

USAID SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT SCOPE OF WORK

Consultant Name: (Last, First)		Title:	Economic consultant
Project Name:	USAID Sustainable Forest Management Activity		
Billing Code:	5.2.5.1	Contract No:	72044020F00002
Period of Performance:	From 8/2022-10/2022		
Travel Days:	8 (travel days are paid with M&IE only)		
Workdays:	6 (3 days per province)		
Remaining Workdays: (Research, Report Writing)	30		
Total Level of Effort:	36		
Evaluator:	TBD		

A. DAI ORGANIZATION AND VALUES

DAI Global LLC. is a development company with corporate offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, EU, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Palestine and implementing project operations worldwide including Vietnam. DAI tackles fundamental social and economic development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governance, and instability. DAI works on the frontlines of global development, transforming ideas into action and actions into impact. We are committed to shaping a more livable world.

DAI and its employees are committed to confronting racism and holding ourselves accountable for positive change within the company and in the communities, cultures, and countries in which we live and work. DAI is committed to attracting and retaining the best employees from all races and backgrounds in our continued effort to become a better development partner.

DAI upholds the highest ethical standards. We are committed to the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment as well as other ethical breaches. All of our positions are therefore subject to stringent vetting and reference checks.

B. PROJECT BACKGROUND

DAI implements the USAID/Vietnam Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project) to support the Government of Vietnam (GVN), with MARD as its main counterpart, to reduce carbon emissions associated with deforestation and degradation of natural forests, and increase carbon sequestration by improving timber plantations management. The Project strengthens local communities' ability to protect their natural resource base and reduce emissions while building a strong foundation for sustainable livelihoods and equitable economic growth.

The Project implements activities in seven provinces (Lao Cai, Son La, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri, Quang Nam) with a focus on five objectives:

- I. Improve and expand community forest management

2. Increase conservation-friendly enterprises in forest-dependent communities
3. Increase functionality of law enforcement system for forest crimes
4. Improve production forest management practices
5. Mobilize domestic resources for forest management and protection

The Project is implemented from 2020-2025 by DAI in collaboration with RECOFTC and Preferred by Nature as partners, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) as the counterpart and the Management Board of Forestry Projects (MBFP) as the project owner.

C. RATIONALE

The Vietnam payment for forest environmental services (PFES) policy under Decree 99/2010/ND-CP was issued on September 24, 2010. Until now the PFES policy has been implemented under the regulation of the Forestry Law in 2017 and Decree 156/2018/ND-CP in which 5 types of forest environmental services are regulated (Article 61, Forestry law 2017) including:

- a) Soil protection, reduction of erosion and sedimentation of reservoirs, rivers, and streams.
- b) Regulation and maintenance of water sources for production and living activities of the society.
- c) Forest carbon sequestration and retention, reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases through measures for preventing forest degradation and loss of forest area, and for forest sustainable development.
- d) Protection of natural landscape and conservation of biodiversity of forest ecosystems for tourism services.
- e) Provision of spawning grounds, sources of feeds, and natural seeds, use of water from forest for aquaculture

At the national level, most payments are from hydropower plants for hydrological services. Other services, such as protection of natural landscape and conservation of biodiversity of forest ecosystems for tourism services have generated limited payments. In Nghe An and Son La provinces, aquaculture and ecotourism activities have expanded recently but payments from those services remain low. In order to enable those provinces to have to expand PFES, the Project seeks one national consultant to evaluate the potential to expand payments from ecotourism aquaculture and forest environmental services leases in Son La and Nghe An province.

D. OVERALL GOAL

To enable Son La and Nghe An province to identify potential payments from other forest environmental services, including aquaculture, ecotourism and forest environmental leases, to increase financial resources for forest protection and development.

E. TASKS OF CONSULTANT

In order to meet above goal, the consultant will complete an assessment of the two above referenced forest environmental services and provide detailed recommendation for how provinces may expand PFES. Detailed tasks are outlined below.

I. Review current policies and regulations

Assess potential of expanding payment from forest environmental services based on current policies such as the Forestry Law of 2017, Decree 156/2018/ND-CP and other related circulars.

