

Project name: Coordination of implementation of actionplan 2018 2020		Reference number:  2017-0044
Amount applied for: Year 1: 300000.00 Year 2: 300000.00 Year 3: 300000.00	Length of project (years):  3 år	

### **Steering group**

#### Application for grants Municipal Partnership Programme

Swedish applicant organization: Piteå Kommun	Cooperation partner: An Giang Province
Project leader (must be employed by applicant organization): Bo Wiberg	Project leader (must be employed by partner organization): Pham Ngoc Xuan
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**Main area of cooperation: Lokal demokrati, styrning och organisation**

*The ICLD's overall objective is to promote the development of sustainable democracy on the local and regional levels. A municipal partnership shall contribute to increased citizen influence by strengthening local and regional politically controlled organisations within one (or if relevant, some) of the following core areas (Read more here:*

*[http://www.icld.se/eng/pdf/New\\_results\\_framework\\_1\\_January\\_2016.pdf](http://www.icld.se/eng/pdf/New_results_framework_1_January_2016.pdf)):*

- *Equity/inclusion*
- *Citizen participation*
- *Transparency*
- *Possibility to demand accountability*

## **1. Summary - Swedish Version**

Beskriv kortfattat hur Styrgruppen ska bidra till att uppnå uppsatta mål för tillhörande projekt. (max 200 ord)

Styrgruppens är sammansatt av politiker och tjänstemän som har ett intresse för området och har breda nätverk relaterade till området. De kommer att följa arbetet under hela tiden. Förutom att träffas de stipulerade mötena två gånger om året så kommer styrgruppen i respektive land att vid behov också fungera som ett bollplank under projekttiden. En del av styrgrupps-medlemmarna kommer också att vara involverade i projektet och vara broar över till andra verksamheter som exempelvis den akademiska världen som representeras både i den vietnamesiska och svenska delen av styrgruppen.

## **2. Summary - English Version**

Describe how the Steering Group is to contribute to reaching the objectives of the related project(/s). (max 200 words)

The steering group is composed of politicians and officials who have an interest in the area and have extensive networks related to the area. They will closely follow the work during the time of the project. In addition to the stipulated meetings twice a year, the steering group in respective country, if necessary, will also act as a speaking partner and guidance body during the project. Some of the members in the steering group will also be involved in the project and be bridges to other stakeholders such as Universities, which are represented, in both the Vietnamese and Swedish part of the steering group.

### 3. Steering group - projects

a) Are there several ongoing Steering Groups within the partnership (unusual but possible)? If so, please indicate the reference number for these and the reference number for the projects that each Steering Group is coordinating.

No

b) Does the Steering Group for this application intend to manage and coordinate **ongoing** projects? If so, please indicate the reference number for this/these, as well as the project year (year 1, year 2 or year 3) to be managed and coordinated for each project.

No

c) Does the Steering Group for this application intend to manage and coordinate one or more **new projects**? Please indicate the names you have given these projects and how many years you planned for the project to run (1, 2 or 3 years).

To achieve the good cooperation with Swedish project, An Giang People's Committee (An Giang PC) has established the An Giang – Sweden project steering committee, which consists of 15 official representatives from different departments in An Giang province and 2 representatives from HCMUNRE (Ho Chi Minh City University of natural resources and environment). For each An Giang-Sweden cooperative project, An Giang has selected at least 4 members from the steering board to form the Monitoring committee/Steering group for those who have experience and professional on the collaborative

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subjects, including experts and politicians. For example, for the Pitea – An Giang project, there are five members selected. The ongoing project with Vietnam will finish this year but the members in the Monitoring group will partly change some participants. This application is for a coming 3- year project named “Implementation of action plan for a sustainable An Giang province”.

#### **4. Background**

a) Describe how the partnership started; how did the parties meet and how was the decision to apply for funds for the municipal partnership made? (max 200 words)

The partnership started with a visit from a Vietnamese delegation to Sweden in 2010 when a representative from Piteå met with them at an energy conference and presented the ongoing work carried out in this area in Piteå. The interests from both parties matched. This resulted in the project “Piteå- An Giang sustainable municipalities” (Dnr.2011-0110 + 2011) and the project “Action plan for utilizing rice waste” (Dnr.2014-0065+0063). from 2012 to 2017. There were also was an interest in Piteå to work in this area in a more global perspective.

