**CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN WETLANDS IN CAMBODIA**

**Purpose:** To implement Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures to increase the resilience of wetland species, ecosystems and communities to climate change impacts in Cambodia.

**Deadline for EOI submission:** 25 November 2020

**Duration of contract:** 1st January 2021- 2nd August 2021 (7 months)

**Funding:** Applicants can apply for up to 20,000 EUR per proposal

**Format:** Template provided below

**Background Information:**

Funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the “Mekong WET: Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region” project aims to build climate resilience by harnessing the benefits of wetlands in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. It is facilitated by IUCN under the umbrella of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI).

The Mekong WET project previously conducted Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (VAs) at three focal sites in Cambodia, [Koh Kapik Ramsar Site](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/climate_change_vulnerability_assessment_koh_kapik_ramsar_site_cambodia.pdf), [Boeung Chhmar Ramsar Site](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/climate_change_vulnerability_assessment_boueng_chhmar_ramsar_site_cambodia.pdf), and [Boeung Prek Lapov Protected Landscape](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/climate_change_vulnerability_assessment_boeung_prek_lapouv_protected_landscape_cambodia.pdf). The VAs assessed the vulnerability of species, habitats and wetlands communities to climate impacts. The project also supported community-based dialogues and workshops to pre-identify and prioritise ecosystem based adaptation measures to be implemented at site level. Key results per site are presented below.

At **Koh Kapik Ramsar Site**, seagrass beds and catchment forests are identified to be at greatest risk from climate change impacts due to increasing water temperature, storms, sedimentation, and freshwater inflow. The assessment also found that most flagship species such as Irrawaddy dolphins, fishing cats and otters have become more vulnerable due to climate change.

Community members in Koh Kapik mentioned that saltwater intrusion poses a threat to freshwater supplies and coastal agriculture, while erosion threatens beaches. During the adaptation planning workshops, community members and other stakeholders developed priority adaptation options to strengthen climate change resilience around the wetland. The adaptation measures identified include:

1. Restoring and protecting the swamp and beach areas;
2. Conserving and restoring catchment forests;
3. Improving local management of fisheries and seagrass conservation areas (including establishment of a savings group);
4. Restoring and protecting the mangrove forest;
5. Establishing joint management at the commune level to participate in KKRS boundary pole demarcation.

In **Boeung Chhmar Ramsar Site** the open water habitats are the most vulnerable to climate change due to lower water levels and higher temperatures. Stronger winds can stir up water from the bottom layers and reduce water quality, leading to massive fish kills. Additionally, migratory “white” fish species are more vulnerable to increased temperatures and decreased water quality than resident “black” fish species, which can survive in water with poor quality. Villagers reported that higher water temperatures have negatively affected the survival of caged fish stocks.

Local stakeholders developed a list of adaptation options for the site, with the top five priority interventions including:

1. Strengthening the protection of the flooded forest, and stopping illegal fishing and wildlife hunting;
2. Restoring flooded forest in the degraded core areas;
3. Strengthening existing mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring sluice gates along the rivers of Chikraeng and Stoung;
4. Improving local management of fisheries conservation areas (including establishment of local savings group);
5. Establishing ecotourism and empowering women in financial management.

At **Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape** climate change has impacted fisheries as well as flagship species, such as the Sarus crane. Their main food source, water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*) is a keystone and relatively resilient to individual weather events. However, the long-term climatic implications of increased periods of drought and hotter dry and wet season temperatures may push the plants beyond their threshold of tolerance.

Stakeholders developed a series of EbA actions to implement to strengthen resilience of the wetland:

1. Defining the boundary of BPL and conducting demarcation and zoning;
2. Protecting and restoring the main wetland habitats, particularly the flooded forest;
3. Protect endangered and flagship bird species such as the Sarus crane;
4. Improve awareness, knowledge and capacity of the communities on climate resilience in BPL;
5. Develop irrigation and infrastructure for better water management.

**The small-grant programme:**

As part of the project, IBRRI is launching a small grant programme to increase the resilience of wetlands to climate change impacts using Ecosystem-based Adaptation and to better understand the impact of climate change on Cambodia’s Ramsar sites and wetlands.

The current call seeks:

1. Proposals supporting the implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation options in wetlands. Proposals working in project sites and on the adaptation options identified above will be prioritized, however proposals for EbA measures in other wetlands within the country, will also be considered;
2. Proposals to conduct Vulnerability Assessments for wetlands in Cambodia are also eligible for funding, provided that the [Mekong WET VA methodology](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/vulnerability_assessment_and_adaptation_planning_guidance_note_final2.pdf)[[1]](#footnote-1) is applied.

All proposals should include a communications and awareness-raising plan to disseminate the results of the work completed. Proposals and reporting for the grants must be submitted in English.

The grant programme is open to individuals and institutions including researchers, NGOs and government agencies. Preference will be given to individuals/institutions with experience working in Cambodia, particularly those with demonstrated experience in wetland management, community engagement, migratory species, and other aspects linked to wetlands and climate change adaptation.

