



As of 28 February 2024

GEF/UNDP/ASEAN PROJECT ON REDUCING POLLUTION AND PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT (IRBM) IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

VA/SORB-IRBM/2024-004

Title	STATE OF RIVER BASIN REPORTS OF IMUS-YLANG YLANG AND PASAC-GUAGUA RIVER BASINS
Type	National/River Basin Level
Duration	April – December 2024
Closing Date	30 March 2024

BACKGROUND

The GEF/UNDP/ASEAN Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in the ASEAN Countries is a 5-year project (2023-2027) with the goal of establishing functional IRBM mechanisms in priority river basins/sub-basins in the six ASEAN Member States (AMS), i.e., Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam, to reduce pollution, sustain freshwater environmental flows and adapt to climate change vulnerabilities. The project is designed to contribute in strengthening source-to-sea (S2S) linkages by promoting the application of integrated approaches and solutions to addressing the S2S issues that were identified in the priority river basins and improving in the process S2S governance. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), which hosts the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) serves as the Executing Agency for the project, working in collaboration with National and Local Government Partners and River Basin Organizations of the six AMS with UNDP providing a three-tier project assurance function. The project is governed by the Regional Steering Committee, comprising of members of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management, UNDP, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the East Asian Seas Executive Committee.

In the Philippines, PRF works closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the National Implementing Partner and local governments for project implementation in two (2) priority river basins, namely the Imus-Ylang Ylang River Basin (IYRB) in Cavite Province and the Pasac-Guagua River Basin (PGRB) in Pampanga Province.

The Project is organized into 4 components with 5 major outcomes and 20 key outputs to achieve the project goal and objective. Component 1 focuses on the conduct of baseline assessment of S2S management continuum with a targeted outcome of improving understanding of governance, socioeconomic, ecological conditions, gaps and needs of priority river basins/sub-basins and associated

coastal areas. This will be achieved through the establishment of the State of River Basin reporting system for purposes of:

- (a) establishing baseline conditions in a river basin/associated coastal area prior to the startup of the IRBM program, including changes that are climate related;
- (b) assessing progress, achievements and shortcomings of ongoing IRBM programs by determining changing conditions with respect to governance and social and economic conditions, including gender gaps as well as trends and/or emerging environmental issues; and
- (c) developing recommendations for continual improvement of IRBM programs including recommendations on ensuring gender responsiveness and incorporating gender equality, where appropriate for consideration by national and local governments and other relevant stakeholders in each river basin/coastal area.

In particular, the SORB reporting will entail the following:

- (a) gathering and consolidation of available data and information from administrative, social, economic and environmental sectors that have authority, responsibility and/or operate in the river basins and coastal areas, including national agencies responsible for agriculture, fisheries, mining, forestry, tourism, transportation, water resource management, environment, etc., as well as local governments, scientific institutions/universities, NGOs and communities;
- (b) forecasting future growth and development and the potential benefits and impacts of such development; and
- (c) packaging, reviewing and validating the information in collaboration with the different government authorities, users and beneficiaries of the selected river basins and coastal areas to identify and confirm the need and benefits of an IRBM approach for an S2S continuum.

This Terms of Reference has been prepared for Consultants or Consulting Firms to coordinate and lead the development of baseline State of River Basin (SORB) reports for Imus-Ylang Ylang and Pasac-Guagua river basins and associated coastal areas.

SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Scope of Work

In coordination with the DENR and its regional offices in Regions 3 and 4A, and with technical support from the National Project Coordinator (NPC) and guidance from RPMU, the Consultants/Consulting Firms will be responsible for preparing, validating, refining and finalizing the baseline SORB reports of IYRB and PGRB following the guidelines and template that will be provided by the RPMU, and in consultation with relevant national agencies, local governments, academic institutions and other stakeholders.

