

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR TWO CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES IN CHU YANG SIN NATIONAL PARK

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

About the BLOOM Project

The **BLOOM Project** (*Biodiversity and Livelihood Opportunities for Ethnic Minority Women*) is a five-year initiative funded by **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)** and joint-implemented by **SOCODEVI** (*Société de Coopération pour le Développement International*) and **DID** (*Développement International Desjardins*).

Operating in Dak Lak and Tuyen Quang provinces, BLOOM aims to enhance biodiversity conservation, promote gender equality, and foster climate change adaptation. The project achieves these goals through three integrated pillars:

1. Restoring and conserving Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) by adopting gender-sensitive Nature-based Solutions (NbS) with ethnic minority (EM) communities.
2. Supporting sustainable, climate-smart, and biodiversity-friendly agricultural value chains through Cooperatives and Farmers' Organisations (FOs) to secure sustainable livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources.
3. Elevating the leadership, decision-making, and influence of EM women in biodiversity conservation and climate action policies.

Context and Objectives of this Assignment

In support of Chu Yang Sin National Park's management efforts, the BLOOM Project is funding a comprehensive biodiversity assessment to establish baseline ecological data and build long-term monitoring capacity.

- **Geographical Scope:** Strictly Protected Zone (51,590.04 ha) and Ecological Restoration Zone (5,897.34 ha) of Chu Yang Sin National Park.
- **Primary Target Species (2 species):** Large-antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*) and Buff-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*).
- **Secondary Observations:** Record opportunistic evidence of other species significant for Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) identification (e.g., Germain's peacock-pheasant - *Polyplectron germaini*).
- **Specific Objectives:**
 1. Determine the baseline status, distribution, relative abundance, and occupancy rate of the two target species.
 2. Develop a standardized Baseline Survey & Monitoring Protocol to enable the Park to conduct subsequent monitoring independently.

3. Produce GIS mapping data to integrate into the SMART database and provide evidence-based recommendations for conservation management.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Law on Biodiversity (Consolidated Document No. 73/VBHN-VPQH dated March 25, 2026).
- Circular No. 83/2025/TT-BNNMT dated December 31, 2025 detailing the Law on Biodiversity and Environmental Protection Law.
- Circular No. 53/2024/TT-BTNMT dated December 31, 2024, on technical procedures for biodiversity inventory and monitoring.
- Law on Forestry (Consolidated Document No. 68/VBHN-VPQH) and relevant guiding legal documents.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The assignment will be completed within a maximum period of **6 months** (field survey not exceeding 3 months), comprising the following key tasks:

Task 1: Secondary Data Collection & Methodology Design

- Collect baseline mapping data, satellite images (SPOT/Planet), past research, and SMART patrol records.
- Categorize survey zones by habitat type, altitude, and level of human activity.
- Design a camera trap sampling grid (density, spacing, target trap-nights) and determine total equipment requirements for the target species.
- Draft the Baseline Survey and Monitoring Protocol (as part of the Inception Report).

Task 2: Field Survey Implementation & Training

- Organize an Inception Meeting with National Park management and key stakeholders.
- Recruit and train field support teams, actively encouraging the participation of ethnic minority women.
- **Source/rent additional camera traps:** The project provides 15 camera trap units; the consultant is responsible for arranging any additional units needed to complete the survey within the 3-month field timeframe.
- Deploy, inspect, maintain, and retrieve camera traps, collecting direct animal signs and field records using SMART templates.

Task 3: Data Analysis & Evaluation

- Process camera trap data, analyzing Relative Abundance Index (RAI) or occupancy rates.
- Assess direct threats (poaching, habitat loss, human pressure).
- Perform spatial analysis (GIS) and set up the SMART database structure.

Task 4: Thematic Mapping

Develop 3 core categories of thematic maps:

- Habitat types and management zoning maps.
- Camera trap layout and SMART patrol route map.
- Target species distribution, biodiversity hotspots, and threat maps.