To submit a new application is a result of the ongoing work due to that there are more things that need to be done and we can utilize the gained experiences from these past years. From the target groups in Vietnam it is expressed a need of having a new project in order to take further steps towards the implementation of the action plan.

b) If there are concluded or ongoing projects within the partnership, describe in brief the partnership areas and the main results. (max 300 words)

The ongoing project with Vietnam will close at the end of this year. The project “Action plan for utilizing rice waste” has focus on rice straw for improving living life of rice communities in An Giang as well as writing an action plan for managing and utilizing rice by-product for An Giang to 2030. There have been many stakeholders involved in the project during the years. Many Vietnamese officials have been to

Piteå for study visits, training, seminars and meetings, some of them not financed by the project. This has contributed to increased awareness both in the political body, among farmers and in the business community.

In Vietnam, many people have been involved in training activities. Members from An Giang and Piteå, who have expertise in specific areas have met many times during the project which has been a necessity for the progress of the project.

During these years also collaboration between Växjö and Piteå is ongoing as we are working with the same province and partly the same people. Cooperation between LTU, Luleå Technical University and HCMUNRE (Ho Chi Minh City University of natural resources and environment) and An Giang is going on and a memorandum of understanding is signed between LTU and the HCMUNRE.

We have also gained valuable experiences of working in international projects. To work together coming from different systems and cultures, we have faced challenges and learned from each other. One result of the ongoing project is also this new application. The target groups were aware and participated in developing a program. People in district level were informed about the project, understanding their role and participated actively in activities of the project. The project involved participation of women. We got knowledge and instruction from experts in Sweden about how to write an action plan and how reduce poverty from demonstration programs for using rice straw. It is increasing knowledge and understanding of global sustainability in area of energy and climate change from exchange of experiences between the municipality of Pitea and the province of An Giang

c) Does the partner have any representative in the Steering Group or project who is participating/has participated in any of ICLD's International Training Programmes?

None

## **5. Short description of the two applicant parties**

a) Describe the Swedish partner's organisational structure, responsibilities and governance as well as the partnership's place within this structure. (max 300 Words)

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In Piteå a citizen's dialogue is established and used in a systematic way before many decisions are taken. It is through information, consultation and participation where the results are taken into consideration when the activity plan for the coming year is done. When it comes to delegation it's the base for the work where responsibilities are linked to mandates in order to fulfill the targets. The political bodies decide regarding the frame work, the management regarding the responsibilities and mandates and each one has to account for the actions taken/not taken. In this case it is the Chief Executive Committee who decides about the participation in the ICLD projects and as the chairman of the committee is chairman for the SC there is a close link to the project.

b) Describe the cooperation partner's organisational structure, responsibilities and governance as well as the partnership's place within this structure. (max 300 Words)

The An Giang Steering group have decided on the participation in the ICLD projects. The collaborative topic is proposed to the Steering group by the An Giang- Piteå Steering group after discussing with Piteå Steering group. The collaborative topic was also formed and based on the local needs, gathering the ideas from local communities and local authorities as well as the recommendation from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Science and Technology. When the nominated topics are supported by the other departments via their representatives in the Steering group, the proposal to ICLD is prepared.

## **6. Participants**

a) List the Steering Group's participants from the Swedish party by name, title, gender and party-political affiliation, including whether they constitute a political majority or the opposition.

- Brith Fäldt, chairman of the steering group and member and leader left wing party which is the opposition party
- Anders Lundkvist, deputy mayor and member of the socialist democratic party which is the majority party

-Bo Wiberg, project leader  
-Jan Dahl; professor LTU  
-Åsa Wikman Piteå municipality, head of department of municipality planning

b) Describe the responsibilities and roles of the Steering Group of the Swedish party.