Assess potential payments for provinces basing on drafted revised version of Decree 156/2018/ND-CP about ecotourism in and near forest areas, some drafted content related to forest environmental lease

and aquaculture. The review process will provide information for the consultant to prepare for field trip and develop workplan.

2. Conduct field surveys

The consultant will design field surveys in Son La and Nghe An province. Surveys must target provincial forest protection and development funds and companies with activities in ecotourism and aquaculture and forest environmental lease. The consultant also must work with relevant GVN agencies including the Department of Culture and Tourism, to identify companies with ecotourism activities in each province and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, to identify companies leasing forest environmental services. In Nghe An province, the consultant must assess the economic potential of the province's proposal to lease 6,000ha of land for forest environmental services in the province.

3. Draft a detailed assessment of PFES

The consultant must complete one assessment report for each province of Son La and Nghe An for a total of two reports. The reports must include the following:

- A detailed assessment of the challenges and barriers to expanding PFES to ecotourism, aquaculture and forest environmental services including policy and/or policy implementation barriers
- A review all current and planned ecotourism and aquaculture companies who are potential PFES payers
- An estimate of potential PFES from ecotourism and aquaculture
- Potential areas for leasing forest environmental services including lease types, and suitable activities and identify potential income from leasing forest environmental services.
- Policy recommendations at the provincial level for provinces to expand PFES including incentive structures to increase private sector led ecotourism and aquaculture activities and recommendations to attract more investment in leasing forest environmental services.

4. Present findings

The consultant will present study findings in a technical meeting in each province with Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and provincial funds to receive comments and finalize the report.

F. LOCATION

Hanoi, Nghe An, and Son La province

G. CONSULTATION TIME (LOE) AND DELIVERABLES

#	Activity	LOE	Deliverables ¹	Completion time
1	1; 2	8	1. Questionnaire and workplan to survey; two short field trip reports for two provinces highlight issues collected in the field and outline of assessment report	9/2022
2	4	2	2. Two presentations of findings from assessment for two provinces	10/2022
3	3	26	3. Two assessment reports for two provinces to expand payment to ecotourism, aquaculture activities and forest environmental services lease with	10/2022

¹ All deliverables are in Vietnamese and must be approved by provincial funds and the Project

			combining comments from relevant Departments, provincial funds and estimation of potential payment, list of potential payers and recommendation for collecting and use the payment.	
	Total	36		

H. REQUIREMENTS

Criteria	Detailed description
Consultant	Economic consultant
Degree	Minimum master's degree in environmental economics, or forestry economics, or related field.
Professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have at least 10 years of experience in forestry, environment, environmental economics, forestry economics, or forestry policies - Knowledge and experience in payment for forest environmental services policy - Knowledge and experience in forest environmental lease - Experience working in Nghe An and Son La provinces is preferred - Experience working with companies using forest environmental services and forest environmental service lease is preferred.
Skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proficient use of Microsoft software applications; - Skilled in teamwork and coordinating activities with multiple stakeholders; - Experience in evaluating policy implementation, formulating legal documents, analyzing and synthesizing; - Strong ability to write reports, presentations and documents for meetings and seminars; - Ability to communicate in English is preferred

I. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Interested applicants are requested to submit:

- An updated CV in English and Vietnamese
- A cover letter in English or Vietnamese indicating why the applicant is suitable for this position along with current contact details of at least three referees
- Scanned copy of related degrees

to our recruitment email at VietnamSFM@dai.com. Please fill in the subject: "**Candidate's full name _ PFES feasibility study**".

Application deadline: 5.00pm (Hanoi time), date 22/08/2022

Remark: If being recruited, the candidate will have to provide DAI with a release letter with authorized signature and stamp from current employer to certify that candidate will not receive salary from current employer during the implementation of this consultancy assignment or candidate commits to carry out this assignment outside his/her normal working hours. This release letter is required for candidate who are currently working for government agencies only.

To learn more about DAI, please visit our website: <https://www.dai.com/>

DAI is an employer that applies equal opportunity/affirmative action with a commitment to diversity. DAI does not discriminate in employment based on race, color, religion, gender (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political party, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, parental status, veteran status, or other incompetence factor.