

“Consultancy Paper on the Conceptualization of Social Ecological Transformation in Southeast Asia with Vietnam as a Case Study”

1. Background

The RLS has become a provider of civic education and a centre for progressive social research in both Germany and throughout the world. As one of six party-affiliated political foundations in Germany it supports partners in developing countries striving for social justice and strengthened public participation. In April 2009, the RLS Regional Representative Office for Southeast Asia was opened in Hanoi (Vietnam) managing activities and partnerships in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

In the Southeast Asian (“SEA”) region, the RLS embraces the mission of assisting transformation countries, such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to a socially just and sustainable as well as participatory and democratic society. Currently, RLS SEA cooperates with approximately 15 partner organisations like academic institutions and “grass-root” organisations as well as state partners on a variety of issues. In the work of RLS SEA “social justice”, “socio-ecological transformation” and “participatory politics” are core topics. This includes creating partnerships between civil society and state actors that have made policy development/implementation more sustainable on the local level through enhanced accountability, inclusion, equity, and participation.

“Social-Ecological Transformation (SET)” is not static concept but provides an approach and criteria relevant for RLS to consider when engaging in project work. RLS continuously seeks to advance SET and to facilitate its realization in Vietnam, but also across SEA. The challenges of recent years, including climate change, have resulted in more and more local initiatives activities pursuing comprehensive approaches, working e.g. on SET outcomes or the generation of co-benefits. In Vietnam, climate change is one of the areas, where civil society has been very active and where a growing number of local initiatives have been pursuing SET outcomes in the form of co-benefits.

Those engaged in promoting SET face two key challenges: 1) How to combine the social, ecological, and economic dimension in a balanced way 2) How to ensure that local examples of social ecological transformation are taken up and scaled out on a national scale.

To better address the two key challenges, RLS seeks an expert to provide learnings and insights from past/existing social- ecological transformation initiatives and experiences in

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Vietnam in a consultancy paper. Based on examples and evidence from the field of climate change in the Vietnamese context, the paper should indicate what needs to be considered to further both the balanced interlinkage of the social/ecological/economic dimension, as well as the uptake by the government and provide reflections how alternatives can be developed.

2. Rationale and scope of the assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to contribute to RLS SEA's work of developing comprehensive strategies for Socio-Ecological Transformation in the region.

In particular, the paper to be written by the consultant will serve to provide insights to better understand the two key challenges of interlinkage and uptake in the context of social ecological transformation, as well as further/ improve RLS efforts of dealing with and overcoming them.

The paper should therefore

- Introduce Vietnam as country case, describing the relevant national context for working on SET
- Provide a number of examples of local/NGO initiatives relevant for the case and aiming for SET outcomes, including an angle on social aspects in the context of climate change initiatives
- Provide discussion and lessons learnt on the two key challenges based on the examples and evidence,
- Reflect and provide feedback on what needs to be considered to improve dealing with the interlinkage/uptake issues.

3. Methodology

The consultancy will be based on a desk study and exchanges with RLS SEA staff. While the focus of this assignment is clearly on a desk study, data collection can be complemented with some additional expert interviews in Hanoi.

4. Tasks and Responsibilities of the Consultant

The consultant will work under the supervision of the RLS office Vietnam. S/he will develop the outline of the paper, conduct the desk study (and interviews, where necessary), and write the paper. Specific deliverables:

- A consultancy paper in English. The final paper needs to be in English and between **15 - 20 pages** maximum plus appendixes (like resources, interviewees, statistics, etc...).
- An executive summary (1.5-2 pages) in both English and German.

5. Qualifications of the Consultant

- Graduate degree in political science (preferred) or related fields
- Substantial working experience in Vietnam in the context of SET, particular in connecting social and ecological aspects in climate change
- Proven experience on successfully furthering multiple benefits/SET outcomes through advocacy and the linkage of multiples actors, sectors, and including national, regional and international scales
- Proven track record in working with civil society/local communities in Vietnam on successfully advocating for the national uptake and mainstreaming of local initiatives
- Knowledge of Vietnamese political system/governance structure and experience in working with policymaking processes in Vietnam, with a focus on inclusive and responsive policy making and interest representation
- Proven track record in providing technical advice or strategic advice related to the Government /civil society interface in the field of co-benefits in environmental/rights/social justice/economic empowerment field
- Well connected to development/governance experts, NGOs, policymakers at national and international levels
- Excellent critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills

6. Timeline and Dates

Date/Deadlines	Place	Activity, remarks	Persons involved
26.04.2017	Hanoi	Publishing of tender	Staff RLS SEA
07.05.2017		Submission of tender	
08.05.2017	Hanoi	Selection of Consultant	Staff and Director RLS SEA
26.05.2017		Preparation and Desk Study	Consultant
05.06.2017	Vietnam	Interviews	Consultant, RLS SEA, selected experts
20.06.2017		Complete Consultancy Paper English	Consultant
07.07.2017		Submission Final Consultancy Paper (revised according to feedback RLS SEA)	Consultant

7. Application

We would like to invite interested candidates to submit their application in English including:

- Motivation letter,
- Most updated CV,
- Study concept,
- Implementation planning including working days and price of the study

to Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhu Trang – Project Manager at the email address nguyen.nhutrang@rosalux.vn latest by *7 May 2017*.

Further information can be obtained at RLS website at <http://rls-sea.de/>

Only candidate who submit all above-mentioned require documents will be considered in the award process.

Inquiries are only accepted before the application deadline.

Please refrain from phone inquiries. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted./.