



As of 09 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/WEFE NEXUS-IRBM/2024-008

Title	COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF CONFLICTS IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON THE APPLICABLE WATER/ENERGY/FOOD/ECOSYSTEM (WEFE) SECURITY NEXUS IN SELECTED RIVER BASINS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
Type	Regional Level
Duration	9 months (November 2024 – July 2025)
Closing Date	14 October 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 seven (7) priority river basins/sub-basins/watershed in the six (6) 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 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 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.

Component 1 of the project 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 coastal areas. This will be achieved through the establishment of the State of River Basin reporting system to consolidate information coming from administrative, social, economic and environmental sectors for purposes of:

- a) establishing baseline conditions in a river basin/associated coastal area prior to the startup of an 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.

As an input to the SORB baseline reporting, this Terms of Reference requires consultants/consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive assessment of competing uses and users of water as a consequence of existing and future water uses and their implications on the applicable water/energy/food/ecosystem (WEFE) security nexus in the priority river basin/sub-basin/watershed in Southeast Asia.

SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Under the guidance of the RPMU represented by the Regional Project Manager in close coordination with the IRBM Technical Officer and National Coordinators, and in collaboration with the National Implementing Partners in the six participating AMS, the Consultants/Consulting Firm will be responsible in undertaking the necessary tasks, involving, but not limited to the following steps and deliver the corresponding outputs within the agreed timeline:

1. In consultation with relevant national institutions, regional organizations and programs and S2S specialists, conduct a review of available scientific research, environmental monitoring and reporting, projects and programs undertaken in the ASEAN region and beyond, including risk/vulnerability assessments related to climate change and other natural and man-made hazards that are relevant to the WEFE nexus.
2. Based on the results of the review, complete a collaborative assessment of relevant issues and threats to existing and future water uses in each of the 7 river basins/sub-basins/watershed and associated coastal areas on environmental flows and the WEFE nexus.
3. Conduct stakeholder consultations/surveys to identify and gather perspectives and anecdotal information on changes and trends, including gender responsive approaches and results, that have evolved that are relevant to the WEFE nexus.
4. Consolidate the information gathered in Steps 1 and 3 and prepare and submit summary reports on key issues facing local users and policy makers in the priority river basins/sub-basins/watersheds and associated coastal areas for review and further consideration in the preparation of the SORB baseline reports of the 7 river basins.
5. Prepare a guidance toolkit that provides guidance to policymakers and river basin organizations/coordinating mechanisms in identifying and assessing vulnerable areas and issues in river basins/coastal areas that could potentially impact the local economies, livelihood of coastal communities, particularly on women and other vulnerable groups and the ecosystem goods and services they are reliant on and the differentiated and collective roles of men and women in

absorbing the impacts and access to the benefits, good and services, taking into consideration the following, as additional references:

- a. Tools and methodologies for assessing WEFE nexus;
- b. Existing and applicable scorecards (e.g., NEXUS Capacity Scorecard Guidance Note and Tool; <https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/nexus-gains/>);
- c. Governance and management indicators initially identified for the State of River Basin baseline reporting (to be provided by RPMU);
- d. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis conducted for selected river basins in the region (<https://www.pemsea.org/resources/publications/reports/gefundpasean-irbm-project-gesi-analysis-report>), and
- e. Project risks and management interventions (to be provided by RPMU).

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Inception Report
- Survey questionnaire and summary reports on the relevant issues and threats to existing and future water uses in each of the 7 river basins/sub-basins/watershed and associated coastal areas on environmental flows and the WEFE nexus.
- Guidance toolkit on the application of the WEFE nexus approach in IRBM

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement

The consultants/consulting firm will be coordinating regularly with the Regional Project Manager with support from the IRBM Project Technical Officer, National Coordinators and National Focal Agencies 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 – April 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 5 years working experience preferably in the ASEAN region on ecological protection and watershed/river basin governance and management.
- Relevant experience in developing and implementing WEFE nexus related studies, researches and initiatives and knowledge of best practices/case studies on the application of WEFE nexus tools and models, and the importance and benefits of the WEFE nexus approach that complements other integrated management approaches.
- Relevant experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and dialoguing with a diverse range of stakeholders for the preparation and/or implementation of IRBM/IWRM/ICM 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. 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