Brith Fält – chairman with great international experiences among other things as supervisor of elections

Ander Lundkvist – international experience from business development and project administration

Bo Wiberg – project leader and experience from international agriculture activities

Jan Dahl – energy expert, professor in the energy area/- link to the university and experienced in international work

Åsa Wikman- expert in municipality planning and development

c) Describe how the selection of the Swedish members was undertaken and the selection criteria applied, and how women's and men's rights were taken into account.

All members have shown and expressed an interest to participate and have a genuine interest in the area for the cooperation. The member from LTU is also an important partner as he as a professor in the area of Energy and can contribute both with his skills and his links into the University and the gasification center. In this Steering group there are three men and two women which will ensure that both men and women's aspect are taken into consideration.

d) List the Steering Group's participants from the partner by name, title, gender and party-political affiliation, including whether they constitute a political majority or the opposition.

Mr. Lam Quang Thi – Vice chairman of An Giang People's Committee.

Mrs. Pham Ngoc Xuan – Director An Giang and Sweden Cooperative Program Management Unit.

Mrs. Dinh Viet Huynh – Chau Thanh district party committee secretary

Assoc.Prof. Nguyen Thi Van Ha - Dean of Faculty of Environment – HCM City University of Natural Resources and Environment.

e) Describe the responsibilities and roles of the Steering Group of the partner.

Mr. Lam Quang Thi – chairman

Mrs. Pham Ngoc Xuan – project leader

Mrs. Dinh Thi Viet Huynh – member

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Van Ha – professor in the Environment and Energy area- link to the university and experienced in international work

f) Describe how the selection of the partner organisation's members was undertaken and the selection criteria applied, and how women's and men's rights were taken into account.

The members were proposed by the last steering group and then approved by the An Giang People's Committee. There are more female than male, which proved the commitment of An Giang Province on stimulation woman participants on the science and public works in Vietnam.

## **7. Support, quality assurance and management of the partnership**

*The main aim of the Steering Group is to act as a guarantor of local support and long-term thinking in the partnership. The steering group's operational role is to assess project plans, monitor projects and ensure project quality. In addition, the Steering Group should work to ensure that its participants to a greater extent prioritise and pursue proposals for changes to better meet the needs of residents.*

a) How will the Steering Group work to gain support for the partnership from the Swedish party (i.e. from the partner organization in Sweden)?

All decision is taken in the Chief Executive Committee that we should participate and the two members in the Steering Committee are also members of the Chief executive Committee. They have also decided to contribute 50.000 S. Kr yearly to cover the costs not covered by



the ICLD budget,

There is also a commitment from the departments that experienced staff will join the project group and an agreement has been made with the Piteå science Park to join the project and contribute with one person

b) How will the Steering Group work to gain support for the partnership from the partner (i.e. from the partner organization in the cooperation country)?

All the decision is decided by the Leader of Steering group who was also being the Vice - Chairman of An Giang PC. Then the AG PC will decide to contribute about 50.000 sek per year to cover the costs which are not covered by ICLD. When the collaborative topic is decided, there is also commitment from the topic-related departments that they will join the project and contribute with one person, experienced both in international work and being an expert in the collaborative area to form the project steering group and also assign their staff to work as project executing team member.

c) How will the Steering Group proceed to ensure the results of the participant project(s) are monitored and quality assured?

The Steering group is active in monitoring the work and will have certain check points. As there is qualified expertise in the Steering Group they are able to assess the quality of the work  
The projects managed by the Steering Group deal with challenges that are universal for democratic local and regional political bodies.

*The projects managed by the Steering Group deal with challenges that are universal for democratic local and regional politically controlled organisations.*

d) Which of the initially explained core areas are specified in your associated projects? Describe how the Steering Group will strengthen the project team's work within the core areas that are most central.

- Equity/inclusion
- Citizen participation

- Transparency
- Possibility to demand accountability

The Steering Group will strengthen the project team work within the dimensions of democracy, socio- economic development, increased transparency and forum for participating in the development of a society. Being able to speak and being listened to are some factors important for development of local democracy. In this project, all these aspects are part of it, the activity plan of the rice waste to energy plan will also contribute to a socio- economic development and in a short term perspective the demonstration programs will continue to show that it is possible to turn rice waste into money. The demonstration programs will involve more vulnerable groups in Chau Thanh and one focus will continue to be women. They will also cooperate with other target groups for the common good of development of the local society. To make this work it has to be based on transparency, have a forum for cooperation, being able to speak and being listened to.

