



# REDD+ Technical Specialist

## *Terms of Reference for a Consultant*

**Location:** Home-based and Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Approx. LOE and Term:** 90 days over a 12-month period

**Expected Start Date:** July 2020

## Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. WCS assists the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to conserve species and habitats in four landscapes across Cambodia, namely, the Eastern Plains, the Northern Plains, the Tonle Sap, and the Freshwater Rivers. Taken together these landscapes support all of the major habitat types in Cambodia, as well as vital populations of most of Cambodia globally threatened species.

WCS Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) wish to develop the Northern Plains landscape – consisting of four interconnected wildlife sanctuaries – as a REDD project under the requirements of the VCS and CCB Standards. A feasibility assessment of this landscape has determined its suitability as a REDD project with significant expected climate, biodiversity and community benefits. This project would build upon WCS' success and experience in operating the Keo Seima REDD project in Cambodia. The USAID Greening Prey Lang (USAID GPL) project has committed the necessary funds to develop this project. Joint validation and verification is to be completed by June 2021.

## Position Overview

The Consultant's primary purpose is to manage the process to successfully validate and verify the Northern Plains REDD project under the VCS and CCB Standards. This includes: developing the necessary project documentation to ensure project validation and verification; supporting the landscape team in the design of and collection of necessary data and information; providing technical direction and oversight to WCS in-house technical units; and leading the validation verification process.

The Consultant will collaborate with a range on internal and external stakeholders, including: WCS landscape-based field teams and managers; technical support teams (e.g. GIS/Remote Sensing team); Senior WCS Cambodia Management Team; and Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) and the Verra Secretariat.

## Position Responsibilities

- Lead the design, collection and analysis of all data and information required to successfully achieve project validation and verification according to the requirements of the VCS and CCB Standards. Ensure data collection and analysis represents most up-to-date scientific findings and best-practice approaches. This includes:
  - General
    - Collation and analysis of key documentation to provide the necessary insights into the project background, implementation plans and arrangements.
  - Climate
    - Identifying key project zones (project zone, accounting area, leakage belts, reference region)
    - Demonstrating the project's baseline scenario and additionality arguments
    - Developing the project activity data
    - Determining the project's emission factors
    - Calculating the project's GHG emission reduction and credit potential
  - Community
    - Identification of and consultations with key project stakeholders and communities
    - Ensure alignment of project activities and interventions with CCB safeguard requirements and VCS requirements, including FPIC requirements.
    - Identification of baseline and project scenario community impacts
    - Development of project monitoring protocols
  - Biodiversity
    - Collate and analyze existing WCS biodiversity monitoring data
    - Ensure alignment of project activities and interventions with CCB safeguard requirements, including identification HCV areas
    - Identification of baseline and project scenario biodiversity impacts
    - Confirm alignment of WCS monitoring approaches with CCB requirements
- Collaborate with and train, where necessary, landscape field teams to collect necessary project data/information and key project monitoring indicators.
- Develop all necessary project documentation (PDs, MIRs, etc.) and supplementary documents to achieve validation and verification.
- Ensure alignment of project activities and interventions with CCB safeguard requirements and VCS requirements, including FPIC requirements.
- Act as the lead on project validation and verification audits, including engagement with VVBs and responding to VVB findings.

## Deliverables

Key deliverables are listed below. It is recognized that interim deliverables will also be required:

- Detailed project plan identifying tasks, interdependencies, stakeholder responsibilities and milestones/deliverables to achieve project validation and verification by June 2021
- Project PD, MIR and all supporting documentation to achieve joint validation and verification

## Qualifications & Competencies

This consultancy is open to both individuals and firms that meet the following requirements:

- Master's degree in forestry, environmental science, geography, conservation or a related field.
- Prior experience and familiarity with the design and implementation of large, landscape-level forest conservation and rural development projects.
- 6+ years' experience in the assessment, development and implementation of forestry and land-use projects, preferably for the carbon markets under the VCS and CCB Standards.
- Prior experience successfully developing, validating and verifying AFOLU projects under the VCS and CCBA.
- Strong analytical and writing skills; extreme attention to detail.
- Professional experience in leading project management and project reporting.
- Demonstrated professional-level fluency in both oral and written English is required.
- Ability to travel to project sites, as required, for extended periods.