

## UNESCO Bangkok

### **Call for Proposal (Individual or Organization)** **Impact Assessment Specialist**

**Type of Contract:** Contract for Services or Individual Consultant Contract

**Duration:** 1 May – 30 October 2021, tentatively

**Closing date:** 22 April 2021, 18:00 hrs Bangkok Time

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office in Bangkok, in close consultation with the competent authorities charged with World Heritage safeguarding in Lao PDR, is seeking a contractor to contribute to undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project.

### **Terms of Reference: Impact Assessment Specialist**

#### **Background**

The Luang Prabang Hydropower Project is proposed on the Mekong mainstream about 25 km upstream from the Town of Luang Prabang World Heritage property. It is situated between the two Mekong mainstream projects: the upstream Pak Beng and the downstream Xayaburi projects.

In accordance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, Impact Assessment (IA) must be carried out with a view to ensuring the protection of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value, as follows:

*Luang Prabang is an outstanding example of the fusion of traditional architecture and Lao urban structures with those built by the European colonial authorities in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its unique, remarkably well-preserved townscape illustrates a key stage in the blending of these two distinct cultural traditions. ...*

*The built heritage of Luang Prabang is in perfect harmony in the natural environment. The sacred Mount Phousi stands at the heart of the historic town built on a peninsula delimited by the Mekong and the Nam Khan. Ceremonies...and Buddhist religious practices perpetuate the sanctity of the place.*

Beyond the potential damage to the World Heritage property, the *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*, adopted in 2015, emphasizes the role of World Heritage properties to alleviate poverty and enhance sustainable livelihoods of local communities. In the case of Luang Prabang, the potential impacts of the hydropower project may affect environment, fisheries, living conditions and livelihoods of surrounding populations.

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee has approved the request from the State Party of Lao PDR for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and risk analysis for the Luang Prabang World Heritage property.

## Assignment

The contractor is requested to carry out the following tasks:

1. Provide expert inputs to the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) specialist in developing the overall methodology for the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project HIA, with a particular attention to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations and guidelines for Lao PDR as well as global EIA best practices, including for hydropower projects;
2. Identify, on the basis of reviews of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and other preliminary Impact Assessments (IAs) for the Luang Prabang hydropower project, areas of concern which require additional impact assessment, which should be incorporated into the HIA process;
3. Undertake site visit to the hydropower project site and the Luang Prabang World Heritage property and its setting which may be affected by the hydropower project;
4. Consult with local stakeholders in Luang Prabang to identify actual and potential threats and impacts to the World Heritage property arising from the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project;
5. Undertake the analysis of natural and ecological dimensions as part of the HIA study and provide the write up for incorporation into the overall HIA report (covering methodology, assumptions/limitations, identification of impacts);
6. Use in-country expertise provide guidance to other sectoral experts in undertaking their analysis to support the HIA analysis process;
7. Work with HIA specialist and sectoral specialists to identify and characterize impacts (ie, beneficial, acceptable, acceptable with mitigation, and unacceptable impacts) from the hydropower project;
8. Work with HIA specialist and sectoral specialists to develop mitigation measures including avoidance or minimization of impacts from the hydropower project;
9. Review the draft scoping report and draft HIA report, and provide comments;
10. Provide brief recommendations on key priorities for strengthening the implementation of HIA as part of the Lao PDR IA system.

### **Deliverables and timeframe** (All deliverables are to be submitted in English)

- By 30 June 2021, the contractor will submit mission report with site visit and consultation findings
- By 31 August 2021, the contractor will submit inputs for the HIA report related to natural and ecological dimensions
- By 30 October 2021, the contractor will submit review of the draft HIA report, with recommendations on strengthening the HIA system in Lao PDR

### **Duty station and travel**

Based in Lao PDR and able to undertake mission to Luang Prabang.

**Qualifications, experience and competencies**

- Professional experience in Impact Assessments and designing mitigation measures for hydropower projects, including in Lao PDR
- Based in Lao PDR and able to undertake site visit to Luang Prabang in the current public health situation
- Familiarity with Lao Impact Assessment regulatory framework and procedures
- Familiarity with international standards and procedures for Impact Assessment

**Application**

Interested companies/individuals are invited to submit to UNESCO Bangkok the application package including

- A cover letter illustrating how the tasks will be carried out
- A detailed organization portfolio/individual CV with examples of relevant work
- A detailed quotation inclusive of mission costs

Application package is to be sent **no later than 22 April 2021**, 18:00 Bangkok time (GMT +7).

To the attention of:  
Chief of Culture unit  
UNESCO Bangkok Office  
E-mail: [culture.bgk@unesco.org](mailto:culture.bgk@unesco.org)

***Only short-listed companies/individuals will be contacted.***