Duties and responsibilities

The Consultants/Consulting Firms will undertake the following:

- i) Prepare a concept note with detailed methodology and work schedule for the preparation and completion of the SORB reports of IYRB and PGRB by 4th quarter of 2024.
- ii) Based on the SORB reporting guidelines and template to be provided by RPMU and the existing profiles of the 2 river basins as references, further update the IYRB and PGRB profiles by gathering relevant and available secondary data covering:
 - a. Biophysical information including land uses in the watershed and associated coastal areas with significant development; conjunctive uses of water; changes and trends in river flows and quality over time and other biophysical considerations;
 - b. Socioeconomic and demographic profiles identifying changes and trends over the years and forecast growth/development in the river basins and adjacent coastal areas. Incorporate the results from the socioeconomic survey with gender aspects that have been completed in the 2 river basins;
 - c. Governance and management arrangements identifying changes and trends over time and planned activities covering IRBM institutional arrangements; national and local IRBM-related policies, strategies and action plans and the respective levels of implementation; legislations/regulations and enforcement processes; public awareness and participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; enabling capacities and capacity development, and public and private sector investments and sustainable financing in support of IRBM implementation.
- iii) Prepare the draft SORB reports consolidating the data/information from items a-c above and incorporating the results of the Total Pollutant Loading assessments that were conducted by the regional offices of DENR-Environmental Management Bureau in the 2 river basins and the results and recommendations from the analysis of competing uses and users of water to assess existing and future water uses and the implications on the applicable water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus to be provided by RPMU.
- iv) Submit the draft SORB reports to RPMU for initial review.
- v) In coordination with DENR and RPMU, facilitate the conduct of consultation workshop to present and validate the draft SORB reports involving relevant national and local government agencies, the academe, and other key stakeholders with interest on the two river basins and SORB reporting.
- vi) Refine the SORB reports to incorporate the results from the validation workshop and submit the draft reports to RPMU through DENR for review.
- vii) Finalize the SORB reports incorporating the additional comments and recommendations from DENR and RPMU, and re-submit the reports for layout and publication.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Concept note on SORB report preparation for IYRB and PGRB

- Updated profiles of IYRB and PGRB
- Draft SORB reports of IYRB and PGRB
- Report on stakeholder validation workshops
- Final SORB reports of IYRB and PGRB

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement

The Consultants/Consulting Firms will be coordinating regularly with the IRBM Project National Coordinator and DENR with support from the RPMU to report on progress, address emerging challenges and in seeking approval and acceptance of the above-mentioned outputs.

Duration of the Work

Expected duration of work is from April – December 2024.

Duty Station

The Consultants/Consulting Firms will be home-based with regular coordination with the DENR and RPMU.

Travel Plan

In the event that the Consultants/Consulting Firms are required to travel to render services, as required under the TOR, associated travel costs will be covered by the RPMU.

Qualifications of the Consultants/Consulting Firms

- Post Graduate Degree in relevant discipline.
- Relevant work experience and good working knowledge of international, regional, national best practices in integrated river basin management (IRBM), integrated water resources management (IWRM), integrated coastal management (ICM) and other area-based management approaches that complement the Source-to Sea approach.
- Sound understanding of sustainable development, environmental management issues, monitoring and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional agreements and instruments.
- Previous experience in developing State of River Basin/State of Environment or similar reports, applying, assessing and analyzing relevant governance, socioeconomic and environmental indicators, engaging in stakeholder consultative process, and coordinating with partners from the national and local governments, international organizations, nongovernment organizations academe, etc. in the Philippines or in the wider East Asian Region.
- Relevant experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and dialoguing with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Fluency in written and spoken English is an advantage.

Financial Proposal

Bidders/applicants should detail the budget plan based on expected outputs, clearly showing logical framework or activity plan to achieve the outputs.

Submission of Tender/Application

Applicants are requested to submit:

1. Duly accomplished **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability**;
2. **Detailed Curriculum Vitae**, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the team leader and members.
3. **Brief description** of why the organization/consultant is considered as the most suitable for the assignment.
4. A description of the **methodology**, on how they will approach and complete the assignment.
5. **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs.

Applicants are requested to submit the tender and requirements via email to recruitment@pemsea.org. Kindly indicate the vacancy reference number and title of requirement when applying (in the subject line) by email.

Additional Considerations

Bid applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only those candidates that are shortlisted will be notified.

For more information on IRBM, please visit www.pemsea.org
