



**VA/PRF/BAP-EAS/2026-006**

Title	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIVERSITY ACCOUNTING PROTOCOL FOR THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION</b>
Position/Type	<b>Consultancy</b>
Duration	<b>April – August 2026</b>
Closing Date	<b>18 March 2026</b>

## **BACKGROUND**

Coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and tidal marshes are among the most productive ecological systems on the planet. Beyond their well-recognized capacity to capture and store blue carbon, these habitats also support rich biodiversity, sustain coastal livelihoods, and provide essential ecosystem services such as coastal protection, nursery ground for fisheries, and water filtration. Despite their importance, these ecosystems continue to face significant pressures from land conversion, pollution, coastal development, and climate change.

In recent years, blue carbon initiatives have expanded rapidly across the region, with many projects focusing on mangrove restoration and the measurement of carbon stored in seagrasses, marshes, seaweeds and marine sediments. The growth of the voluntary carbon market has further accelerated interest in blue carbon projects, as corporations seek high-quality nature-based solutions and carbon offset standards begin incorporating coastal ecosystem methodologies.

East Asia, a global hotspot of coastal biodiversity and blue carbon resources, presents both urgent challenges and exceptional opportunities. Many countries in the region depend heavily on coastal ecosystems for food security, climate resilience, and economic well-being. Strengthening the management of these ecosystems contributes not only to national climate commitments but also to broader sustainable development goals and the health of coastal communities.

Building on three decades of coastal management experience, PEMSEA has initiated the development of the Blue Carbon (BC) Certification Program. PEMSEA, an effort intended to enhance ecosystem condition, strengthen greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration, and expand access to finance for local government and communities. Initial consultations affirmed a strong regional demand for standardized approaches and identified PEMSEA's potential role in developing a harmonized accounting framework.

As discussions progressed, it became clear that while carbon accounting provides a valuable entry point, the full ecological value of ecosystems extends far beyond carbon. Mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes host diverse species assemblages, support vital ecological interactions, and underpin the productivity of coastal fisheries. To capture these broader benefits and align with emerging global frameworks for nature-positive investments, PEMSEA recognized the need to expand from a purely carbon-focused lens toward a more comprehensive biodiversity crediting protocol.

Currently there are only a few protocols on biodiversity crediting. Developing a regional protocol suited to Southeast Asia would support consistent measurement, reporting, and verification of biodiversity outcomes, enable equitable and transparent benefit-sharing, and strengthen investment pathways for coastal ecosystem restoration, conservation, and management across the region.

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

### Scope of Work

In coordination with the Executive Director and Special Projects Specialist of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, the consultant will be responsible for preparing a draft Regional Biodiversity Accounting Protocol that may be used as a basis for issuance of voluntary biodiversity credits in the East Asian Seas region.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Development of a draft protocol for Biodiversity Crediting for the region
- Presentation of the draft protocol to the Blue Carbon Technical Working Group for their inputs and recommendations
- Gathering and incorporating inputs of partners into the draft document
- Refinement of Regional Biodiversity Accounting Protocol

### Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Draft Regional Biodiversity Accounting Protocol
- Presentation to the PEMSEA BCTWG and partners
- Refinement of draft based on inputs and recommendations from partners

### Duration of the Work

The expected duration of work is from April to August 2026.

Timeline

	April	May	June	July	August
Review of secondary literature	x				
Drafting framework/outline for Regional Biodiversity Crediting Protocol		x			
Developing Regional Biodiversity Crediting Protocol		x	x	x	
Presentation of draft to BC TWG and partners				x	
Refinement and submission of protocol					x

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Education: Master’s degree in relevant disciplines (e.g., Environmental Economics, Ecology, Conservation Biology, Environmental Science, or a related field).
- Technical Expertise:
  - Biodiversity Science and Ecology: deep knowledge of ecosystem services, species conservation, habitat restoration, and, if applicable, specific expertise in flora and fauna.
  - Measurement, Reporting, and Verification: proven ability to design monitoring protocols using scientific, data-driven approaches, including remote sensing, bioacoustics, and Environmental DNA.
  - Baselines and Additionality: expertise in establishing robust, scientifically credible baselines and ensuring that biodiversity improvements are additional, durable, and not legally required.
  - Restoration Ecology – experience in calculating and measuring improvement in biodiversity, rather than just preventing loss.
- Experience with Standards and Markets – working knowledge in designing or auditing projects under international biodiversity-focused frameworks, certification processes (validation and verification of projects), and carbon and/or biodiversity markets.

**SUBMISSION OF 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).
3. **Brief description** of why the consultant is considered as the most suitable for the assignment.
4. A description of the **methodology**, on how the consultant will approach and complete the assignment.
5. **Proposed work plan and financial proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract prices, supported by a breakdown of costs.

Qualified candidates may submit their application together with complete Curriculum Vitae to the Recruitment Officer, via email to [recruitment@pemsea.org](mailto:recruitment@pemsea.org). Kindly indicate the vacancy number and post title when applying (in the subject line) by email. The deadline for submission of application is **18 March 2026**.

**Additional Considerations**

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

For more information on PEMSEA, please visit [www.pemsea.org](http://www.pemsea.org)

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