Call for Consultancy Services

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT FOR CHU YANG SIN NATIONAL PARK

BLOOM Project – Dak Lak Province, Vietnam

1. Background

Project BLOOM- Biodiversity and livelihood opportunities for Ethnic Minority Women implemented by Société de Coopération pour le Développement International (Socodevi) and Développement International Desjardins (DID) funded by **Global Affairs Canada** focuses on biodiversity conservation, empowerment of ethnic minority (EM) women in Vietnam, and climate change adaptation.

The Project will (1) restore and/or conserve key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Tuyen Quang and Dak Lak provinces via the adoption by EM women and their communities of gender-sensitive nature-based solutions (NbS) supporting the ecological integrity of these KBAs; (2) promote sustainability of the use of biodiversity by offering vulnerable EMs profitable, biodiversity-friendly and climate-smart alternatives through Farmers' Organisations (FO)/Cooperatives that allow them to secure their means of living (food security and revenue generation) therefore changing natural resource use practices that threaten biodiversity, and (3) improve the influence of EM women on biodiversity and climate change adaptation programs and policies.

In order to support Chu Yang Sin National Park improving and developing future biodiversity conservation and management, the Project will conduct a biodiversity assessment of current status, distribution, relative abundance (or occupancy where applicable), and provide evidence-based recommendations for long-term monitoring of the two target species.

Chư Yang Sin National Park has a total natural area of 59,478.48 ha, spanning six commune-level administrative units, including Yang Mao, Cu Pui, Krong Bong, and Hoa Son communes in Dak Lak Province (formerly Yang Mao, Cu Dram, Cu Pui, Hoa Phong, Hoa Le, Hoa Son, and Khue Ngoc Dien communes of Krong Bong District, Dak Lak Province), as well as Lien Son Lak and Krong No communes in Dak Lak Province (formerly Yang Tao, Bong Krang, and Krong No communes of Lak District, Dak Lak Province). The area is divided into:

- Strictly Protected Zone: 51,590.04 ha;
- Ecological Restoration Zone: 5,897.34 ha;
- Administrative and Service Zone: 1,991.10 ha.

Biodiversity assessment activities for Chư Yang Sin National Park will focus on the strictly protected zone and the ecological restoration zone.

In order to carry out the assessment, BLOOM project is seeking for ***a consulting entity*** who have capacity to implement the required assessment as below.

2. Legal basis

The implementation of the biodiversity assessment and assessment of the status of the target species in Chư Yang Sin National Park shall be carried out on the basis of the current laws and regulations on biodiversity, environmental protection, nature conservation, and forest management, including but not limited to the following:

- Consolidated Document No. 73/VBHN-VPQH dated 25 March 2026 on the Law on Biodiversity;
- Circular No. 83/2025/TT-BNNMT dated 31 December 2025 of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment detailing a number of articles of the Law on Biodiversity, certain decrees, and providing guidance on the implementation of the Law on Biodiversity and the Law on Environmental Protection;
- Circular No. 53/2024/TT-BTNMT dated 31 December 2024 of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment prescribing technical procedures for biodiversity inventory and monitoring;
- Consolidated Document No. 68/VBHN-VPQH dated 24 March 2026 on the Law on Forestry;
- Consolidated Document No. 13/VBHN-BNNMT dated 6 February 2026 consolidating regulations detailing the implementation of the Law on Forestry;
- Other current legal regulations relevant to the management and protection of special-use forests, biodiversity conservation, investigation and monitoring of wild animal species, biodiversity data management, and research and investigation activities in national parks.

3. Objectives

The objective of this activity is to support the park in determining baseline of two critically endangered priority species including: Large-antlered muntjac (Muntiacus vuquangensis) and Buff-cheeked gibbon (Nomascus gabriellae). This will provide the parks with baseline data of status and distribution, the necessary information and evidence base and generate data to support and develop appropriate forest management, monitoring and conservation plans aimed at reducing direct threats to those species. In turn, it will help strengthen patrolling systems and enhance the overall management capacity of the national park. Furthermore, the assessment results will serve as a foundation for mobilizing sustained support from projects such as BLOOM and other long-term initiatives.

