

## **Subproject: Strengthen Capacity of WMPA on Development and Management of Nakai Nam Theun NPA**

### **Terms of Reference for Environmental and Social Management Plan Preparation Consultant**

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The Nam Theun 2 (NT2) Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA) was established under Prime Minister's Decree 25, 2001 with subsequent updating on its structure and mandate under the Prime Minister's Decree 39/2005 and 471/2010. WMPA is tasked with the responsibility to protect and manage the NT2 Watershed and its rich fauna and flora to supply enough water with low sedimentation to the NT2 hydroelectric project. The NT2 Watershed Protection Program is guided by the Social and Environmental Management Framework and Operation Plan (SEMFOP) that is intended to be both an operational plan and a broader strategic framework to guide efforts in balancing conservation and community development objectives. The NT2 Watershed Protection Program is funded by a \$1.2 million per year payment from the Nam Theun 2 Power Company (NTPC); the program is supervised by the international financial institutions (IFI) that aims to strengthen the planning process and ensure to deliver the beneficiaries to the people living in and near NT2 Watershed area in efficiently, effectively and economically.

The WMPA is in the process of being restructured under a Task Force chaired by the Khammouanne Provincial Governor. The task force is currently in the process of revising the Decree 471/2010 that is expected to bring substantial reorganization to the management structure of the WMPA. The restructuring is intended to provide a stronger foundation for improved management and accountability of the WMPA to achieve the outcomes that for which it was created.

In order to further build the capacity of the WMPA under this new management structure, the WMPA intends to submit an application for a sub-project to the Environment Protection Fund (EPF). EPF is the implementing agency for the World Bank's (WB) Lao Environment and Social Project Phase II (LENS2) Project with a core objective of building government capacity for protected areas management. To comply with the WB safeguard policies, two safeguard instruments (i.e. the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Community Engagement Framework (CEF)) have been developed and they will be applied during the preparation and implementation of all subprojects. The WMPA is responsible for preparation and implementation of safeguard activities while EPFO is responsible for monitoring and providing guidance in close supervision.

This consultant's position is funded under the LENS2 Project, and will be responsible for developing an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that is compliant with the LENS2 ESMF and CEF. The ESMP's purpose is to review the environmental and social impacts of the proposed WMPA sub-project and design a plan to ensure the net impacts of the sub-project are positive for both the environment and communities of the Nakai Nam Theun NPA.

#### **Job Description and Accountabilities**

The Consultant will carry out the following duties:

1. Review the livelihood and environmental planning documents for the NT2 watershed (SEMFOP, PICAD, Results Framework) and relevant LENS2 documents (CEF).

2. Organize consultations with WMPA staff, communities (including enclave and peripheral impact communities), and concerned stakeholders (e.g. district and provincial governments) for inputs into ESMP.
3. Write the Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) under the direction of the WMPA and submit to the WMPA the final version for EPF approval.
4. Assist the Sub-Project Preparation Consultant and WMPA Management as requested with inputs on issues relevant to the ESMP.

### **Expected outputs**

- WMPA Sub-Project ESMP has been submitted and cleared by the WMPA Board of Directors, EPF and WB.

### **Duration of Assignment**

The National Consultant will work on a short-term basis for 30 days over a period of two months. S/he will be spending the necessary amount of time in Nakai District for consultations, but the writing of the ESMP can be completed remotely.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

- At least a Bachelor degree, preferably in a field related to social sciences, anthropology, community natural resource management, or protected area management.
- Minimum 5 years of working experience, including minimum 2 years of working experience in preparing social safeguard documents and/or rural community development initiatives.
- Prepared at least 1 EMSP for a World Bank project and has familiarity with World Bank safeguard policies.
- Excellent computer skills (MS Office) and Internet.
- Strong analytical and writing skills in Lao and English.