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| **Kindly send any questions and proposals using the attached project application template to the following:**  Ms. Kathryn Bimson, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Bangkok  Email: [Kathryn.bimson@iucn.org](mailto:Kathryn.bimson@iucn.org) |

**NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

1. Applications should be targeted towards Ecosystem-based Adaptation activities in wetlands in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Awards may be used to address threats to key species, habitats, or regions, or used to evaluate emerging threats in wetlands. All applications should demonstrate how the work carried out will contribute to the implementation of the [Mekong WET Project Objectives](https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/our-work/regional-projects/mekong-wet);

2. The maximum amount provided to an applicant or for a specific project is 20,000 EUR. If the project budget exceeds this amount, co-funding must be identified in the application;

3. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded, IUCN will carry out a strict selection process considering criteria such as technical relevance, experience of the proponent and cost-benefit analysis. Rationale for selection/rejection will be provided upon request;

4. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial support are preferred;

5. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies;

6. Project completion is required by the 2nd August 2021;

7. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write-up of their project outcomes for the IUCN and/or BMU-IKI website.

**Call for proposals opens on 4th November 2020**

**Applications close at 17:00 (Indo-China time) on 25th November 2020**

**Announcements of selection made by 9th December 2020**

**Confirmation of contracting (post due diligence) 31st December 2020**

**Guidance to Applicants**

1. **Eligibility of Projects**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. The focus of the project is wetland ecosystems, species, or local livelihoods in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand or Viet Nam. | Yes |  | No |  |
| * 1. The project’s main focus is Ecosystem-based Adaptation options or Vulnerability Assessments in wetlands. | Yes |  | No |  |
| * 1. The applicant agrees to complete a due diligence review if their application is successful. | Yes |  | No |  |
| * 1. The applicant agrees to submit a 1-2 page article and photographs for the IUCN and BMU-IKI websites, highlighting the project outcomes. Photographers will be acknowledged. | Yes |  | No |  |
| * 1. The applicant will acknowledge the support of the donor, BMU-IKI, in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. | Yes |  | No |  |

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title: |  |  |  |  |  |
| **(Mr, Ms etc)** |  | **Family name** |  | **Given Name/s** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Institution:** | |  | | | | |
| **Institutional address:** | |  | | | | |
| **Street address or PO Box** | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Suburb or town** |  | **State or country** |  | **Postcode** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Primary contact number** |  | **Mobile phone number** |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Email address:** |  |

**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Project Title:** Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

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**Part A. Project Proposal**

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| --- | --- |
| **Details of your project** (2.5 page maximum) | |
| 1. **Objectives:** |  |
| 1. **Background:** |  |
| 1. **Project plan, timeline and methods:** | *Please include the proposed timing of project commencement, location, start and completion of fieldwork, and project completion. Please also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.* |
| 1. **Likely benefits to wetland ecosystems, species, or community livelihoods:** |  |
| 1. **Alignment with Mekong WET Project Objectives:** |  |
| 1. **If the proposal is part of a larger programme explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:** |  |

**Part B.**

**Experience Relevant to Project:**

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| *0.5 page maximum* |

Please alsoattach a maximum 2-page CV for individuals who will be working on the project implementation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Please note that if your project is short-listed, you will be requested to submit a full ESMS questionnaire in addition to answering the preliminary questions below. Please be as honest and as accurate in your responses as possible. Selecting “yes” for a question will not automatically disqualify your proposal, but it will mean that we will need to obtain further information from you. | | |
| Will your project include involuntary resettlement of local populations and/or access restrictions to natural resources? | Yes | No |
|  |  |
| Will your project negatively impact Indigenous Peoples? | Yes | No |
|  |  |
| Will your project negatively impact natural habitats? | Yes | No |
|  |  |
| Will your project negatively impact Physical Cultural Resources (PCR)? | Yes | No |
|  |  |
| Will your project include pest management requiring the use of pesticides? | Yes | No |
|  |  |

**PROJECT BUDGET (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item**  (Please list) | | **Total Budget**  (in EUR) | **Co-funding or in-kind**  (source and amount) | **Requested support from Mekong WET**  (source and amount) |
| Equipment:  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| Consumable items  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| Travel and accommodation  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| Computing & clerical  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| Staff time (not eligible for government agencies)  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| Other  (details) |  |  |  |  |
| **Total amount requested:**  (All amounts in EUR) | | | |  |

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| **Budget justification:** Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project for which you are applying(250 word maximum): |
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**DECLARATION**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All relevant sections of this application have been completed. | Yes |  | No |  |  |
| Application is being submitted electronically as one single document. | Yes |  | No |  |  |
| Application is being submitted in MS Word format. | Yes |  | No |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

# GRANT CONDITIONS

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

* All institutional applicants will be subject to a due diligence evaluation;
* You are required to acknowledge IUCN and the donors, BMU-IKI, in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work;
* You may be requested to write a brief article for the IUCN website;
* You are required to provide IUCN with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Please email your application to:

Ms. Kathryn Bimson,

Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands,

IUCN Asia Regional Office,

Bangkok

Email: Kathryn.bimson@iucn.org

1. The guidance note “[A Methodology for Rapid Assessment of Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning at Ramsar Sites](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/vulnerability_assessment_and_adaptation_planning_guidance_note_final2.pdf)” and the [Habitat VA Tool](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/habitat-va-tool.xls), [Village VA Tool](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/wetland-village-va-tool.xls) and [Species VA Tool](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/species-va-tool.xls) can be downloaded from the [IBRRI website](https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/our-work/water-and-wetlands/indo-burma-ramsar-regional-initiative-ibrri). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)