

**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/IRBM GUIDE-IRBM/2025-003

Title	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING FOR IRBM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ASEAN REGION
Type	Regional Level
Duration	8 months (01 December 2025 – July 2026)
Closing Date	14 November 2025

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 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.

As part of the implementation of pilot projects that addresses priority hotspot issues/problem in each of the seven river basins, the project also aims to improve the existing water quality monitoring and reporting programs and mobilize local capacity for integrated environmental monitoring with, as a minimum, basic capacities in water quality monitoring and reporting at the river basin level.

This Terms of Reference require Consultants/Consultancy Company or consortia with expertise and background on environmental monitoring to develop a Guide for Environmental Monitoring in support of IRBM Program Development and Implementation with accompanying template solution for integrating environmental monitoring into the IRBM pilot projects.

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 key RPMU staff 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, as elaborated below and deliver the corresponding outputs within the agreed timeline.

Duties and responsibilities

- 1) Conduct a desktop review of objectives, approaches and methodologies employed in environmental monitoring and reporting of IRBM programs in the ASEAN Region in the context of S2S continuum, environmental flows, water/food/energy/ecosystem security and climate change vulnerabilities, including the requirements and indicators in the State of River Basin (SORB) Reporting.
- 2) In relation to the results of the desktop review, evaluate environmental monitoring capacities in the seven river basins and adjacent coastal areas and identify gaps and needs to strengthen environmental monitoring for IRBM programs.
- 3) Consolidate the information from Steps 1 and 2 into a Technical Report on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting of IRBM programs in the ASEAN Region.
- 4) In consultation with RPMU, prepare a Program of Activities for a Regional Workshop focusing Environmental Monitoring and Reporting in support of IRBM Program Development and Implementation.
- 5) In coordination with RPMU, organize the conduct of a Regional Workshop involving national and local governments, Project Teams, universities and scientific institutions, regional organizations to build consensus on key parameters, metrics and methodologies for environmental monitoring of IRBM programs, including trends and changes in water quality, environmental flows and ecosystem health as a consequence of management interventions that can be captured in the State of River Basin report in each river basin.
- 6) Based on the results and recommendations from the regional workshop, develop a Guide to Environmental Monitoring and Reporting in support of IRBM Program Development and Implementation.
- 7) Develop generic templates for integrating environmental monitoring into the planning, development, financing, management and operation of IRBM pilot projects in each river basin, for direction and use by the respective Project Team in each river basin.
- 8) Develop Terms of Reference to guide the national and local government monitoring agencies, and IRBM Learning Centers in using the Guide for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting and the generic templates for integrating environmental monitoring and reporting into the IRBM pilot projects, particularly focusing on:
 - a. Developing a sustainable and scientifically sound environmental monitoring and reporting program focusing on assessing impacts and benefits associated with the IRBM pilot project operations;
 - b. Incorporating the environmental monitoring program into the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements of the IRBM pilot project financing and investment arrangements.

- c. Organizing training of laboratory personnel and/or facilitating access to such training to ensure capacity in scientifically sound environmental monitoring, analysis and reporting.
- d. Monitoring, assessing and reporting on the start-up and operation of the environmental monitoring program and the changes that occur in freshwater and marine water quality and environmental flows as a consequence of the management interventions.
- e. Incorporating the results of the environmental monitoring program into the SORB progress report in the final year of the project.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Detailed work plan
- Technical Report on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting of IRBM programs in the ASEAN Region
- Summary Report of the Regional Workshop
- Guide to Environmental Monitoring and Reporting in support of IRBM Program Development and Implementation in the ASEAN Region
- Generic templates for integrating environmental monitoring into the planning, development, financing, management and operation of IRBM pilot projects
- TOR for using the Guide for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting and the generic templates for integrating environmental monitoring and reporting into the IRBM pilot projects

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 December 2025 – July 2026.

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 implementing integrated environmental monitoring programs or related programs, including knowledge of current best practices in environmental monitoring and reporting in support of science-based government initiatives on sustainable development with social and environmental impacts.
- 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. 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
