



JOB DESCRIPTION

Position:	REDD+ Benefit Sharing Consultant
Reports to:	Primary: Country Program Director, Cambodia
Location:	Remote
Country Program/Sector:	Global Conservation Program – Greater Mekong
Position Type:	Consultant
Internal liaison:	Conservation Impact TA, Cambodia Regional Carbon Advisor, Mekong
Expected travel:	Travel to Cambodia as required. One trip expected.

Organization background:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit organization established in 1895 and based in New York, that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With a presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. In the Greater Mekong WCS has country programs in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and is managed through a dispersed regional network with a hub in Bangkok.

Position background:

Since 2003, WCS has provided technical and financial assistance to the management of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) in the Eastern Plains Landscape of Cambodia. The Keo Seima REDD+ project is Cambodia's longest standing REDD+ project and the first to receive a multi-million-dollar carbon sale. Since it started in 2010, the project has demonstrated that emissions reductions can be achieved while delivering benefits to local communities, including through the establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism (BSM). The financial component of this benefit sharing mechanism, Cash For Communities (C4C), has been operational since 2016. Over time, C4C has evolved in consultation and with the consent of participating communities to incorporate performance payments that recognise community efforts to reduce deforestation and promote development outcomes.

Prior to the next round of distributions, WCS will lead a review to assess the current performance of the C4C programme. This is anticipated to be the first phase of an ongoing process to restructure the C4C programme to support community governance of the programme, better meet the needs of participating communities and recognise efforts to protect the forest within KSWS.

Position summary:

The responsibilities of the consultant will be as follows:

1. Synthesise lessons learned from global experiences of REDD+ and protected area benefit sharing, including:
 - a. Key principles of effective and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.
 - b. Relevant examples of successful BSMs.
 - c. Best practice for inclusive and gender-responsive consultation and participatory decision-making.
2. Review performance component of C4C programme.
 - a. Review existing C4C performance scoring methodology.

- b. Detail ways in which identified issues can be updated and assess these against key effectiveness, efficiency, equity and legitimacy criteria.
3. Advise Conservation Impact team on the design, implementation, analysis and write-up of a qualitative assessment of community perceptions and understanding of C4C programme.
4. Provide support to the development of an updated community consultation process and input into this process as required.

Deliverables:

1. Technical report summarizing the analysis and outcomes of 1-3 above.
2. Oral presentation of the technical report to WCS.

Position Requirements:

- At least ten years' experience in intervention design and/or evaluation in a relevant sector. Experience of working in Mekong region preferred.
- Strong experience in the design of REDD+ and protected area benefit sharing mechanisms.
- Proven experience of process evaluations and social research in similar contexts.
- Ability to produce clear and concise reports and presentations.

Proposed schedule:

The proposed schedule of work would be undertaken between May and July 2024.

Payment 1 – on contract signing: 30% fee

Payment 2 – on delivery of all deliverables: 70% fee