4. Scope of work

The consultanting entity is requested to prepare technical proposal and budget proposed to meet with the scope and requirements as below for their application.

a. Scope of assessment

This assessment will therefore focus on two priority species representing different taxonomic groups: Large-antlered muntjac (Muntiacus vuquangensis)
Buff-cheeked gibbon (Nomascus gabriellae). The consultancy aims to assess the baseline, current status, distribution, relative abundance (or occupancy where applicable). The survey area will cover the entire area of special-use forest within Chu Yang Sin National Park, with priority given to areas with suitable habitats and previous records of the occurrence of the two target species. During the survey of the two target species, the consultant and local survey team shall record and retain reliable observations or evidence of other species of significance for the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), such as Germain's peacock-pheasant (Polyplectron germaini). This does not require a separate survey design for such species. For each record, the minimum information should be collected, where possible, including the date/time, location/GPS coordinates, habitat, and supporting evidence (e.g., photographs, if available).

b. Methodology

The consulting entityis required to submit an appropriate methodology for this assessment, including the use of secondary data such as satellite imagery, information from local communities, and inputs from park staff to identify suitable locations for camera trap placement or other devices. If information is collected from local communities, it is encouraged that ethnic minority women are invited. The assessment will utilize camera traps provided by both the project and the consulting entity.
The proposed methodology should be feasible within the project timeline, suitable with target species, ensuring that camera trap deployment and data collection, as well as completion of the final report, can be achieved within a maximum period of nine months.
The consulting entity may also propose additional survey approaches, including transect surveys and sign surveys, where appropriate.
The survey design and methodology shall be standardized and repeatable to provide a basis for comparison with subsequent monitoring surveys.

c. Identify the specific survey areas

The consulting entity shall coordinate with the project and the National Park to define the specific assessment areas and objectives for the biodiversity assessment activities. The scope definition shall include:
• Identifying priority survey areas and boundaries (using coordinates and area coverage), with priority given to locations of 2 target species,
• Developing baseline survey and monitoring protocol, an implementation plan/methodology.
To ensure that consultants have sufficient information to prepare their technical proposals and implementation methodologies, the Project will organize online meetings with the National Park to provide additional information to interested consulting entities.

d. Collect baseline data

The consulting entities shall be responsible for collecting baseline data to support the biodiversity assessment in the Park, including: satellite imagery; vegetation and forest cover maps; elevation maps; road maps; settlement maps; previous species records (if available); secondary data from earlier studies conducted in the Parks; and existing species inventories.

Based on these baseline data, the consulting entityshall classify and stratify the assessment areas by habitat type, vegetation type, elevation range, level of human disturbance, and management/location categories (such as core zones, buffer zones, and biodiversity corridors).

The consulting entity shall also be responsible for preparing baseline spatial data layers for the establishment of the SMART Desktop database.

e. Design of field surveys.

Based on the baseline data, as well as the scope and objectives of the assessment, the consulting entity shall coordinate with the National Park and the Project to develop a feasible implementation plan and field survey design. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

- Identifying sampling plots and/or survey transects.
- Calculating sampling intensity
- Designing camera trap deployment using a stratified sampling approach with minimum deployment duration, spacing between cameras, total trap nights. Consultant shall justify the sampling intensity based on target species.
- Identifying support perssonnel for field survey implementation (including camera trap installation, rotation, and data retrieval).
- Developing Terms of Reference (TOR) for field survey support teams.
- Preparing training plans for field survey support teams.
- Designing SMART data collection forms/templates.

