PEMSEA

VA/ENMAPS/2026-004

Title	**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLUE ECONOMY INVESTMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS IN ASEAN ENMAPS PROJECT SITES IN THE PHILIPPINES**
Type	**National Consultant (Philippines)**
Duration	**26 August 2026 to 31 May 2027**
Closing Date	**19 August 2026**

BACKGROUND

The GEF/UNDP/ACB ASEAN ENMAPS Project on Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in the ASEAN Region is a five-year project aimed to strengthen networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine corridors across selected LMEs in the ASEAN region, focusing on conserving globally significant biodiversity while supporting sustainable fisheries and other essential ecosystem services.

The project is expected to bring transformative changes in the collaborative management of MPAs and other coastal and marine resources in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, building upon country initiatives to develop and manage MPAs, establish MPA networks (MPANs) and associated marine corridors, and mainstreaming ICM, MSP, and ecosystem-based fisheries management (EAFM) in MPA management.

Five of the eleven ASEAN ENMAPS pilot sites are located in the Philippines. These include the Agoo-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape (ADPLS), Bani-Bolinao-Burgos-Infanta-Dasol-Agno Marine Protected Area Network (BBBIDA MPAN), Tubbataha Reef Natural Partk (TRNP), Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape (TBPPS), and Turtle Island Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS).

Along with using science-based tools and integrated and ecosystem-based management approaches to strengthen governance, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable fisheries in the MPA and MPAN sites, the ASEAN ENMAPS project also aims to enhance the financial sustainability of these conservation areas and enhance sustainable livelihood initiatives to enable meaningful engagement of local communities in MPA/MPAN management and eliminate unsustainable practices.

This Terms of Reference has been prepared for a National Consultant in the Philippines to identify, develop, and pilot test potential Blue Economy investments and alternative livelihoods that can contribute to the financial sustainability of MPAs in ASEAN ENMAPS pilot sites in the Philippines and enhance the inclusion and meaningful engagement of local communities including the local fisheries sector.

SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

In coordination with the **PRF ENMAPS Coordinator, PRF ICM and Investment Specialist,** and the **ACB Project Management Unit (PMU),** the **Coastal and Marine Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau** (**DENR-BMB-CMD)**, and the **Philippines' National Implementation Unit (PH-NIU)**, and with guidance from the **PRF Executive Director**, the Consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

1) <u>BLUE ECONOMY INVESTMENTS (Q3 2026 – Q2 2027)</u>

In support of the ASEAN ENMAPS Project's Output 2.1.3. (Priority investment projects studied, developed and pilot tested, contributing towards achievement of financial sustainability of MPAs and inclusion of local communities), activities under this scope of work include the following:

a) **Identify potential priority Blue Economy investments in Tubattaha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP)**, considering existing and potential initiatives contributing to sustainable financing of the TRNP Protected Area Management Plan implementation, in consultation with key stakeholders. (Q3 2026)

a) **Conduct pre-feasibility studies of the identified potential priority investments**, including assessment of technical, financial, and social viability; stakeholder analysis and engagement; and identification of potential risks and mitigation strategies. As part of the screening process to determine the most viable investments moving forward, coordinate with the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU and integrate inputs from their **Gender Analysis**, **Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP)** (where required), **Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)**, and **development and implementation of site-level Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPPs)** for interventions involving indigenous peoples/ethnic groups where needed. (Q3 2026)

b) **Present the results of the pre-feasibility studies to local and national stakeholders** for validation and feedback. (Q3/Q4 2026)

c) **Develop the feasibility study with an implementation plan for the agreed investment**, including: a) Business plan and financial model; b) Institutional arrangements and governance structure; c) Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans; and d) Timeline and budget. (Q4 2026)

d) **Convene a stakeholder workshop** with local and national government partners, potential donors, and other partners **to finalize the implementation plan**. (Q4 2026)

e) **Negotiate partnership arrangements**, e.g., through public-private partnerships, to leverage financing for the investments. (Q4 2026 - Q1 2027)

f) **Coordinate with involved stakeholders to initiate the implementation of the investments** at pilot scale (Q1-Q2 2027)

g) **Carry out initial monitoring and evaluation** to enable adaptive management adjustments. (Q2 2027)

