Terms of Reference

Consultancy – Identifying the Restoration Area based on Ecosystem Services

Project: ICARE (Towards a Responsive Rubber Industry in South East Asia)
Reports to: Head of Forest
Duration: From July 2023 to September 2023
Location: Yangon and frequently travel to project areas

Context

WWF, an independent conservation organization active in nearly 100 countries, works to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife. WWF-Myanmar, established in 2014, is focused on halting the loss of the country’s extraordinary biodiversity and ensuring that human use of the country’s natural resources is sustainable and equitable. Preserving the environment in which people live and work is critical for health and wellbeing. Find out more at www.wwf.org.mm.

Approximately 12.6 million tons of natural rubber are produced worldwide each year. Since the early 2000s, the increase in world demand for rubber has led to a considerable increase in its price, which has tripled between 2001 and 2011. In the Greater Mekong region, the changes in rubber production methods brought about by this increased demand have important social but also environmental consequences: reconfiguration of production structures, establishment of foreign companies and direct competitors of the small producers who are still in the majority, increased vulnerability of the latter to price variations, but also deforestation, forest degradation and pollution.

WWF-Thailand, WWF-Myanmar and WWF-Cambodia have been working for several years to support small producers in their transition to sustainable rubber production, which is beneficial to both biodiversity and their quality of life. In the long term, the project will restore 50,000 ha of degraded land; and 50% of the natural rubber plantations in Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar will be able to supply members of the Group for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR). To achieve this, the project will establish Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) for SNR by 2022; support 15 cooperatives or Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) towards the production of SNR; and contribute to the restoration of 300 ha of degraded ecosystems in areas of critical connectivity for biodiversity.

The overall target: By 2030, 50% of the Greater Mekong Regional Rubber Plantations (in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand) are sustainably managed and 50,000 ha of ecological corridors in rubber-dominated landscapes are restored.

Specific objective 1: At least 2 Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) are established in each country at local and national level to disseminate the principles of Sustainable Natural Rubber (SNR), to bring the voice of small producers/cooperatives to influence changes.

Specific objective 2: 15 cooperatives and/or SMEs are created or strengthened to ensure an efficient and traceable Sustainable Natural Rubber (SNR) supply chain.

Specific objective 3: A scientific and participatory restoration strategy is developed in at least two countries and put into practice in a landscape dominated by rubber tree cultivation, in order to restore 300 ha of forest areas and to develop agroforestry using methods adapted to local conditions.
In Myanmar, as in the rest of South East Asia, rubber plantations have been a major focus of attention on the agricultural sector. On the one hand side, the increased of demand for natural rubber has raised the price of the commodity making it an attractive industrial crop that can be used to improve farmers’ economies. On the other hand, current farmer associations have limited influence on the distribution of value along the supply chain. For that reason, and given the economic pressures of the current country context, farmers’ surplus is limited and their capacity to improve their livelihood is reduced. However, WWF-Myanmar believes that by improving the capacity of farmers to organize, they will have access to markets that value their engagement with sustainable practices.

Objective of the consultancy

The main objective of the consultancy is to identify the critical areas for forest restoration in rubber dominated landscape based on ecosystem services, ecological connectivity and the impact of climate change.

Specific responsibilities

The consultant will work with WWF’s Forest team, supporting them with the following:

1. Support sourcing high-resolution imagery from planet and medium-resolution sources from Landsat and Sentinel comparing semi-annual data for the last five years.
2. Analyse the correlation of forest coverage and rubber plantation in specific project areas using remote sensing.
3. Suggest the potential forest restoration sites to initiate field level assessment based on land use changes, habitat connectivity and ecosystem services.

Expected Outputs

1. The time series map showing the evolution of rubber plantation and associated forest coverage areas in project areas over the last 5 years, on an annual basis.
2. The set of shapefiles and/or google earth-engine scripts for the above maps to provide the WWF team for future reference.
3. The final reports which express the priority forest restoration sites using the results of above data analysis.

Requirements

Concerning this position WWF-Myanmar prefer the team or consultant organizations and the team members’ qualification should be relevant with following requirement.

1. **Education and Experience**
   - The consultant should have academic background or training completion in forest restoration and GIS with at least 5 years of experiences in the implementation of sustainable development and
conservation projects (different combinations of education degrees can be considered based on
their field experience).

- Strong applied work on sustainable development in Myanmar or places with similar conditions.
- Previous experience working in Myanmar is strongly desired.
- Knowledge of Myanmar language and dialects is a valuable asset.

2. Knowledge, Skill and Competencies

- Proven understanding on forest restoration and GIS projects
- Awareness of the socio-political and economic context of the country.

3. Ability and Personality

- Promoting team synergy in a multi-cultural work environment.
- Demonstrating initiative and ability to identify innovative approaches.

4. Evaluation Criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TECHNICAL OFFER</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding of ToR</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultant references &amp; experience, understanding of local context</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of proposal and activities plan</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Proposed Timeline for deliverables</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL OFFER</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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The proposal for this consultancy should include a technical offer and include the budget (this should include
daily rates for consultants, total days and costs per deliverable and per consultant). Any expenses should also
be included and WWF-Myanmar will arrange accommodation and transportation for consultant team for
field trips. An electronic copies of their CV’s highlighting their experience on the field of the consultancy
and at least two reference contacts should also be included to the procurement email:
vacancy.mm@wwf.org.mm and myothet.tin@wwf.org.mm not later than 14th August 2023.