

Terms of Reference
Developing a Sustainable Financing Strategy and Conservation
Investment Plan for Prek Toal Ramsar Site
Wildlife Conservation Society
Cambodia Program

Project title:	Lower Mekong Basin Wetland Management and Conservation Project (BMZ No. 2012 659 74)
Project executing agencies:	Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC), #364, Monivong Blvd, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Funding agency:	KfW Development Bank (KfW), Palmengartenstrasse 5 - 9, 60325 Frankfurt, Germany
Positions:	International Specialist - Sustainable Finance
Duty station:	Home-based, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with frequent project-related duty travel to the project site Prek Toal in Cambodia and other potential-related sites
Assignment period:	35 days starting January 2023 for the International Specialist; 30 days starting January 2023 for the National Specialist
Validity of ToR	These ToR are preliminary and may be revised by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) in coordination with NPMU, WCS and KfW.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a world leader in on-the-ground wildlife conservation. Founded in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society, WCS is an international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Earth's wildlife and ecosystems. WCS has been working in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia since 1999, providing technical advice and support for the conservation of key habitats and species across the country. Within the Tonle Sap Landscape our collaborative projects with the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries Administration focus on law enforcement, eco-tourism, biodiversity monitoring and ensuring communities receive equitable benefits from protected areas, which are funded by a wide range of bilateral, multi-lateral and foundation donors. Prek Toal, located in the seasonally flooded forest of the Tonle Sap Lake is one of our most successful projects within the Tonle Sap Landscape.

Objectives

The overall objective of the assignment is to undertake a planning exercise to develop a Sustainable Finance Strategy and Conservation Investment Plan for Prek Toal Ramsar Site, Cambodia, with the active engagement of relevant stakeholders.

Two main sub-tasks contribute towards this:

1. To develop a sustainable finance strategy and conservation investment plan in support of the PTRS management plan; and
2. To propose design options, management modalities and next steps for developing a multi-source trust fund (MSTF) which can serve to retain, administer, and disburse the existing tourism concession fee as well as additional funding and sources of finance for conservation of PTRS

These sub-tasks will be undertaken in the context of a sustainable finance dialogue and planning process that actively engages relevant stakeholders, including community members. The aim is to ensure that the process and products are appropriate and acceptable in the light of local conditions and needs, secure political buy-in, facilitate technical and expert input, and seek validation for the development of sustainable finance approaches and mechanisms. This should ensure that there is broad support and interest in the sustainable finance strategy, conservation investment plan, and multi-stakeholder trust fund concept that arise from the assignment, and that the resulting process and documentation are credible, relevant, and legitimate to key stakeholders.

Management of the consultancy and planning process

The work will be implemented with the support of an International Sustainable Finance (SF) consultant contracted through WCS. A national technical expert will also support the assignment. The international consultant and national technical expert will report directly to WCS, and will work closely with National Project Management Unit (NPMU) of the Ministry of Environment, KfW Phnom Penh, and all other relevant stakeholders.

WCS Cambodia will:

- contract and supervise the consultants
- in close coordination with MoE – provide day-to-day operational support to the assignment, including facilitating the planning and consultation process;
- will support general logistics (online meetings etc.), especially during missions (transport, meeting arrangements on the ground etc.)
- will support the technical process of data collection, establishing and maintaining contacts/ information exchange with the various relevant stakeholders, arrange meetings with them (notably MEF, MoT, related Tonle Sap donor projects, non-state actors) and bring in WCS worldwide related expertise on MSTF and ecotourism development (including tourist hotel concessions and other private sector engagement arrangements);
- manage the contract of the International and National SF Consultants, including reporting and preparing instalments.
- will provide the technical backup for the assignment in terms of any information, studies, reviews, etc. that are required;
- will nominate an in-country focal point to provide such support.

MoE, currently under the NPMU and in the future under an arrangement within MoE to be defined, will act as the institutional entity to ensure that all required government arrangements and coordination requirements with other government stakeholders (especially with MoEF) can be achieved towards developing a sustainable finance strategy and plan for PTRS.