The field survey plan and methodology shall be developed in a manner that enables the National Park to independently conduct subsequent monitoring and shall be consolidated into a Baseline Survey and Monitoring Protocol, including appropriate monitoring indicators for each target species. These indicators should include measures that can be used to track changes in species presence, distribution, and abundance over time. The consultant shall also propose appropriate data collection methods and monitoring frequency to ensure that results from subsequent monitoring surveys can be compared with the baseline.

The field survey plan should be designed to ensure that it does not exceed six months. The consultant is required to develop the plan with options for using tools and equipment provided by the project as well as additional rented equipment.

f. Field survey implementation

Based on the field survey design, the consulting team shall proactively coordinate with the National Park, upon agreement on the implementation schedule with the BLOOM Project, to carry out the following activities:

- Establish and mobilize the field survey team
- Recruit and manage personnel supporting the field survey
- The consulting entity responsible for designing methodogy, provide technical guidance and field training
- Provide training for the survey team and support staff
- Mark survey transects and sample plot locations in the field
- Install camera traps according to the sampling design
- Inspect, maintain, and rotate camera traps
- Field data collection shall include: camera trap data, direct records of animal signs.

g. Analysis and Evaluation

After obtaining the secondary data collected in Steps c and d, and the primary data collected in Step f, the consultant shall be responsible for data entry (including data quality control), compilation, analysis, and evaluation in preparation for the report. The aspects to be analyzed shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Analysis and interpretation of camera trap data, including species occurrence, frequency of detection, and relative abundance where applicable;
- Identification and assessment of the conservation status of surveyed species and assess the conservation value of the survey area, and propose management and monitoring measures;
- Use of spatial data and GIS analysis to assess species distribution patterns, habitat conditions, conservation values, and biodiversity hotspots across different habitats and areas within the survey sites.

h. Develop thematic and assessment maps

Based on the primary and secondary data, as well as satellite imagery and GIS analysis, the consulting entity shall develop thematic and spatial assessment maps, including but not limited to the following:

- Habitat maps and identification of core areas, buffer zones, and areas with conservation significance;
- Location and boundary maps of the survey areas;
- Management zoning maps;
- Topographic maps;
- Slope and aspect maps;
- Land use and vegetation type maps;
- Patrol route maps and SMART monitoring/survey locations;
- Camera trap location maps;
- Species occurrence and distribution maps;

- Threat and pressure maps;
- Priority conservation value maps.

i. Assessment report

In addition to the maps mentioned above, the consulting entity shall prepare a final assessment report. Besides the general information on objectives, survey area, and survey methods, the report shall include:

- Species occurence, relative abundance, encounter frequency, occupancy rate (where applicable).
- Assessment of habitats and ecosystems, including habitat quality, habitat connectivity, degree of fragmentation, forest status, identification of degraded areas, and biodiversity corridors
- Analysis of existing pressures and threats
- Assessment of conservation value for the National Park, including identification of areas with high conservation value, critical habitats, and biodiversity hotspots
- Comparison with existing datasets (where available) to identify changes in habitat conditions and species distribution, and to identify limitations and data gaps (if any)
- The report shall also provide recommendations on management and monitoring measures, and propose priority activities for conservation and protection, including patrol and monitoring solutions, the integration of camera trap networks into the Park's routine operations, community-based conservation approaches, and ecosystem restoration measures.
- List of consultation stakeholders including communities and number of ethnic minority women.

j. Participation in meetings

The consulting entity shall participate in at least two meetings during the implementation of the assignment:

- Inception meeting: A meeting with the national park management boards and relevant stakeholders to define the scope and objectives of the assessment. The meeting will also serve to discuss and agree on the proposed methodology, implementation approach, work plan, and survey arrangements.
- Final validation and results presentation meeting: A meeting with the national park management boards and relevant stakeholders to present and validate the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the assessment

k. Selection and recruitment of supporting team for field surveys and data entry

The consulting entity shall be responsible for determining the required number, qualifications, and roles of supporting team members needed for implementation of the assignment. The supporting team will assist in conducting field surveys, deploying and relocating camera traps, collecting field data, and carrying out data entry and related tasks.

