Research officer - TOR for producing *State of Knowledge on women and rivers*.

**The role:**

Work with International Rivers and our research partners to conduct key informant interviews and prepare a report on the situation of women in the Mekong relating to rivers and water governance. The research officer will be responsible for leading and documenting interviews with key informants and preparing case studies. The research officer will be supported by staff from International Rivers and partners in conducting some of the interviews. You will coordinate the merging of these interviews and case studies with an academic led literature review documenting the state of knowledge on women and rivers in the Mekong into preparation of a collated report. This report and the case study interviews will be used in a Women and Rivers Congress planned for March 2020.

**Background and purpose:**

A full project TOR will provide further background to the project. It also gives guidance to the key questions and the context for the research. The project management team has selected a short list of interviewees (16-20 in total) from across the Mekong region; these include representatives from community, civil society, government and academics.

The purpose of the research is to analyse the situation and status for women and rivers, and how women are involved (and/or marginalised) in water governance, river management and water decision making. The research will flag inequities and inconsistencies between countries but will also highlight good practice examples from across the six regional countries of the Mekong basin. It will look at trends, and barriers as well as opportunities for women’s involvement within institutions and processes for water and river governance. It should highlight (if possible) positive examples that can be markers for others to improve practice.

**Process:**

- Liaise with project management to confirm interview list.
- Develop an interview plan and budget; and coordinate ‘volunteer’ interviewers from IR, Oxfam and UBU to conduct interviews in a timely manner, and in an appropriate format
- Conduct and coordinate interviews with key informants; using skype/ telcon where face to face interviews not possible; fall-back seek input to key questions via email.
- Collate and synthesise interviews
- Support editing and review of the desk / literature review; lead synthesis of finds and draw out key themes in consultation with academic researchers
- Prepare overall report, including case studies
- Support production of report with editor and designers.
- Support interviewers to collect short videos where possible as video grabs for use at the Congress.
Deliverables and suggested timing:
1. Kick off workshop Dec - early January; including development of interview schedule and liaison with academic research team
2. Draft interviews completed and synthesised by February 3rd
3. Thematic review across interviews, a literature review and key trends/ findings workshopped with steering committee (IR, Oxfam, UBU and others) by February 25. IR to coordinate workshop. Outputs to be used for framing agenda of Congress.
4. Final draft to IR and steering committee by February 28. The final draft will be no more than 35 pages inclusive of a 6-8 page literature review, and the case studies and thematic studies drawn from the interviews.

Final Outputs
1) Interview notes and documentation (written, photo, film)
2) A maximum 20 - 25 page text document including:
   ○ Literature Review with Bibliography (to be completed by the academic research group)
   ○ Key informant and thematic focus case studies. Themes (to be agreed through workshop with project steering committee)
   ○ Key findings
   ○ Questions for future research
   ○ List of people interviewed

Timeline:
To be completed by the end of February 2020.

Preferred candidate:
The preferred candidate will have experience in water or natural resource governance in the Mekong region, or in related research fields. They should also have capacity and experience in gender analysis, and understanding of the gender aspects in natural resource management.

Please note: the research and writing will be undertaken primarily in English and therefore strong English language ability is required. Proficiency in one or more Mekong languages is a plus.

Contract and Pay:
Contract will be with International Rivers, through its head office in Oakland, California.

Project Rate: USD$5,000 inclusive of in-Mekong region travel.

Expressions of interest:
Expressions of interest in this project should include:
- A simple outline of the proposed approach to the project in form of an implementation proposal with a breakdown of costs against deliverables (max 3 pages). This should reference the approach around the parameters in the wider project TOR.
- Proposed timeframe
- A brief curriculum vitae of the individual/s to be engaged in the research
- Details of two referees who can speak to work in related scope, or subject matter
- A sample or link to relevant work where consultant has been main author.

To apply:
For requests for additional information about this opportunity or the application process, please contact Maureen Harris at: mharris@internationalrivers.org. Applications will be received until December 15 2019.