



As of 05 September 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/PILOT PROJECTS-IRBM/2024-007**

Title	<b>CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK AND TEMPLATES FOR IRBM PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ASEAN REGION</b>
Type	<b>Regional Level</b>
Duration	<b>12 months (November 2024 – October 2025)</b>
Closing Date	<b>15 November 2024</b>

**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/watershed 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 PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), which serves as the Project Implementing Partner hosts the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), works in collaboration with National and Local Government Partners and River Basin Organizations in 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 East Asian Seas Executive Committee.

The Project is designed to improve governance and management arrangements in IRBM and accelerate the required changes in the six AMS in support of national priorities, objectives and commitments to global sustainable development targets using the Source to Sea (S2S) framework. The project strategy is to apply a solution-oriented approach by improving understanding of various S2S governance, socioeconomic, ecological conditions, gaps and needs in seven priority river basins and associated coastal areas; implement pilot projects aimed at providing on-the-ground solutions to key issues and utilizing the proven templates or solutions for upscaling and replication; and facilitating hands-on training, experience building and information sharing in participatory planning, development and implementation of IRBM governance and management solutions across the six AMS.

Based on the profiles of the seven river basins, certain key issues are seen to be repeatedly occurring, namely: water pollution, solid waste, deforestation, biodiversity loss, erosion, siltation, flooding and landslides, water security, water quantity and climate change.

Component 2 of the project focuses on addressing the abovementioned issues by improving governance and integrated planning, development and management of river basins and associated coastal areas through IRBM in order to:

- a) Optimize efficient use of water resources while meeting the changes of sustainable development in the respective river basins and coastal areas;
- b) Reduce pollution discharges into the freshwater and ultimately into the marine environment of the region;
- c) Improve integrated water resources management to preserve and enhance environmental flows and reduce climate vulnerability, and
- d) Develop and demonstrate approaches/templates for overcoming challenges to sustainable development and management of river basins/sub-basins and associated coastal areas.

Component 2 therefore aims to establish a framework and develop sustainable solutions templates for the challenges identified which can then be scaled up and replicated within the IRBM area, province/state, country and even transferred to other countries through south-south cooperation. The major thrust of this foundational project is to enable the development and demonstration of sustainable and replicable solutions within the timeframe and budget of the project at appropriate scales and locations, covering key selected issues identified in each participating AMS.

This Terms of Reference require Consultants/Consultancy Company or consortia with expertise and background on the application of integrated approaches in managing river basins for the implementation of pilot projects under Component 2, particularly focusing on:

- a) Developing a framework and generic solution templates for planning, development, implementation and monitoring of IRBM pilot projects in seven priority river basins/sub-basins/watersheds.
- b) Guiding and facilitating the application of the generic solution templates in the IRBM pilot project locations in the seven river basins/sub-basins/watershed.

## **SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES**

### Scope of Work

Under the guidance of the RPMU represented by the Regional Project Manager in close coordination with the Technical Officer, Capacity Development Manager and National Coordinators, and in collaboration with the National Implementing Partners, Local Governments and Project Teams in the six participating AMS, the Consultants/Consulting Firm will be responsible in undertaking the necessary tasks, as elaborated below and deliver the corresponding outputs within the agreed timeline.

### Duties and responsibilities

#### **Scope of Work A: Development of framework and generic solution templates for planning, development, implementation and monitoring of IRBM pilot projects in seven priority river basins/sub-basins/watershed**

The Consultants/Consulting Firm will undertake the preparation of a framework and generic solution templates involving, but not limited to the following steps:

1. Reviewing global (i.e., relevant SDGs, multilateral environmental agreements), regional (ASEAN-level) and national policies, frameworks, strategies and plans (e.g., National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan; National Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan; Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan, National Climate Change Action Plan, etc.), including regulations and institutional mechanisms across the six AMS that are relevant to the objectives of this undertaking.
2. Assessing barriers, challenges and opportunities in water/river basin management as well in identifying enabling mechanisms (i.e., regulatory frameworks and policy incentives) to strengthen basin-wide planning and decision-making processes, as well as utilizing innovative financing mechanisms to leverage public sector finance, encourage private sector engagement, and advance sustainable development.
3. Reviewing diverse models and successful case studies of PPP, public-private inclusive growth fund, blended financing (donor, government, private), public sector financing, and private sector operation and management particularly those related to pollution reduction/waste management, water resources management, reforestation and climate change.
4. Reviewing international and regional best practices and experiences on the application of innovative technologies, including nature-based solutions, to addressing problems related to river basin management, including pollution reduction/nutrient management, waste management/recycling, sustainable reforestation, water security, renewable energy and climate change and determining their practical application in the ASEAN region.
5. Using the best available information including the State of River Basin Reports, where available, and incorporating the results of review in Steps 1 to 4 above, develop the framework and generic solutions template for identifying, selecting, developing and implementing priority investment project(s) in the pilot sites involving, but not limited to the following:
  - a. Preparing the pilot site profile by conducting focused baseline assessment covering policy, legislation, demographic, social, economic and environmental conditions, plans and priorities of the local government where the pilot site is located.
  - b. Conducting public consultations/consensus building among stakeholders on priority social, environmental and economic issues and challenges to be addressed in the pilot site.
  - c. Conducting comprehensive feasibility study of priority environmental threats at the pilot site location covering legal, administrative, technical, financial, economic, social and environmental management options for the identified IRBM pilot project, including

