**CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN WETLANDS IN VIET NAM**

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

**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 (VA) at the three focal sites in Viet Nam, [Lang Sen Wetland Reserve](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/ccva_report_lang_sen_wetland_viet_nam.pdf), [Phu My Species and Habitat Conservation Area](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/ccva_report_phu_my_species_and_habitat_conservation_area.pdf), [U Minh Thuong National Park](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/ccva_report_u_minh_thuong_viet_nam.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.

Projected climate change impacts for the Mekong Delta include a mean air temperature increase ranging from 1.9 to 3.4°C. Other impacts include increased rain during rainy season and droughts during dry season, with expected sea level rise from 55 to 75 centimetres by the end of the century. The projections were used to determine the vulnerability of various species, habitats and livelihoods to future climate changes.

As part of the vulnerability assessment, IUCN asked community members in the areas surrounding the wetlands to recount wetland resources used and recent climatic variation. In all three wetland sites, rice farming is an important source of income. Participants reported that droughts, high temperatures and floods threaten crop production. Villagers also heavily rely on wetland resources, including wild fish, Melaleuca trees, and wild vegetables and herbs, which will also be affected by future changes in temperature and rainfall.

In **Lang Sen Wetland Reserve**, sea level rise, drought and sedimentation will increase the future vulnerability of seasonally flooded grasslands and culturally important lotus swamps. The Siamese mud carp (*Henicorhynchus siamensis*) was found to be the species most vulnerable to climate change. 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. Develop a water management plan for Zone 9 and Zone 10, the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in the core zone, taking into account wetland restoration and climate risks such as drought and salinity intrusion;
2. Develop household business models that assist local communities in coping with climate change, for example lotus or waterlily planting, flood season fishing, organic, low-emission rice farming;
3. Develop wetland protection models that are inclusive of local community participation and benefit sharing (water and fish sustainable harvesting);
4. Conduct a field study to inspect the core zone dike system, develop a program for water quality improvement and water sharing to local communities;
5. Conduct training programs for Reserve's staff and local communities in climate change adaptation.

In **Phu My Species and Habitat Conservation Area**, seasonally flooded grasslands are highly vulnerable to climate change, along with the dominant Melaleuca shrubs in the area. The most vulnerable species was found to be the Sarus crane (*Grus antigone sharpii*). Local stakeholders developed a list of adaptation options for the site, with the top five priority interventions including:

1. Conduct a field study on Sarus crane behaviours and habitats and develop a conservation action plan;
2. Establish a hydro-meteorological monitoring system, including air, surface and ground water;
3. Restoring permanently inundated wetlands inside the core zone for water birds, other wetland species and for forest fire control;
4. Develop a water management plan, including a detailed wetland topography map and an operating plan for the dike and water gate system that will be built for surface water control;
5. Develop pilot models for Lepironia planting on unsuitable rice paddies in the buffer zone and a restoration plan for degraded Lepironia areas in the core zone.

In the future, climate change will likely affect peat swamp forests and open swamps in **U Minh Thuong National Park.** Drought and high temperatures increase the risk of peat fires that can rapidly destroy the forest. Six wetland species were selected for species assessment in U Minh Thuong, and pangolin (*Manis javanica*) was found to be the most susceptible to changes in climate. Following pangolin, the large fruit bat (*Pteropus vampyrus*), and hairy-nosed otter (*Lutra sumatrana*) are highly vulnerable.

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

1. Develop a water management plan for the core zone, considering different peat conditions, vegetation types, forest fire risks, and saline water intrusion;
2. Develop a forest restoration plan for degraded peat areas, determining the causes of poor forest regeneration and identifying reforestation methods;
3. Develop pilot models for forest protection with participation from local communities: Community forest protection units that are responsible for patrolling the outer dikes to prevent poachers. The community units will receive some benefits such as participating in tourism businesses, or receiving financial support to conduct snail or fish farming (native species sourced from U Minh Thuong wetlands);
4. Develop inclusive agricultural models for communities living in the buffer zone, for example organic farming in combination with water-saving farming techniques, preventing water pollution and salinity intrusion, active participation of communities in surface water control (sluice gate operation).

**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 Viet Nam’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 Viet Nam 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 Viet Nam, 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** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** |  |  |

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| **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 |  |  |
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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)