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The priority investments should be aligned with national programs and policies
- The investments should promote the inclusion of local communities, including women, youth, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups
- The investments should contribute to the financial sustainability of MPAs
- The implementation plan should include a clear M&E framework and timeline

<u>Deliverables</u>

1. Report on identified potential priority investments in Tubattaha Reef Natural Park (Q3 2026)

2. Pre-feasibility studies of the identified potential priority investments, incorporating results of gender analysis, SESP tool screening and ESIA reports and Site-level IPPs (as required) from the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU (Q3 2026)
3. Report from workshop to present the results of the pre-feasibility studies and agree on priority investment (Q3/Q4 2026)
4. Feasibility study and implementation plan for the agreed investment(s) (Q4 2026)
5. Report from stakeholder workshop to review and finalize the implementation plan for the agreed investment (Q4 2026)
6. Partnership agreements and financing arrangements (Q1 2027)
7. Progress reports on the pilot implementation of the investment plan (Q2 2027)
8. Report on the pilot testing of the investments, including lessons learned and recommendations for sustainability and scaling-up (Q2 2027)

2) <u>SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS (Q3 2026 – Q2 2027)</u>

In support of the project's Output 2.1.4. (Entrepreneurial skills and sustainable livelihood initiatives enhanced, helping local communities and partners be more meaningfully engaged in MPA management, with an emphasis on inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups), outputs under this scope of work include the following:

b) In partnership with government agencies such as DENR, DA-BFAR, DOT, DTI, their regional counterparts, local CSOs and relevant institutions, and considering available information from existing initiatives, relevant assessments, and reports from completed project activities (e.g., baseline scoping, pilot ICM training, stakeholder perception mapping, etc.), **conduct pre-feasibility and rapid market and stakeholder analyses for potentially viable participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives in the five ASEAN ENMAPS Project sites in the Philippines** (for TRNP, may be linked to the above investment project), and develop sustainable business plans. (Q3 2026)

c) As part of the screening process to determine the most viable alternative livelihoods moving forward, coordinate with the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU and integrate inputs from their **Gender Analysis**, **Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP)** (where required), **Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)**, and **development and implementation of site-level Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPPs)** for interventions involving indigenous peoples/ethnic groups where needed. (Q3 2026)

d) **Undertake participatory planning with affected stakeholders to identify and prioritize conservation enterprises and appropriate alternative livelihoods** to determine potential access restrictions, mutually acceptable levels of resource use, management arrangements and measures to mitigate potential social and environmental impacts. (Q3/Q4 2026)

e) **Deliver capacity building and skills training to local communities** for the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives, and deliver capacity building for improving entrepreneurial skills (e.g., financial literacy, basic bookkeeping, proposal writing, etc.). (Q4 2026)

f) **Provide investment assistance** for implementation of the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives, including: (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027)
   - Access to funding/financial assistance for implementation of the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives and/or biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs)
      i. This may include capacity building and technical support for project proposal development to improve access to various funding sources (including low-value grants from the project to be administered by Samdhana Institute)
      ii. Confirmation of potential conservation enterprises/BDFEs activities identified during the project preparation phase including: seaweed farming; fish processing; Pandan mat weaving; ranching of sea cucumbers, sea urchins, crabs, etc; or tourism related enterprises (to be confirmed through the above process).