Tasks & outputs/deliverables

1. Develop a PTRS sustainable finance strategy and conservation investment plan

- a) Undertake a sustainable finance assessment to:
 - Define the costs of the PTRS management plan, including core institutional costs and direct operational expenses (to MoE, PDoE and the Ramsar Site authorities), costs to other government agencies and local authorities, and needs for financial support and incentives in support of conservation to local community members;
 - Assess the current financing status, needs, constraints and opportunities for PTRS;
 - Elaborate key conservation funding gaps and unmet finance needs; and
 - Identify and prioritise funding sources and finance mechanisms that have the potential to address these gaps and needs, and are tailored towards the specific circumstances and conditions of the Ramsar Site, its managing authority, local communities and other relevant stakeholders;
- b) With the active engagement and participation of MoE, PDoE, Ramsar Site Authorities, commune authorities, local community representatives and other relevant stakeholders, undertake a planning exercise to develop a conservation investment plan for PTRS that:
 - Documents the findings of the sustainable finance assessment;
 - Lays out an overarching sustainable finance strategy for PTRS;
 - Specifies a portfolio of finance mechanisms to be used in support of the PTRS management plan, including a site-level fund management mechanism;
 - Details a roadmap of objectives, activities, milestones and modalities for developing and implementing the identified finance mechanisms and fund management mechanism; and
 - Elaborates other enabling conditions and requirements for operationalising the specified sustainable finance mechanisms and fund management mechanism.
- c) Document the conservation investment plan as a standalone document or annex to the PTRS management plan (to be determined during the course of the assignment)

2. Propose design options, management modalities and next steps for developing a multi-source trust fund for PTRS

- a) Review experiences and lessons learned in developing site-level conservation fund management mechanisms and biodiversity / protected area trust funds in Cambodia and, where, relevant, other countries in the ASEAN/Lower Mekong region;
- b) Propose and justify a broad model and sources of capitalisation / finance for a multi-source trust fund for PTRS, and explain how this would serve to retain, administer and disburse the existing tourism concession fee as well as additional funding and sources of finance for conservation;
- c) Specify and describe key elements of the design architecture of the multi-source trust fund for PTRS, including legal basis, institutional structure, governance mechanisms, main funding sources (including but not limited to international, government, private, market-based and other self-generated revenue sources), fund management modalities, disbursement and delivery mechanisms, and main targets/recipients of funding. Special attention should be paid to vehicles and mechanisms for channelling funds to PTRS authorities, commune authorities and local communities;
- d) Document a concept note and roadmap, which clearly justifies and explains the need for a multi-source trust fund for PTRS, describes the recommended finance sources and design architecture,

and specifies the next steps in operationalising the trust fund mechanism, including identifying the lead organisation/institution that would be responsible for taking the trust fund design and development process forward and specifying what these steps would be. This concept and roadmap should serve as a document that can be shared with potential donors and other partners by the identified lead organisation/institution, in order to secure financial and political support for further operationalising and capitalising the PTRS trust fund.

Time Schedule

No.	Key activities	Deliverables	Timing of deliverables	Level of effort
1	Undertake sustainable finance assessment, review and consultations on trust fund needs and options		End Month 1	10 days (10 days KH)
2	Undertake a planning exercise to develop a conservation investment plan for PTRS, document the conservation investment plan	Draft conservation investment plan	End month 2	15 days (5 days home 10 days KH)
3	Propose and justify a broad model and sources of capitalisation / finance for a multi-source trust fund for PTRS, specify and describe key elements of the design architecture, document a concept note	Draft trust fund concept note	End month 2	
4	Present, discuss and validate PTRS conservation investment plan and trust fund concept		End month 3	5 days (5 days KH)
5	Finalise PTRS conservation investment plan	Final conservation investment plan	End month 4	5 days (5 days home)
6	Finalise PTRS trust fund concept note and roadmap	Final conservation investment plan	End month 4	

Profile of the experts

International Expert

- International working experience of minimum 5 years worldwide in developing socialization laws/regulations/guidelines for sustainable financing / benefit sharing;
- Professional experience in development cooperation/ donor-funded projects;
- Excellent coordination and collaboration skills with government partners, civil society, research, and the private sector
- Work experience in the Lower Mekong Region;
- Oral and written proficiency in English is considered mandatory.