

USAID Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta (CRM)

SCOPE OF WORK

Ecosystem Management Officer (EMO) in CRM's Targeted Provinces

I. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta Project (CRM) works with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to enhance the resilience of the Mekong Delta's communities, ecosystems, and livelihoods. The overall goal of CRM is to advance low-emissions, climate-resilient, agricultural livelihoods combined with biodiversity conservation to support carbon sequestration, healthy ecosystems, and resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mekong Delta.

CRM works across five provinces of Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh and focus on three interconnected objectives and one cross-cutting theme:

- **Objective 1: Strengthen climate change resilience of the most vulnerable populations.** CRM will engage stakeholders to assess and address vulnerability through enhanced climate information services, resilient livelihood, and safety net models, improved provincial plans, and increased access to finance.
- **Objective 2: Strengthen management and restoration of natural ecosystems to provide ecosystem goods and services.** CRM will take an inclusive participatory approach to identify entry points to support evidence-based transformation of legal and governance frameworks, improve management capacity, and incentivize natural resource conservation.
- **Objective 3: Reduce methane emissions through low-emission and sustainable agriculture practices.** CRM will work with GVN and stakeholders across value chains to assess gaps and opportunities and harness payment for environmental services schemes and other results-based finance mechanisms to reduce intensive rice farming and GHG emissions and drive transformation through a market systems approach.
- **Cross-cutting focus: Develop and implement policies to advance climate actions and biodiversity conservation.** CRM will also work with GVN and stakeholders to enhance development, harmonization, and implementation of policies, as well as to strengthen national and sub-national coordination. CRM will engage key stakeholders to influence and incentivize policy, practice, and behavior in favor of transformation.

CRM is being implemented during the period of 2023-2028 by Winrock International (WI) with a consortium of Vietnamese and international partners. GVN counterparts are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Management Board of Forest Projects (MBFPs).

CRM is seeking five full-time **Ecosystem Management Officers**, each to be based in one of the targeted provinces: Ca Mau, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh.

II. POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Ecosystem Management Officer (EMO) is a full-time staff that focuses on coordinating, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on Objective 2 activities within his/her targeted province. The EMO will collaborate with the CRM Objective 2 Ecosystem Management Specialist (EMS), Biodiversity Conservation Specialist (BCS), the Provincial Project Manager (PPM), the Provincial Project Working Group (PPWG), and local stakeholders to implement the planned activities under the Objective 2. S/he also involves coordination with other CRM project staff across the CRM provinces, Can Tho Office and Hanoi Office to smoothly implement the CRM Objective's activities in the targeted province.

Each EMO is expected to be based in a targeted province office: Ca Mau, Dong Thap (Cao Lanh city), Kien Giang (Rach Gia city), Soc Trang and Tra Vinh, with frequent travel to the provincial project sites, and other places as required for the project's implementation.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Collaborate with the Provincial Project Manager (PPM) and Provincial Project Working Group (PPWG) to plan, organize, and implement activities based on the approved annual work plan, contributing to the achievement of target indicators under Objective 2 of the CRM project.
2. Work closely with the Ecosystem Management Specialist (EMS) and Biodiversity Conservation Specialist (BCS) to support the Management Boards of Protected Areas, State Forest Enterprises and other in developing, improving and implementing sustainable forest management plans.
3. Coordinate with the EMS and BCS to provide technical support to provincial partners in expanding and implementing ecosystem service programs, such as payment for ecosystem services (PES) and ecotourism, advancing sustainable ecosystem management.
4. Collaborate with the EMS and BCS to promote a common understanding of the other effective conservation measures (OECM) approach among relevant stakeholders, including government authorities, the private sector, and communities in the targeted province. This includes identifying and mapping high-conservation-value areas, such as potential OECMs, and facilitating capacity building and recognition of these areas for enhanced conservation efforts.
5. Provide technical assistance to provincial partners, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Provincial Forest Protection Department, Protected Area Management Boards, and State Forestry Enterprises, to identify opportunities to expand or improve protected area coverage (e.g., establishment of new protected areas) and monitor ecosystem health in his/her targeted province.
6. Collaborate with the CRM consortium members (e.g. IUCN), local partners, and service providers to build capacity for enhanced management strategies in critical natural ecosystems inside and outside protected areas.
7. Work closely with other CRM provincial staff, including the Value Chain Officer (VCO) and Climate Resilience Officer (CRO), to jointly deliver technical support for climate-smart agroforestry, eco-tourism, community-based tourism, and nature-based solutions in his/her targeted provinces.
8. Partner with provincial entities such as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Protected Area Management Boards, State Forestry Enterprises, and other local stakeholders to provide technical assistance and organize training programs for local communities, enhancing their capacity for sustainable ecosystem management. This support is intended to increase community resilience, as well as the reduction, storage, and sequestration of greenhouse gases (GHG).

9. Contribute to field monitoring, data collection, evaluation, and learning activities related to ecosystem management, restoration, and health monitoring. Foster local engagement in the learning process alongside CRM implementation.
10. Provide technical input for the development of key documents and reports, and facilitate the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and knowledge exchange within the CRM team and among provincial partners.
11. Assist other project staff in implementing cross-cutting activities, including Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and communications.
12. Perform other tasks as requested by the direct supervisor.

IV. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- University degree in environmental science, natural resources management, forestry, conservation and biodiversity, climate resilience or related fields.
- Minimum of five (05) years of professional experience in implementing conservation, ecosystem services, and natural resource management (NRM) initiatives for international development projects, with a preference for experience on USAID-funded projects in Vietnam.
- Strong provincial connections and understanding of local planning processes and direct working experience with provincial government and private partners are an asset.
- Experience with diversity, equity, and social inclusion related to gender and vulnerable populations and communities.
- Ability to work effectively with people of diverse backgrounds, to motivate and inspire teamwork.
- Good networking and communication and presentation skills.
- Ability and willingness to travel and work in remote areas.
- Good communication skills in English and Vietnamese.
- Competency in Microsoft Office

V. SUPERVISOR

The Ecosystem Management Officer reports to and is under the management of the designated Provincial Project Manager.

VI. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates with the required qualifications and experience are invited to send a letter of interest and a full CV in English to vietnamjobs@winrock.org. Please indicate your preferred province for placement by using subject line of **Ecosystem Management Officer-[Ca Mau Dong/Thap/Kien Giang/Soc Trang/Tra Vinh] Province** no later than **December 15, 2024**.

Female and local candidates are strongly recommended to apply.

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest but only candidates who meet requisite criteria and are shortlisted will be contacted.