

TERMS OF REFERENCE – Climate and Environment (C&E) Specialist

Job Title: Climate and Environment (C&E) Specialist
Duration: 1 year contract with possibility for extension
Reports to: Deputy Team Leader, SPRINT project
Position Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The SMEs Promote Resilience, Inclusion and Innovative Transformation (SPRINT) Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in Vietnam and is being implemented by Cowater International in the province of Yen Bai in northern Vietnam. The Project aims to improve the socio-economic well-being of ethnic minority women (EMW) working in the agricultural sector by elevating their economic status, inclusion in leadership, and agency through the promotion of inclusive business and clean growth. The Project will implement a series of interventions designed to strengthen the performance of EMW-led MSMEs, cooperatives, and producers in the agri-food sector. The primary beneficiaries are EMW living in the province of Yen Bai.

The Project is scheduled to run for a duration of six years from 2023 until 2029. It will respond to critical skill gaps, knowledge gaps, and incentivize innovation and adoption of agriculture resilience and clean growth, including Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficient (EE) solutions among EMW led agrifood businesses.

SUMMARY OF THE POSITION

The C&E Specialist will report directly to the Deputy Team Leader and will be responsible for technical lead of project aspects relating clean growth, RE, EE, and environmental safeguards. The C&E Specialist is responsible for providing advice, for assessment, tracking and guiding the development of the Project activities to address environment and climate change related issues (specifically mitigation and partial adaptation). The C&E Specialist will also provide leadership to achieve the Project's objectives on clean growth solutions, including RE, EE, and nature based solutions, while ensuring compliant with environment safeguards requirements.

The C&E Specialist will be responsible for development and management of the Project's Environmental Action Plan (EAP), for monitoring and reporting on environmental concerns, providing environmental oversight, and conducting environmental impact assessments, as required. She/he will work with key experts from Cowater HQ to ensure that all environmental requirements are met during development and implementation of the Project's intervention.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Technical Advising

- Providing technical advice and oversee Project activities related clean growth, RE, EE, and climate change mitigation measures (e.g. GHG emission reduction) as defined in the Project Implementation Plan and the Annual Work Plan.
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP). Take responsibility to ensure the EAP is operational and updated annually, and undertake periodic review of environmental safeguards within the EAP to ensure compliance with environment safeguards requirements.
- Prepare required reports, guidelines, protocols and tools to facilitate application of the Project's EAP.
- Support partner capacity building on environmental sustainability and climate mitigation (RE/EE, clean growth).
- Advise team on the resilient agriculture to ensure consistency and multiplying impacts of intervention.
- Design and deliver trainings and technical assistance for partners on clean growth, EE, RE, and nature-based solutions, as well as for the Project team internally.

- Advise on the design, launch, selection and monitoring of the Innovation Grants and Clean Growth Grants.
- Document and share learnings and best practices on climate mitigation, EE, RE, GHG emission reduction, and environmental management practices.

Support to Grant Initiatives

- Lead the assessment on “Climate resilience and mitigation solutions for Agrifood enterprises and communities”, including a baseline assessment of fossil fuel used by MSMEs/cooperatives to calculate GHG emission reduction.
- Based on the assessment findings, provide inputs for annual review of the Environment Action Plan.
- Lead and coordinate the technical assessment of grant proposals.
- Provide training and TA to grant recipients on environment and climate best practice Coordinate with the GE/WEE Specialist on the climate and gender nexus, and how that can be integrated into the Project.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Identify environmental, mitigation and resilience indicators that can be used to monitor Project progress as part of the environmental monitoring program, and included in the Project’s Performance Management Framework (PMF).
- Monitor and update PMF semi-annually, with the M&E Specialist.
- Provide technical expertise on environment and climate change, follow-up and monitoring of project activities for the achievement of expected project results.
- Working closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure that construction and equipment installation (e.g. PV and solar panel, drier) is carefully monitored and in adherence to the EAP.
- Lead in measuring and calculating GHG emission reduction.
- Conduct research, provide inputs, and participate in the drafting of Project reports, including semi-annual progress reports, project communications, annual work planning and other ad hoc reports or Project material.
- Prepare any required manuals, guidelines, protocols and templates as/if applicable to facilitate application of the Project’s EAP.

Compliance

- Ensure all project activities are carried out with GAC's environmental guidelines.
- Carry out analysis and provide advice to ensure project activities are aligned with Vietnam's environment and climate change strategies, priorities, and sectoral policies.
- Carry out strategic environmental assessments and the development of environmental strategies and guidelines IF required.
- In accordance with Cowater’s Corporate Environment and Climate Change Policy, develop strategies to minimize the project's carbon footprint.
- Anticipate environmental risks and issues and proposing strategies to mitigate and address them in a timely and effective fashion.
- Assess and document potential environmental issues and impacts. Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments and site-specific environmental impact assessments as necessary, identifying key potential impacts on target area environments and strategies to eliminate or mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Other:

- Undertake any other relevant tasks as directed by the line manager.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- University (or higher) degree in environmental management, energy, environmental engineering or related area.

- At least eight years' experience providing senior level technical assistance and guidance on environmental management, climate change mitigation, renewable energy, and sustainability.
- Experience conducting environmental impact assessments (EIA) and the ability to utilize EIA findings to identify potential environmental impacts of development activities along with associated Environmental Actions Plan and strategies to mitigate or eliminate potential negative impacts.
- Experience working in agribusiness, with a focus on climate resilience, EMW-focused value chain development, and operations. Significant experience working with provincial governments, sector, and local communities as well as building their capacities in the areas of environmental management and climate change response.
- Knowledge of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) framework.
- High level of professional integrity, ethics, accountability and dedication to upholding good environmental practices.
- Strong knowledge of standard Vietnamese and Government of Canada environmental laws, standards, tools and templates and proven ability to successfully operationalize such regulations and tools.
- Strong communication and reporting skills.
- Experience working with GAC on planning, reporting and communications would be highly appreciated.
- Ability to use Microsoft Office.
- Experience working in Northern Uplands provinces of Vietnam, with an understanding of the particular vulnerabilities faced by ethnic minority women and demonstrating cultural awareness and sensitivity preferred.
- Fluency in English and Vietnamese necessary.

APPLICATION

Candidates are encouraged to apply no later than 17.00, 15 January 2025. We thank all applicants, however, only the shortlist will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to send an application to recruitment@sprint-vietnam.com . Please indicate in the subject "SPRINT – C&E Specialist – Fullname"

Applications must include:

- o A cover letter responding to the selection criteria.
- o A Curriculum Vitae.
- o Contact details of three referees.

Cowater is an equal opportunity employer. Women, people with a disability, and people from minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply. We thank you for your interest in building a better tomorrow with Cowater International.