Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Terms of Reference
Social Development Specialist

The Social Development Specialist will identify social development needs and priorities for sustaining and securing livelihoods of selected local communities in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in the context of the planning and implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCI).

The Consultant will work under the direction of the EOC Chief Operating Officer and specific tasks will include the following:

I. Analyze the livelihoods assets, vulnerability context, and opportunities for interventions for the BCI pilot communities.

II. Design and implement socioeconomic benchmarking surveys for the BCI pilot communities in close cooperation with program partners.

III. Review, update, and track socioeconomic data, including natural resource utilization patterns for the BCI pilot communities.

IV. Evaluate poverty alleviation impacts of Community Based Natural Resources Management within the BCI pilots in collaboration with program partners.

V. Identify social mobilization and capital development strategies and plans for BCI communities.

VI. Review and upgrade the microplanning framework and implementation guidelines for BCI pilots.

VII. Design a skills upgrading and livelihood improvement strategy for pilot areas.

VIII. Review and facilitate revision of operational plan and budget estimates for the Livelihoods Improvement Program.

IX. Assess the social safeguard dimensions of GMS energy/hydropower, tourism, and transport (road) sector strategies, assist in the development of socioeconomic components within the Strategic Environmental Assessments of the three sectors, as appropriate, and identify preventive and mitigating measures.

X. Assess, monitor and evaluate the poverty reduction and livelihood improvement impact in the BCI pilot areas, and selected GMS economic corridor segments in collaboration and cooperation with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) activities.

XI. Draft a Social Development Strategy for the BCI pilot communities, in close coordination with the BCI Task Leader.
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XII. Identify and network with multilateral development partners such as World Bank, UNDP, WHO and institutions of excellence in applied research and development on the linkage between environment, poverty, biodiversity and rural social capital development including health.

XIII. Develop a robust network with conservation and development NGOs and institutions in the BCI pilot sites for socioeconomic benchmarking and assessment.

XIV. Provide data and information on socio-economic issues to be used to develop presentation materials (layout maps, posters, etc.) and other communication packages for increasing awareness of poverty reduction objectives and outcomes of the Core Environment Program and the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative within and beyond the GMS Economic Cooperation Program.

XV. Identify opportunities and mechanisms for mainstreaming poverty reduction into relevant country and ADB biodiversity corridors and rural development strategies and plans.

XVI. Produce at least one knowledge product a year of relevance and importance to CEP mission and objectives.

XVII. Prepare and deliver semi-annual and annual progress reports and other technical reports to reflect implementation and achievements for reporting to the ADB and the WGE as and when required.

XVIII. When required, assist in the monitoring of implementation of the BCI program on the basis of the Letters of Agreements signed between the ADB and the development partners responsible for implementation.

XIX. As part of the EOC team, assist the COO in the planning and organization of various other activities of the CEP/EOC.

Key Deliverables:

1. Annual-Semi-Annual Reports
2. Design of a skills development and livelihood improvement strategy for the rural communities around the BCI pilot sites.
3. Social Development Strategy for the BCI pilot sites (in close coordination with the BCI Task Leader)
4. An upgraded micro-planning framework and implementation guidelines for BCI pilot sites
5. Report on the social safeguard dimensions of GMS energy/hydropower, tourism, and transport (road) sector strategies and identify preventive and mitigating measures.
6. Inputs for the 2009-10 GMS Atlas
7. Inputs for 2010 GMS Sustainability Challenges and Opportunities Conference
8. One knowledge product