in agriculture research;
- Working experience in mountainous and limestone/Kast areas is required;
- Sensitivity to gender and the roles of women and men in agriculture (activities, workload, etc)
- Good in spoken and written English;
- Strong ability in writing English technical report.

## **7. Administrative support**

FFI will provide the agriculture consultant with the following support:

- Administrative procedures to work in the field and FFI's local partners;
- All local cost for field trip following FFI's cost norms.

## **8. Remuneration conditions**

- Remuneration will correspond with the qualifications and work experiences required for the post as referred to in Part 6 of this TOR and FFI's cost norms.
- Payment of other related expenses including travel, field works and per diem of the consultant and local guide(s) accompanied will follow FFI's financial regulations and cost norms;