Task 5: Final Report Submission & Validation Meeting

- Submit the final Consolidated Assessment Report in Vietnamese (in Word and PowerPoint formats) along with an English Executive Summary (5–10 pages).
- Organize and facilitate a final validation meeting with Chu Yang Sin National Park management and key stakeholders to present and validate the findings.

4. TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

Task No.	Deliverables	Submission Timeline	Technical Requirements
1	Inception Report and monitoring protocol	Nov 30, 2026	Detailed workplan, desk review findings, proposed field design, survey locations, baseline indicators, sampling design, SMART data collection forms and standardized monitoring protocol
2	Field Survey Progress & Raw Data Report	Jan 31, 2027	Field progress summary, camera trap maintenance logs, raw interview data, and field records.
3	Biodiversity Dataset & SMART Database	Mar 31, 2027	Cleaned SMART database, GIS shapefiles, GPS coordinates, metadata, and classified camera trap photo database.
4	Thematic Map Package	Mar 31, 2027	High-resolution GIS and PDF maps (species distribution, habitats, threats, camera locations).
5	Final Consolidated Assessment Report	Apr 30, 2027	Final Assessment Report in Vietnamese (editable Word format and PowerPoint presentation), plus an English Executive Summary (5–10 pages). Five (5) years conservation recommendations and initiatives with detailed monitoring framework.

5. TIMELINE AND REPORTING

- **Expected Duration:** November 2026 – April 2027.
- **Reporting Line:** Direct reporting to the BLOOM Forestry and Biodiversity Specialist. Close coordination with the Provincial Coordinator (PC) and Chu Yang Sin National Park management.

6. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Key Personnel Requirements:

- **01 Team Leader / Wildlife Expert:** Minimum 10 years of experience in biodiversity assessments, camera trapping, and wildlife ecological surveys. Proven track record as Team Leader in at least 2 similar assignments in Vietnam.
- **01 Camera Trap Specialist:** Minimum 5 years of experience in camera trap survey design and field implementation using 500x500m mai or 250x250m grid-based sampling. Proven expertise in species identification from images, data management, and calculating Relative Abundance Index (RAI) or occupancy analysis.
- **01 GIS & Data Specialist:** Minimum 5 years of experience in spatial analysis, satellite imagery processing, and SMART database management.
- **Note on Field Support Staff:** In addition to the Key Personnel, the consultant/firm is expected to mobilize qualified Field Assistants and local support teams (including local community members and park rangers) to execute the field surveys and camera trap deployment effectively within the required timeframe.

Entity / Team Experience:

- Legally eligible entities (consulting firms/organizations) or qualified independent consultant teams with proven technical capacity.
- Demonstrated experience in successfully completing at least 2 biodiversity assessment projects in protected areas/national parks in Vietnam. Working experience in Chu Yang Sin NP or the Central Highlands region is an advantage.
- Capacity to supply or rent necessary field survey equipment (camera traps).
- Strong capacity in community engagement and working with ranger teams.

7. APPLICATION AND EVALUATION

- **Submission Package:** Letter of Interest, Technical Proposal (demonstrating understanding of the assignment, methodology, and work plan), Financial Proposal (itemized breakdown of expert daily rates, equipment rental, field support, training, and travel costs), CVs of proposed key experts, and evidence of organizational capacity, including two (02) sample deliverables from similar past assignments.
- **Evaluation Method:** Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS), combining Technical Quality (Methodology, Team Qualifications, Context Understanding) and Financial Value for Money.
- **Indicative Budget Ceiling:** the total budget for this assignment has an indicative maximum ceiling of **VND 700,000,000** (including all applicable taxes, fees, and operational expenses). This figure serves as a maximum financial limit for planning purposes. Financial proposals will be evaluated on Value for Money (VFM), and applicants are strongly encouraged to submit competitive and cost-effective budgets aligned with their proposed methodology. Any proposal exceeding this ceiling will be disqualified.
- Socodevi applies the EU cost norm for consultancy fee and Socodevi cost norm for field expenses
- **For any enquiries, please contact: bloom@socodevi.org**