- Access to technologies to improve community products and packaging
- Access to market
- Partnerships with private sector and other stakeholders

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The interventions should be participatory and inclusive, engaging local communities and promoting equitable benefits.
- The interventions should contribute to the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity

DELIVERABLES

1. Pre-feasibility and rapid market and stakeholder analyses and business plans for participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives in the five project sites, incorporating results of gender analysis, SESP tool screening and ESIA reports and Site-level IPPs (as required) from the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU (Q3 2026)
2. Report from participatory planning with local stakeholders to identify and prioritize conservation enterprises and appropriate alternative livelihoods (Q4 2026)
3. Report/s on capacity building and skills training programs for local communities for the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027)
4. Report/s on investment assistance for implementation of participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives, including project proposals for Samdhana grants (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027)
5. Progress reports on the implementation of the interventions, and recommendations for sustainability (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027)
6. Final report on the outcomes and lessons learned, and recommendations for replication and/or scaling up (Q2 2027)

MILESTONE OUTPUTS AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deliverables	**Timeline**
20% of total mandated fee upon the submission and approval of the following: 1. Inception report including key strategies, methodologies, activities, and schedules for implementing the project	7 September 2026
30% of total mandated fee upon the submission and approval of the following: **Blue Economy Investments (TRNP)** 1. Report on identified potential priority investments in Tubattaha Reef Natural Park (Q3 2026) 2. Pre-feasibility studies of the identified potential priority investments, incorporating results of gender analysis, SESP tool screening and ESIA reports and Site-level IPPs (as required) from the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU (Q3 2026) **Sustainable Livelihoods (5 project sites)** 3. Pre-feasibility and rapid market and gender stakeholder analyses and business plans for participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives in the five project sites, incorporating results of gender analysis, SESP tool screening and ESIA reports and Site-level IPPs (as required) from the ACB-PMU and PH-NIU* (Q3 2026)*	15 October 2026

30% of total mandate fee upon the submission and approval of the following: **<u>Blue Economy Investments (TRNP)</u>** 1. Report from workshop to present the results of the feasibility studies and agree on priority investment (Q3/Q4 2026) 2. Feasibility and Implementation Plan for the agreed investment(s) (Q4 2026) 3. Report from stakeholder workshop to review and finalize the implementation plan for the agreed investment (Q4 2026) **<u>Sustainable Livelihoods (5 project sites)</u>** 4. Report from participatory planning with local stakeholders to identify and prioritize conservation enterprises and appropriate alternative livelihoods (Q4 2026) 5. Report/s on capacity building and skills training programs for local communities for the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives (Q4 2026)* 6. Report/s on investment assistance for implementation of participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives, including project proposals for Samdhana grants (Q4 2026) 7. Progress reports on the implementation of the interventions, and recommendations for sustainability (Q4 2026) * Priorities to be confirmed with the MPA sites and NIU	10 December 2026
20% of total mandate fee upon the submission and approval of the following: **<u>Blue Economy Investments (TRNP)</u>** 1. Partnership agreements and financing arrangements (Q1 2027) 2. Progress reports on the pilot implementation of the investment plan (Q2 2027) 3. Report on the pilot testing of the investments, including lessons learned and recommendations for sustainability and scaling-up (Q2 2027) **<u>Sustainable Livelihoods (5 project sites)</u>** 4. Report/s on capacity building and skills training programs for local communities for the agreed participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives (Q1 2027) 5. Report/s on investment assistance for implementation of participatory conservation enterprises/initiatives, including project proposals for Samdhana grants (Q1 2027) 6. Progress reports on the implementation of the interventions, and recommendations for sustainability (Q1 2027) 7. Final report on the outcomes and lessons learned, and recommendations for replication and/or scaling up (Q2 2027)	31 May 2027
TOTAL	

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement
The consultants/consulting firm will be coordinating regularly with the PRF ENMAPS Coordinator.

Duration of the Work
Expected duration of work is from 20 August 2026 to May 31, 2027.

Duty Station
The Consultants/Consulting Firms will be home-based with regular coordination with the PRF.

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 PRF (included in the contract).

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).
- Relevant experience in sustainable financing, investment planning, livelihood development, and project management
- Strong understanding of MPA management and conservation
- Experience working with government agencies, private sectors, and local communities
- Strong communication and coordination skills.
- Expertise in financial analysis and business planning
- Familiarity with blue economy and sustainable development principles

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 ASEAN ENMAPS, please visit www.pemsea.org.