- gender concerns and related social and environmental risks as well as risk mitigation measures.
- d. Identifying and evaluating financing mechanisms and partnership arrangements for the capital and operating costs of the pilot projects, including public sector, private sector, public-private partnership and public-private inclusive growth fund (PPIG).
  - e. Organizing and conducting public consultations/participatory processes in each river basins to build awareness and consensus on the priority issues/threats in the hotspot area/location, the risks and impacts, the available options/solutions, the socio-economic and environmental impacts/implications, and support for preferred option(s).
  - f. Identifying and finalizing the preferred option(s) for the IRBM pilot project.
  - g. Seeking endorsement from the project's coordinating mechanism(s) and local government(s) that will be hosting and co-financing the pilot project.
  - h. Facilitating the negotiation and signing of contractual agreements with national and local authorities, investors, business sector partners for financing, overseeing construction and commissioning of pilot facilities.
  - i. Developing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation program in the river basins/pilot site location to measure the socio-economic and environmental impacts/benefits derived from the pilot project facility, including benefits to people (men, women, children) and the economy of the location.
  - j. Preparing knowledge products, such as case studies, policy briefs, good practices and lessons learned from the pilot project experience.
6. Providing strategic guidance and advice and technical inputs to the RPMU and Project Teams in the application of the generic solution templates through a series of processes for the start-up, operation and monitoring and evaluation of the pilot projects (Scope of Work B).

### **Scope of Work B: Application of Generic Templates at the IRBM Pilot Project Locations**

Based on the framework and generic solutions templates generated from SOW 1, the Consultants/Consulting Firm will provide professional support in undertaking the following:

1. Preparation of detailed workplan and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the application of the generic solution templates in the identified locations in the seven river basins/sub-basins/watersheds.
2. Providing guidance and professional support to the Local Consultants and Project Teams in the:
  - a. Preparation of workplan and budget for organizing and conducting the pilot project(s) and discussing the TOR to implement Step 5 above;
  - b. Organizing and conducting technical workshops in coordination with RPMU involving the Local Consultants and Project Teams and representatives from the pilot site locations to orient each group on the TOR, workplan and solution templates, and roles and responsibilities.
  - c. Set up and implement a monitoring and reporting system and schedule for the pilot project(s) with regular progress reporting for dissemination to the concerned local governments and river basin coordinating mechanisms, UNDP and GEF, including maintaining quality control over all outputs and deliverables of the Local Consultant and Project Teams.

### Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Inception Report
- Framework and generic solution templates for planning, development, implementation and monitoring of IRBM pilot projects in seven priority river basins/sub-basins/watershed
- Detailed work plan and TOR for the application of the generic solution templates in the seven river basins/sub-basins/watershed
- Technical workshop program and materials

### **WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

#### Institutional Arrangement

The consultants/consulting firm will be coordinating regularly with the Regional Project Manager with support from the IRBM Project Technical, Training and Capacity Development Manager, National Coordinators, National Focal Agencies and local governments from the 6 AMS 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 November 2024 – October 2025.

#### Duty Station

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

#### Travel Plan

In the event that the Consultants/Consulting Firm 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 Firm

- Post Graduate Degree in relevant disciplines (e.g., environmental sciences, water resources management, water and sanitation, waste management, legal, economics, finance and investments and related disciplines).
- Good working knowledge of international, regional, national and local best practices on 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, including sound understanding of sustainable development.
- At least 10 years working experience in the ASEAN region on ecological protection, watershed/river basin governance and management.
- Relevant experience in developing and managing investment projects on environmental management/IRBM and knowledge of current best practices in support of science-based government initiatives on sustainable development with social and environmental impacts.

- Relevant experience with investment projects related to water/IRBM of multilateral development banks, financial institutions and donors and other public and private sector country level stakeholders.
- Relevant experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and dialoguing with a diverse range of stakeholders for the preparation and/or implementation of IRBM investments projects.
- 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](mailto: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](http://www.pemsea.org)

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