

## **Humanitarian & Community Engagement Consultant Terms of Reference**

### **BACKGROUND**

We are a global company applying our successful model of landscape restoration to contribute to three of the world's most critical environmental problems: the need for effective solutions to mitigate global climate change; holistic restoration of the world's most degraded landscapes; and a growing population that requires sustainable alternatives for consumer products and markets that still contribute to deforestation and deforestation driven emissions. We have spent the last decade building the framework for bamboo to be a solution to achieve this through sustainable bamboo farms in Nicaragua, South Africa, Ghana and the Philippines.

Our Philippines operation is restoring 8,360 ha of degraded montane lands in the province of Lanao del Sur, on the island of Mindanao with 4,000 ha of bamboo and 1,200 ha of indigenous trees. To date the project has planted over 850 ha of bamboo and 200 ha of indigenous trees.

The project has a strong focus on long term social change within a complex project area. This includes creating long term livelihood opportunities and contributing to the peace building process in an ex conflict area. The project occurs within a forest reserve under the jurisdiction of the MENRE of the BARMM. While this legal classification means that no individuals can have legal rights to occupy these lands, there are informal, non indigenous occupants who the project intends to grant stewardship certificates for their right to live within the project boundaries as well as the formal allocation of farmland, allowing these households security and stability over their livelihoods.

To date reforestation activities have occurred in a remote part of the project boundaries, where no households exist. However as the project moves towards 2024 and 2025 reforestation areas, the project's stakeholders which include the MENRE, the LGU and local traditional leadership have developed a community engagement process, designed to be fair, informed and transparent. EcoPlanet is not directly involved in this process, but as the implementing partner of the project is seeking a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, independent consultant to participate in this process, provide transparency, clear documentation and ensure it is executed appropriately against best available standards.

**Location:** Amai Manabilang, Mindanao, Philippines

**Duration:** 4 months, extendable for 6 months.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The Humanitarian & Community Engagement Consultant will ensure the community engagement process is executed and reported on appropriately including:

1. **Process Review:** The consultant will review the current community engagement process and ensure prior to implementation that it is a fair, informed and transparent process. The consultant will be responsible for fully documenting the planned process so that all aspects are clearly defined. This should be outlined for each farm block (specific zones within the project area).

2. **Participation in Community Engagement:** The consultant will participate in all meetings and steps identified in the community engagement process, ensuring that they are executed appropriately and documented through minutes, attendance list and photos. These steps include:
  - a. Identification of the approximately 320 households located within the project area.
  - b. Determination and mapping of household locations for family clusters and sitio clusters.
  - c. Formalization of these households and provision of each household with 25 year stewardship certificates, which will legalize their residency inside the forest reserve and make them eligible for social services.
  - d. Allocation of secure, permanent farmland to these households at 1 hectare per household.

### **Deliverables**

The consultant will be responsible for delivering the following:

1. Weekly report on process, including any challenges and mitigation measures undertaken.
2. File documentation and reports as meetings occur and reports are completed in a designated company data storage platforms.
3. Provide a comprehensive report on the community engagement process. This will be deliverable as follows:
  - a. Community Engagement Process Methodology: Fully document the planned process. To be provided within 2 weeks of the start date.
  - b. Comprehensive Report: Provide a comprehensive report that clearly defines the community engagement process undertaken for each block of the project area.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- 10+ years' proven experience delivering peacebuilding through community engagement.
- Understanding of the BARMM operating environment.
- Fluency in English.
- Strong writing and oral communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office tools, specifically Word and Excel

### **TO APPLY**

Interested candidates should email a cover letter expressing their interest in the position and how their background meets the requirements of the role as well as a CV to Samantha Wilde at [swilde@ecoplanetbamboo.com](mailto:swilde@ecoplanetbamboo.com). Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.