**CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN WETLANDS IN LAO PDR**

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

**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 two focal sites in Lao PDR, [Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2019/climate_change_vulnerability_assessment_beung_kiat_ngong_ramsar_site_lao_pdr.pdf) and [Xe Champhone Ramsar Site](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2019/climate_change_vulnerability_assessment_xe_champhone_ramsar_site_lao_pdr_compressed_2.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.

Climate change projections for the Lao PDR Ramsar sites include an increase in mean and maximum annual temperatures. Results predict that there will be an increase in average annual rainfall, along with extended and more frequent flooding during the wet season. In the dry season, predictions include a reduction of rainfall and higher evaporation rates of water bodies.

**Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site** hosts the largest peatland area in Lao PDR and its local communities are highly vulnerable to climate change. The species vulnerability assessment demonstrated that turtles at the Beung Kiat Ngong site are the fauna that are most vulnerable to future climate changes. The projected increase in temperature will skew hatchling gender ratio through ‘environmental sex determination’ and will compromise reproductive success of two species, the Giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*) and the Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*). Community livelihood vulnerability assessments revealed that damage to rice crops from floods and drought is threatening livelihoods.

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

1. Increasing community awareness, training and participation in management;
2. Implementation of on-ground habitat and species management, i.e. habitat restoration, invasive species control, species recovery planning;
3. Reducing resource pressure through alternative food and/or income sources, such as community ponds/aquaculture, alternative crops and ecotourism;
4. Improving efficiencies, productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems;
5. Reducing livelihood impacts of invasive species through control programs and increased utilization.

At **Xe Champhone Ramsar Site**, riverine habitats, which are susceptible to erosion and sedimentation impacts, and open wetlands, are increasingly threatened by higher temperatures warming the shallow waters, and increased water extraction during the dry season. High temperatures will affect the eggs of the critically endangered Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*). Evaporation and sedimentation at Xe Champhone may also fragment the migration routes of the Wallago catfish (*Wallago attu*), which requires a large connected habitat area and deep pool refuges to sustain the population. Livelihood vulnerability assessments showed that the community depended highly on snails and fish from the wetland. In addition, there is a heavy reliance on rice crops, which face risks from flooding and droughts.

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

1. Increasing community awareness, training and participation in wetland management;
2. Expansion of conservation/core zones, including protection of priority nesting and refuge areas;
3. Improving regulation and enforcement;
4. Management of erosion and sedimentation impacts through restoration;
5. Reducing livelihood impacts of invasive species through control programs and expanded utilization.

**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 Lao PDR’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 Lao PDR 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 Lao PDR, 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 |
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**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)