

Terms of Reference

Training in forest protection, natural resource management, and land-use laws and regulations

Background

The geographic focus for these Terms of Reference is Chu Yang Sin National Park (CYS), located in Krong Bong and Lak Districts, 60 km southeast of Buon Ma Thuat Town in Dak Lak Province, Vietnam. This area encompasses transitional landscapes between two macro-scale geomorphologies; the Dak Lak lowland plain and the central highlands. CYS holds global significance, as it covers an excellent representative sample of the hill and montane evergreen forest ecosystems of Indochina, and is located in the Da Lat Plateau Endemic Bird Area (EBA). The EBA is one of four centres of endemism identified in Indochina by BirdLife. CYS supports seven of the eight restricted-range species that define the Da Lat Plateau EBA, as well as two of the three species that define the South Vietnamese Lowlands EBA. The park protects a substantial part of the largest remaining forest block in the upper catchments of the Srepok River, which is a major tributary of the Mekong River.

The overall goal of this project is to conserve the biodiversity attributes of CYS in the long term, and in developing integrated watershed and biodiversity management at a broader scale. The project's purpose is to establish public support and effective management for the CYS by stabilising an interface between natural and agricultural landscapes, protecting the integrity of key biodiversity attributes, promoting integrated approaches to watershed and protected area management in the wider forest block, and elaborating realistic and sustainable development options for the park.

Consultancy Context

The project concept and workplan have capacity building of CYS as one of five main components. A participatory assessment of staff training needs will soon be conducted in order to determine detailed capacity needs of individual staff. However, some core needs are already known. At present, many CYS staff are relatively young, inexperienced, and have had limited training opportunities. Lack of clear knowledge on forest and natural resource laws and regulations leads to two main problems. Firstly, staff are not able to clearly explain all regulations to local communities. Secondly, staff are not always clear when regulations have been broken. Both of these undoubtedly lead to an increased rate of illegal activities detrimental to CYS.

Objective of this Consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct training in forest protection, natural resources management, and land-use laws and regulations for all relevant CYS staff (c.60). This training should cover all applicable national, provincial, district, commune, and local legislation and regulations. To ensure training reaches all key staff, the consultant will likely have to conduct training not only at the park headquarters, but also at its nine guard stations. After training, CYS staff should be confident in explaining any legislation, and understand the legal responsibilities that their positions have. The consultancy should be carried out in close collaboration with senior CYS staff, to ensure suitable training is conducted.

Main tasks

1. Review current national, provincial, district, commune, and local legislation and regulations relating to forest protection, natural resources management, and land-use laws and regulations.
2. Based on 1, draft a suitable training plan and manual for later reference.
3. Based on 1&2, after approval of the training plan from senior project and park staff, carry out training for all CYS staff.
4. Report briefly on the process and results of the training.

Deliverables

1. Training/reference manual referencing key legislation and regulations relevant to CYS staff.
2. Training conducted for all CYS staff.
3. Brief report, in English and Vietnamese, of the process and results of the training.

Proposed Consultancy Schedule

It is anticipated that this consultancy will be carried out within the period October-November 2007.

Duty Station

The consultant's duty station will be Chu Yang Sin National Park. One return flight from Hanoi-Danang-Buon Ma Thuot will be provided for the consultant.

Consultant Profile

National consultant with extensive knowledge of the legislative system in Vietnam and experience in training government staff. Oral and written proficiency preferable in both English and Vietnamese.

Application

Prospective consultants should submit a brief proposed workplan, budget and CV to Mr. John Pilgrim (pilgrim@birdlife.netnam.vn) and Mr. Le Trong Trai (trai@birdlife.netnam.vn) by 15 September 2007. Please also use these contacts should you have any further questions.