The project encourages the engagement of local community members, particularly ethnic minority women, as supporting team members whenever feasible and appropriate.

l. Provide training for supporting team

The consultant shall be responsible for providing training and guidance to the supporting team on assisting park staff in camera trap installation and deployment, rotation of camera traps between survey sessions, data collection and entry procedures, extraction and management of camera trap data, and conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders where necessary.

The consulting entity also be responsible for developing all necessary templates, forms, and guidance materials to be used by supporting team members during implementation.

5. Equipment and satellite images

The Project will provide the Park with 15 camera trap units, and the consulting entity may utilize these camera traps for the survey. However, due to the short field survey period (not exceeding six months), the camera trap rotation time and the number of survey rounds will need to be shortened; therefore, additional camera traps may need to be rented. The consulting entity shall be responsible for determining the number of additional camera traps required for rental. The consultant shall be responsible for assessing the adequacy and suitability of the available equipment against the proposed survey design, and shall arrange, rent, or procure any additional equipment and survey tools, as necessary, to ensure that the survey of the two target species is fully implemented and meets the required quality standards.

The consultant shall be responsible for selecting and proposing appropriate survey methods, equipment, and tools based on the ecological characteristics, detectability, and survey requirements of each target species, within the approved budget.

The Project encourages the use of freely available satellite imagery such as SPOT or PLANET imagery. However, where higher-resolution imagery is required, the consultant may propose cost-effective options for purchasing satellite imagery.

6. Deliverables

The consultant shall be responsible for submitting deliverables corresponding to the relevant activities and implementation timeline, as outlined below:

No	Deliverables	Activity No	Activity	Submission time	Requirement
1	Inception report (methodology, workplan)	3a	Scope of assessment	Within 3 weeks from the contract signing date	The report shall include findings from desk review and baseline information
		3b	Methodology		
		3c	Identify the specific survey areas		

		3d	Collect baseline data		collection, proposed methodology, identification of survey areas, field survey design, implementation approach, and a detailed workplan for conducting the assessment.
		3e	Design of field surveys		
		3j	Participating in meetings		
2	Baseline Survey and Monitoring Protocol	3e	Field survey and monitoring baseline	4 weeks from the contract signing date	The Baseline Survey and Monitoring Protocol shall include: field survey design; implementation approach; detailed implementation plan; data collection and recording procedures; data analysis; baseline indicators; and other relevant components.
2	Field survey reports for each site	3f	Field survey implementation	Within 28 weeks from the contract signing date (including six months of camera trapping)	Short field survey reports for each site/province summarizing field activities and raw data collected during surveys, including camera trap data and information obtained through stakeholder interviews (if applicable).
		3k	Select and recruit supporting team for field survey and data entry		
		3i	Provide training for supporting team		
3		3f	Field survey implementation	Within 30 weeks from	Biodiversity datasets including

	Biodiversity dataset for each species	3g	Analysis and Evaluation	the contract signing date	occurrence records, photographs, and other relevant survey data in editable digital format including SMART database, shapefile, camera locations, metadata, attribute tables, camera trap photos, GPS data, raw Excel, GIS, scripts (if any)
4	Maps of survey areas and species distribution	3h	Develop data maps, and assessment maps	Within 32 weeks from the contract signing date	List of maps to be submitted a. Location & Boundary Map b. Zonation Map c. Elevation / DEM Map d. Slope & Aspect Map e. Map of Landcover / Habitat Types f. SMART Patrol Route Map g. Camera trap location map h. Species occurrence map i. Threat Map j. Conservation Priority Map
5	Final consolidated report in Vietnamese	3i	Assessment report	Within 33 weeks from the contract signing date	Final assessment report in Vietnamese, including an editable Word version and a PowerPoint presentation for
		3j	Participating in meetings		

					presentation and discussion with the national park and relevant stakeholders.
6	Executive summary report in English (5-10 pages)			Within 33 weeks from the contract signing date	An English summary of deliverable No. 5 translated into English.