Information/communication is one of the most important parts and it will be prioritized on the agenda. Methods which are suitable for the target groups will be used, because if the information is poor and is looked upon by the residence as not reliable there will be no development.

Information plans will be developed and on each steering group meeting information will be on the agenda in order to assess the work and support further progress. One part is that information regarding the project, money spent linked to the project will be transparent and also shown at the website.

Formulation of municipal services that meet the needs of residents •  
Methods to ensure the representativeness of the local and regional political bodies

The project will be managed by People's committee at provincial body and they will also be represented in the Steering Group. The project will be carried out in Chau Tanh and that will be done in close collaboration with the leadership in the district.

e) Describe how the Steering Group will safeguard the project's work by integrating equality, the environment and human rights.

Equality; those who are the drivers of the project are both men and

women and one focus will be to focus on women and their needs and possibilities, in this case to utilize bi-products for income generating activities. The use of bi-products has a positive impact on the environment and will reduce CO2 emissions, which is of great importance for An Giang.

Human rights are important underlying aspects in the methods used by involving the different target groups, where their perspectives will be important input in the project.

## **8. Activities**

*The Steering Group must hold at least one meeting hosted by each partner per year and include memos from these meetings in reports.*

Describe the activities you plan to implement in the Steering Group and if possible at this stage, also indicate the time and place. Describe the purpose of each activity and relate the activities to each project.

Steering group meetings will, when possible, be held in connection with other activities, such as training, exchange of experiences, in order to strengthen the results of the exchange.

The time for the steering group meetings will be decided one year ahead and for 2018 it will be decided when the steering group meeting for the ongoing project has its final meeting in November 2017.

At each steering group meeting there will be progress report from the different parts of the projects, challenges and obstacles will be addressed and the need of support for further development explored. Members from the steering group will in between, when needed, be used for their knowledge, their net-works and have an active part even between the SC meetings. If issues arises that need to be addressed in between the meetings video conference meeting can be used.

b) Describe how men and women have participated in producing priorities for the work of the Steering Group

At the first meeting for the new steering group roles and mandates both for the project leader and the steering group will be discussed and decided about, and relations between the steering group and the

project group will be addressed. At our last meeting for the ongoing project it will also be on the agenda for reflections and role/mandates adjusted according lessons learned from the ongoing project. At that time it was 50 % women and 50 % men participa

## **9. Risk analysis and risk management**

*The implementation of changes through projects always involves some risks – risks that may negatively affect the project results. It is important to be prepared for these risks to be able to deal with them. Risks may include external risks, such as political changes and natural disasters, or internal risks such as corruption and high staff turnover.*

a) Describe factors/risks that may negatively affect the work of the Steering Group.

In analyzes of the risk factors high staff turnover is in the top. Those who are part of the project from the beginning are also bearer of the project. And if there should be many changes during a short time it will affect the project. People might also have tasks they do not fulfill, activities might be delayed etc. But we also have risk factors that we can't foresee.

b) Describe factors/risks including corruption risks that may affect the project.

Project budget of both sides are closely monitored and used effectively in accordance with the law and regulations of each country. Each activity within the framework of the project in An Giang province, PMU always reports the activities and finance results for Provincial People's Committee and Department of Finance. There can be some money are spent over planned budget but it is not corruption.

c) Risk management: Describe the action plan for managing the risks identified in the partnership.

For high staff turnover it is important to have a broad base in the own

organization so if someone leaves there they can be replaced. It is also very important the project leaders in both the Swedish and the Vietnamese part have clear roles and mandates, which includes take necessary decisions. It is also important that people involved in the project have time set aside to work with the project and here has the SC an important role.

If there are natural catastrophes, it will become a risk factor. In that case, we have access to use video conferences. When it comes to risks for corruption transparency is extremely important but we also have to be able to discuss matters that are of character that is more sensitive in order to minimize factors that can be considered corrupt.