Terms of Reference

Consultant for building Multi-Actor Platforms for Sustainable Natural Rubber Market Development

Background

Natural rubber is an important commodity for the countries in the Greater Mekong in terms of economic development. However, rapid expansion of rubber in the region contributes to the loss of three million hectares of forest since the year 2000. Additionally, biodiversity loss, soil erosion, hazardous waste, chemical smells, pollution, corruption, child labor, forced labor, land grabbing, livelihoods and food insecurity and unprofitable rubber prices are also the major sustainability problems of rubber production.

Governments, private sector and NGOs have been working to tackle unsustainable natural rubber production in recent years. The Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), for instance, was formed in 2018 as a coalition among businesses, NGOs and smallholders to develop the policies and standards for sustainable natural rubber (SNR) production. Likewise, Association of Natural Rubber Production Countries (ANRPC) has been pushing natural rubber producing countries to be sustainable through standards and policies. However, how inclusive, profitable and evidence based SNR production can be realized at the ground level remains a big question.

In response, WWF initiated a project to establish a multi-actor platform (MAP) for Myanmar rubber stakeholders to address the following issues:

1. Value added production
2. Protection of the environment, habitat and ecosystems
3. Ensuring rights, fairness and equity

The process of establishing the MAP is in the early stage in which all relevant stakeholders may co-create a platform that is inclusive. The challenging socio-economic dynamics of Myanmar rubber sector will have to be considered during the co-creation process. Different stakeholders will have varying power and interests on the MAP and Myanmar rubber sector as a whole.

Objectives

The objective of the consultancy is to provide a virtual awareness raising and capacity building programme on the process of building a MAP. The activity will be a part of WWF’s long term engagement with Myanmar rubber stakeholders to develop an enabling environment for sustainable natural rubber production in Myanmar. Additionally, the following questions will be answered during the activity:

1. What is the process of building an MAP for SNR production in Myanmar?
2. What are the information gaps for building the MAP and the tools that can be used to fill in the gaps?
3. What will be the main initial steps to define the future MAP’s structure and strategies?
4. How to co-create the initial steps through a secure and an enabling environment for everyone?

Scope of work

Linking existing pilot SNR models with the basic principles in the process of building an MAP: WWF will identify two pilot SNR projects around the globe. The consultant is expected to identify the crucial characteristics of the pilot SNR projects and link them to the process of building an MAP. The spokespersons of the pilot projects will present during the virtual programme as case studies for the interested rubber stakeholders. Invitation of the spokespersons to the virtual programme will be led by WWF. The consultant is expected to lead a reflection session successive to the case study presentations to enhance the participants’ understanding on the process of building an MAP.

Delivery of awareness raising and capacity building sessions on the process of building an MAP: the consultant is expected develop the training modules including interactive sessions to answer the four questions defined in the objectives of the ToR. During the preparation, the consultant is expected to integrate simple digital tools for enhanced learning (such as miro, kahoot; etc.) for an interactive learning environment.

Provide technical inputs to a short findings brief developed after the activities: WWF’s MAP coordinator with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Manager will develop a brief on the findings after the virtual programme. The consultant is expected to provide technical inputs to the brief including but not limited to the following sessions:

1. Information gaps and tools to facilitate answering the information gaps
2. Myanmar SNR working group’s high level goals for the next one year
3. SWOT analysis of current Myanmar’s rubber landscape to realize SNR production and the respective working group formation
4. Bottlenecks in co-creating an inclusive, profitable and evidence based MAP and potential solutions

Timeline of activities

A total of 10 working days is allocated for the deliverables described below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important dates</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th September 2020</td>
<td>Work plan and budget proposal to be considered for the ToR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th September 2020</td>
<td>Discussions with SNR pilot projects identified by WWF Training modules developed</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th September to 1st October 2020</td>
<td>Virtual programme delivered including the reflection on the presented case studies identified by WWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th October 2020</td>
<td>Findings brief completed with the consultant’s technical inputs</td>
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