All deliverables must be accepted by PMU, the national parks and the Project.

All raw data, photographs, GIS layers, databases and reports produced under this assignment shall become the property of the Project and the National Park

7. Duration

The consultancy is expected to start in September 2026 and continue until April 2027.

8. Reporting and coordination

The consultant shall report directly to the Project forestry and biodiversity specialist who will serve as the technical focal point and provide overall technical guidance throughout the assignment. The consultant is also expected to work closely with provincial coordinators in each location who will support logistical arrangements, and coordinate and engage with local stakeholders. The consultant shall maintain close coordination with the following stakeholders throughout the implementation of the assignment:

- Chu Yang Sin National Park
- Relevant partners and stakeholders, where applicable

9. Consultant capacity requirement

The consulting entity must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered qualified for this assignment:

a. Team members:

The consulting team shall include at minimum:

- One (1) Team Leader/Wildlife expert with demonstrated experience in biodiversity assessment and wildlife conservation
- One (1) GIS expert with experience in spatial analysis, satellite imagery analysis, mapping, and biodiversity data management

b. **Professional experience:**

- The Team Leader, serving as the Wildlife Expert, should have at least ten (10) years of professional experience with extensive field experience in wildlife surveys, species identification, camera trap deployment and analysis, and ecological survey methods in

protected areas or national parks. Other technical experts should have at least five (5) years of relevant professional experience.

- The proposed team should have experience participating in at least two (2) biodiversity assessment assignments in Vietnam prior to the commencement of this assignment.
- Previous experience working in or with protected areas, particularly Chu Yang Sin National Park, will be considered an advantage.
- Experience working with local communities, ranger teams, and relevant local authorities is highly desirable.

c. **Technical capacity**

- The consulting entity must demonstrate experience in designing and implementing biodiversity field surveys, including the use of camera traps and other relevant field methodologies.
- The consulting entity should demonstrate experience in biodiversity data management, analysis, GIS mapping, and preparation of technical assessment reports.
- Preference will be given to consultant that have access to the necessary field equipment for biodiversity surveys, including camera traps, either through ownership or established rental/partnership arrangements, to ensure timely and effective field implementation

d. **Legal and operational requirements**

- The consulting entity must demonstrate its legal eligibility to enter into and implement a contract with an NGO project in Vietnam.
- Preference will be given to consultant with offices or operational teams in both Northern and Southern Vietnam, enabling region-based deployment of personnel for field activities and minimizing the need for cross-regional travel.

10. Application guidance

Interested consultant are encouraged to submit the following application documents:

- A Letter of Interest.
- A Technical Proposal describing the proposed approach and methodology for this consultancy, including how the proposed methods are tailored to the context and conditions of Chu Yang Sin national park.
- A Financial Proposal detailing all expected costs for implementing the consultancy, including but not limited to expert workdays, support team costs, satellite imagery costs, training activities, meetings, travel, and other related expenses.
- Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of all proposed team members.
- A proposed team structure, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member.
- Evidence demonstrating the consulting entity's technical capacity and previous experience in conducting comprehensive biodiversity assessments and species-specific monitoring activities.

11. Selection process:

The consultancy offer will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Technical:

- Methodology of Technical proposal
- Qualifications/CVs of Team
- Understanding of Context
- Previous biodiversity assessment experience
- Feasibility of Workplan

Financial:

- Value for Money
- Note: All field costs, including those for training sessions and travel, will follow Socodevi's standard cost norms.

12. How to apply

Interested consultant are requested to submit their application documents no later than Sunday**, Sep** 20th**, 2026** to bloom@socodevi.org with the subject line **"Proposal - Biodiversity assessment for Chư Yang Sin NP - consulting firm name or team leader's name**". Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.