

Terms of Reference

ASSIGNMENT: Assess coastal resilience status and consult stakeholders to identify appropriate solutions for coastal areas in the Mekong Delta

IUCN REPORTING MANAGER: Nguyen Thanh Phong

LOCATION: Vietnam

DURATION: March 24, 2025, to April 30, 2025

TYPE: National Consultant Entity

1. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT OF ASSIGNMENT

The coastal area of the Mekong Delta plays an important role in economic development and environmental protection. However, in the context of ongoing climate change, the ecosystem of this region is under a lot of pressure and is vulnerable. Land subsidence, sea level rise, water pollution, mangrove forest degradation, and aquaculture cultivation are seriously affected, leading to increasingly difficult economic life for coastal communities.

Several solutions for coastal resilience have been and are being implemented by the government and organizations to minimize these impacts, including hard and soft solutions. However, each province has different programs and projects, so a comprehensive assessment of the coastal area is a very necessary activity to share and help local authorities and policy makers make appropriate and timely decisions to increase effectiveness in actions to improve the situation, develop local economy and preserve mangrove forests well.

In this context, the project seeks to contract an eligible consultant entity with the appropriate experience and expertise to perform the assignment of Tasks mentioned above.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1 General objective: To assess the current status of management, protection, and exploitation of coastal zones in the Mekong Delta (ĐBSCL) propose activities for effective management and sustainable development in the forthcoming period, and share information with stakeholders.

3. ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Location:

Study location: Coastal areas in the provinces of Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, and Bac Lieu.

Workshop location: will be confirmed

3.2 Activities:

1. Conduct a rapid assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of existing coastal protection measures, including grey works (hard infrastructure) and green works (soft solutions) to understand the status of coastal areas.
2. Visit and conduct semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders, engage directly with local actors to consult on the current state of exploitation (production models) and the management challenges of the coastal zones, and gather proposals from the local stakeholders.
3. Organize a stakeholder consultation workshop to share findings from the rapid evaluation and stakeholder interviews and engage participants to discuss identified issues, prioritize solutions and collect recommendations to finalize proposals for future management actions.

3.3 Expected outputs

1. A rapid technical assessment report on the status of coastal zone management in the Mekong Delta and
2. Recommendations for future actions: Clear, actionable recommendations outlining proposed activities, including necessary technical and institutional interventions for effective coastal zone management and sustainable exploitation practices.
3. Workshop report: Documentation of stakeholder workshop, including stakeholder feedback, validation of findings, and recommended actions.

The reports and presentation will be in Word (in Vietnamese and English), and PowerPoint Presentations (PPT), including infographic illustrations (if any) (in Vietnamese and English);

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Working with the IUCN project manager, the consultant entity will carry out the following tasks with the IUCN team no later than the agreed deadlines in the contract.

Timeline: 24 March to 30 April 2025 with below detail period:

No.	Tasks	Conducted time
1	Design and submit the proposal for the survey	24-31 March 2025
2	Conduct field surveys in focal provinces	1-14 April 2025
3	Write a report	15-19 April 2025
4	Organize a workshop to share and consult results with stakeholders (30 participants from Mekong Delta provinces)	20-24 April 2025
5	Finalize final reports in English and Vietnamese	24-26 April 2025

5. COMPENSATION

- Daily Rate: Rate for expert advice.
- Travel Costs and Per Diem: IUCN will cover required travel costs outside of this contract.

6. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

- **Education:** MSc/PhD in Coastal Engineering, Mangroves, Irrigation, or related fields.
- **Experience:** Good understanding in coastal areas in the Mekong Delta, at least 5 years experience in the field of coastal environment assessment and/or coastal zone management and good collaboration with government in focal provinces
- **Skills:** Field survey, data collection, data analysis, and reporting on relevant issues.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Experience working with local communities and stakeholders, especially on the government sides.
- **Language Proficiency:** Fluency in Vietnamese and/or English.

6. REPORTING

The consultants/Institutes will report directly to IUCN Vietnam Mekong Delta Program Manager, Nguyen Thanh Phong.

7. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application, including a CV and short proposal stating their perception of the project and their approach to the assignment and the consultancy rate, by **18 March 2025** to the IUCN Vietnam Mekong Delta Program Manager - Nguyen Thanh Phong at phong.thanhnguyen@iucn.org and copying Ms. Pham Thi Hong Nhung at: nhung.PHAMHONG@iucn.org.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Consultants/Institutes will be assessed based on:

- Professional qualifications
- Relevant professional experience
- Proposed methodological approach
- Competitive and reasonable budget