

USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife

SCOPE OF WORK

Applied Political Economy Assessment: The Role of ASEAN in Countering Wildlife Trafficking in Southeast Asia

Application Deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022

USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife, implemented by RTI International, is soliciting the services of an expert consultant to undertake an Applied Political Economy Assessment (PEA), or similar research approach, to review the current platforms and opportunities among Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) organizations to advance political will and coordinated action to counter wildlife trafficking (CWT) at the regional, national and local levels. The consultant is expected to complete the assessment process in a five- to six-month period from approximately February 1 to July 31, 2022.

I. Background

USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife is a project of the United States Agency for International Development, Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID RDMA), based in Bangkok, that combats illegal transnational wildlife trade in Southeast Asia and China. The project has two main objectives: 1) Reduce demand through social and behavior change communication (SBCC) campaigns; and 2) Reduce supply through rational, comprehensive regulatory enforcement systems.

The project is implemented by RTI International as prime contractor in partnership with FHI 360, WildAid and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The project builds on the accomplishments of USAID Wildlife Asia in effectively reducing demand for elephant, pangolin, rhino and tiger products through pioneering Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) campaigns in China, Thailand and Vietnam, and in supporting regional bodies like the ASEAN to strengthen regulatory and enforcement frameworks to reduce supply of these wildlife products

An understanding of the current working environment will provide insight in determining the next courses of action for US Government and development partner support.

The Assessment will review relevant ASEAN institutions, organizations, bodies and working groups, and assess their respective mandates, capacities, resources, constituencies, networks and influence to more effectively counter wildlife trafficking across Southeast Asia. This will include ASEAN organizations addressing legislation and policy, biodiversity conservation, law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary, among others.

As governments are now grappling with how to adjust existing policy frameworks to address the risk of zoonotic disease spillover, the harmonization of policies may include examining how One Health concepts and methodologies can reinforce existing CWT mandates and facilitate coordination along the policy-enforcement-adjudication chain.

The assessment approach will extend beyond ASEAN regional organizations and evaluate the role and opportunities for the US Government and other donors, development partners, civil society and private

sector organizations to support more effective and coordinated ASEAN plans and programs to counter wildlife trafficking across Southeast Asia.

The consultant will also undertake the Applied Political Economy Assessment in parallel and coordination with a second consultant/team that will conduct a Social Inclusion Assessment, which will review and evaluate the opportunities and potential impacts of increased engagement and involvement of civil society, including traditionally marginalized and vulnerable groups, in countering wildlife trafficking.

USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife will accordingly apply an integrated approach in conducting the Applied Political Economy and Social Inclusion Assessment to ensure the two reports are mutually complementary and provide a holistic road map for an effective and sustainable CWT approach in the region.

II. Description of Consultant’s Tasks, Deliverables and Schedule

The political economy assessment will include both desk review and stakeholder consultations. The Consultant will:

No.	ACTIVITY / TASK	Indicative Schedule 2022	Deliverables
1.	Submit Work Plan defining how Consultant will proceed to implement the SOW including identification of key informants and timeline (Note: RTI will help facilitate actual interviews of key informants selected) – one week after signing of contract	February 3 (or within 3 days from consultancy contract, whichever is later)	Workplan with timeline
2.	Undertake desk top research of current ASEAN bodies and working groups - platforms and mandates on CWT, including review of available literature from various sources (e.g., open online sources, grey literature, government, donor and partner websites, “think tank” organizations)	February 7 (or within 7 days from consultancy contract)	Report of findings
3.	Develop a set of research questions to frame the Political Economy Assessment	February 7 (or within 7 days from consultancy contract whichever is later)	Approved Research questions
4.	Develop an outline framework for the Political Economy Assessment report and proposed methodology for the conduct of the Political Economy Assessment (or similar approach)	February 14 (or within 14 days from consultancy)	Approved outline framework and proposed methodology

No.	ACTIVITY / TASK	Indicative Schedule 2022	Deliverables
		contract whichever is later)	
5.	Develop Key Informant Interview questionnaire(s)	February 21 (or within 21 days from consultancy contract whichever is later)	Approved questionnaire
6.	Arrange and attend meetings and interviews with key informants from ASEAN CWT related regional bodies, selected ASEAN Member States, traditionally marginalized population, vulnerable group civil societies, academia and other partners engaged and/or involved in CWT, including further Identification and follow-up on additional information and data sources	February 22 -Mar 31	List of Institutions and Key Informants, schedule of interviews, weekly and final interview reports
7.	Submit draft Political Economy Assessment Report for comments from Reducing Demand for Wildlife and USAID in word format – June 1, 2022	April 20	Draft report shall comprise of executive summary, full report (to include charts and figures where appropriate), and annexes
8.	Submit revised draft Political Economy Assessment Report	April 30 (or within 5 days from receipt of comments whichever is later)	Revised draft report shall comprise of executive summary, full report (to include charts and figures where appropriate), and annexes
8.	Prepare and provide oral presentation of draft report to USAID and for USAID comments	May	Approved set of presentation materials and attendance of meetings with USAID to present and respond to Q&A
9.	Revise Political Economy Assessment Report incorporating comments from Reducing Demand for Wildlife and USAID	June 1	Revised Political Economy Assessment Report for final comments
10.	Submit finalized Political Economy Assessment and recommendations in word and PPT formats	June 15	Finalized Political Economy Assessment Report and PPT (with talking points)

No.	ACTIVITY / TASK	Indicative Schedule 2022	Deliverables
II.	Provide oral presentation of Report in two 1-2 hour virtual or face-to-face meetings - July/August2022	July- August	Attendance to present and respond to Q&A

Note: Above schedules may change depending on date of contract signing and work plan adjustments.

III. Qualifications

The Consultant needs to have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Ph.D. or Master’s) or equivalent in political or social sciences or related field;
- Proven expertise as a political economy analyst or related work, preferably including in the ASEAN region with demonstrable experience designing and leading similarly complex, multi-sectoral political economy analyses;
- Experience in the CWT field desired;
- Superior research, report writing (English) and analytical skills and expertise;
- Exceptional English verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent people skills, and ability to conduct interviews, including in Southeast Asian cultural contexts; and
- Ability to set priorities and meet deadlines.

IV. Level of Effort (LOE) and Supervisor

The expected level of effort is up to 90 working days from February through August 2022. The Consultant will report overall to the Chief of Party and on a daily basis to the Project Senior Legal Specialist. In addition, the consultant will work in coordination with other project and partner team members

V. Documents Required for Application:

- Updated CV
- Cover letter including description of the applicant’s suitability and availability for the assignment
- Two references

VI. Application Deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022

Note: Only short-listed candidates will be notified and interviewed. Short-listed candidates will be asked to submit one or two writing samples of similar reports prepared prior to the interview.

VII. Submission instructions

- Submit your applications to kcorpuz@rti.org by the application deadline
- Subject heading: “Application for RDW PEA consultancy”