

# Terms of Reference:

## Qualitative Research Consultancy – Assessment of stakeholder capacity strengthening for sustainable mangrove ecosystem management in Cambodia

### Background

Landesa is an international nonprofit dedicated to ending global poverty by securing land rights for rural communities around the globe. Founded in 1981, Landesa has worked in more than 65 countries throughout the world, with central office staff in the U.S. (Seattle, Washington and Washington, DC) and regional programming in China, India, Liberia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Thailand. Landesa partners with governments, civil society, and companies to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws, policies and programs that have helped strengthen land rights for more than 720 million people in the last 5 years. The organization is supported by NGOs, foundations, donor agencies (USAID, World Bank, etc.), world leaders, educational institutions, and individual supporters around the world. Landesa has been consistently ranked one of the top ten international NGOs in the world and has received numerous awards for its work. Landesa's annual budget of approximately \$20 million is supported by private foundations (e.g. Ford, Rockefeller, Skoll), public donors (e.g. USAID, World Bank), individuals (including MacKenzie Scott) and corporate contracts.

Since 2022 Landesa has been carrying out the [Coastal Livelihoods and Mangroves Project](#), an ambitious law and policy initiative in the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia to lay the foundation to strengthen the coastal tenure and resource rights of up to 73 million of the most at-risk people living in the region's mangrove forests. Stronger tenure rights will better protect the 4.6 million hectares of mangrove forests where these communities live and make their livelihoods. If successful, the project would provide a significant boost in the global effort to slow climate change, shaping policies that would help mitigate up to 943 million metric tons of carbon in these coastal mangroves.

Impact pathways integrally rely upon developing and improving national and subnational policy to promote strong mangrove forest tenure and resource rights and to capacitate communities to contribute to and sustainably benefit from mangrove restoration and conservation. The project applies a gender equal and socially inclusive (GESI) approach to promote tenure and resource rights and community engagement in mangrove restoration and conservation. The initiative includes four countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar), and two in South Asia (India and Bangladesh); the consultancy call concerns work in Cambodia.

In Cambodia, project work over the last two years has focused on enhancing mangrove co-management via learning from pilots in Kampot and Preah Sihanouk provinces, including one Community Fishery (CFI) in Kampong Trach district and four CFIs in the Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) in Prey Nop district. Landesa, civil society organizations, local government partners, and communities have worked together to institutionalize multi-stakeholder collaboration and strengthen CFI capacities to contribute to sustainable mangrove ecosystem management. Learning from the pilots is expected to inform national-level guidelines and tools for strengthening community-inclusive mangrove governance through CFIs.



### **Assessment overview**

Landesa is seeking applications from firms or consultancy teams to conduct qualitative research that will assess project contributions to stakeholder capacity strengthening and enhanced governance processes for sustainable mangrove ecosystem management in Cambodia. The research will also assess potential for applying and scaling learning from the pilots across coastal CFIs. Half-way through the 5-year project, the assessment findings will help understand roadblocks along change pathways and identify elements of success to build upon in the project moving forward. Landesa will design the assessment, including data collection tools, and the firm will be responsible for executing the assessment.

The assessment will involve approximately 30 in-depth interviews with subnational government officials, community leaders, and NGO staff. Stakeholders to be interviewed are based in Phnom Penh (~9 interviews); Preah Sihanouk province (~14 interviews); and Kampot province (~7 interviews).

Prior to primary data collection, the consultant is encouraged to also carry out, as necessary, a desk review of existing project documents and hold interviews with Landesa staff to help familiarize with the project and its contexts.

### **Main responsibilities**

The assessment design and the data collection tools will be provided by Landesa. The consultant will be responsible for executing the assessment's data collection and data analysis, which entails:

- Participate in briefings led by the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist on the data collection tools.
- Provide suggestions and inputs to the assessment design based on viable field conditions.
- Translate data collection tools into local languages.
- Coordinate travel logistics for fieldwork.
- Coordinate with the Landesa-Cambodia team to schedule and identify/confirm places for carrying out data collection activities.
- Carry out in-person data collection, ensuring quality control and safe, secure storage of all data collected.
- Analyze the qualitative data collected.
- Prepare a report summarizing the findings from the assessment of stakeholder capacity strengthening and enhanced governance processes.
- Hold regular debriefs with the Landesa-Cambodia team and the Landesa Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist over the course of the consultancy.
- Ensure that all activities related to data collection and management follow Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research.

### **Deliverables**

- Detailed field notes from the qualitative research activities stored in a secure online folder provided by Landesa.
- Report of assessment findings (12-15 pages)

**Anticipated timeline and level of effort (LOE):** Late April to mid-June 2025 with anticipated LOE of 20 days.

- Late April: Briefing on data collection tools and planning of data collection activities.
- Early to mid-May: Data collection and processing.
- Late May to mid-June: Data analysis and report writing.

**Preferred qualifications**

- Candidates with minimum 5 years' experience conducting research on natural resource governance and coastal management will be given high preference.
- Strong skills in qualitative research methods (i.e., facilitation of key informant interviews, analysis of rich qualitative data)
- Familiarity with gendered livelihood and tenure concepts
- Strong understanding of government and civil society organizations involved in rural development and environmental sustainability in Cambodia
- Fluency in Khmer and professional working proficiency in English

**Application instructions**

Qualified firms or consultancy teams may submit proposals by March 26th to Dr. Tatiana Gumucio [tatianag@landesa.org](mailto:tatianag@landesa.org) with copy to Sophal Sam [sophal@landesa.org](mailto:sophal@landesa.org). Proposals should include the following information:

- Letter of interest describing relevant experience and expertise
- Descriptions of past projects relevant to the assignment, including contact information of clients for at least two projects
- Staffing information, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member
- CV for each team member
- Estimated budget in USD for the work. The budget should include all costs for field data collection and related travel costs.