Terms of Reference

Title: Vietnam marine fisheries specialist
Status: International
Duration: June 1, 2022-May 31, 2023 with possibility of renewal depending on budget and performance
Duty station: home-based in Vietnam with occasional travel to IUCN offices in Hanoi and HCMC and project sites in Mekong Delta
Type contract: Service contract

Background
The Mekong Delta and its islands are home to 70% of Vietnam’s mangroves and 90% of its seagrass beds, which support Vietnam’s richest fish grounds. These habitats, however, are under growing threat. Intensive near-shore fishing has depleted fish stocks leading to the phenomenon of “fishing down the food chain”, which is opportunistic, non-selective, and devastating ecologically. In 2017, Vietnam’s inability to reign in illegal fishing outside its territorial waters resulted in the EU issuing it a Yellow Card. Since then, seafood exports to the EU have declined by 10%/year, equivalent to a loss of hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

To tackle the myriad threats to marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mekong Delta and its islands the USAID Mekong Delta Coastal Habitat Conservation Activity (MDC) will be implemented by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature in partnership with WWF-Vietnam. The overarching goal of MDC is to protect key coastal habitats in the Mekong Delta for sustainable fisheries, enhance climate change adaptation, and support biodiversity conservation.

MDC will work with MARD/DFISH, Kien Giang and Soc Trang DARDs, coastal communities, and businesses across three components:

1. Strengthen coastal habitat conservation by operationalizing a business platform that invests in improved environmental management in Phu Quoc, Kien Giang.
2. Establish a network of co-managed LMMAs that support responsible, IUU-free fisheries in three small island clusters in the Wet Sea in Kien Giang.
3. Expand mangroves to offset the coastal squeeze and increase fish nursery habitat and coastal biodiversity in Kien Giang and Soc Trang.

In support of components 1-2, three studies will be done:

1. Situation analysis and mapping of coastal resources and conflicts with a focus on fisheries and tourism in Phu Quoc, carrying capacity, and governance and socio-economic and gender analyses.
2. Situation analysis of fisheries management in three island clusters.
3. Assessment of private sector partnerships to promote responsibly harvested seafood of anchovies and blue swimming crab in local and major international markets.

SOW

- Review TOR and research design for the three studies and ensure synergy.
- Review draft studies to ensure that they capture the key findings and policy implications.
- Review 6-monthly bi-annual reports.
- Review web stories and other communications products.
- Review MDC M&E indicators.
- Advise on opportunities for MDC to complement World Bank fisheries projects.
- Carry out online research as required.
- Visit project sites in Kien Giang as required.
Reporting
The consultant shall report to IUCN’s Dr. Andrew Wyatt, MDC Chief of Party based in HCMC.

Requirements
- Advanced degree in fisheries policy, fisheries economics, fisheries management, coastal management, natural resources management, or marine biology with at least 20 years relevant experience in fisheries sector advisory/consulting, including at least 8 years in Vietnam.
- Deep understanding of sustainable fisheries and IUU issues in Vietnam.
- Directly experience in biodiversity and marine/coastal resource management Vietnam.
- Prior work experience on Vietnam’s fisheries and/or MPA sectors and familiarity with the legal/policy environment for fisheries co-management in Vietnam.
- Fluency in written English.
- Strong analytical and report writing skills.

Budget
Up to $25,000 over 12 months. (Dependent on start date, skills and experience, with a maximum of 50 working days per year). Any travel costs will be paid directly by IUCN.

Applications If you are interested in applying for this role, please send a cover letter and your CV to thuy.nguyenthithanh@iucn.org by 30th May 2022.