



**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/PHILIPPINES-IRBM/2026-009

TITLE:	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE UPDATING OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT FOR AMADEO MUNICIPALITY, CAVITE PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES
TYPE:	River basin and municipality level (preferably for Philippine nationals)
DURATION:	October 2026 – March 2027
CLOSING DATE:	September 25, 2026

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 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.

Component 2 of the project supports the development and demonstration of sustainable and replicable solutions within the project's timeframe and budget at appropriate scales and locations, covering key issues identified in each participating AMS.

In the Philippines, one of the priority river basins of the IRBM Project is the Imus Ylang Ylang Rio Grande Rivers (IYRR) located in Cavite Province. Considering its importance to Manila Bay, the IYRR was designated as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) through DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2013-02 pursuant to Section 5 of the Philippine Clean Water Act (RA 9275) to protect and improve the water quality of IYRR and Manila Bay. The IYRR-WQMA encompasses the river basins of these three rivers and nine local government units: Tagaytay City, Dasmariñas City, City of Imus, City of Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, General Trias, Amadeo, and Silang.

Major concerns identified during the consultations included domestic wastewater and water supply. Succeeding consultations identified septage management for one municipality (Amadeo) with potential for clustering with adjoining local governments as potential pilot project that can be developed under the IRBM Project. In 2015, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) commissioned the conduct of



feasibility studies for proposed septage treatment plants (SpTPs) in seven (7) municipalities and cities in Cavite, which included Amadeo Municipality. The proposed SpTP in the FS was designed for the projected population and septage volume of the seven LGUs until 2036. Among the seven LGUs, only the municipalities of Amadeo and Indang do not currently have any septage management programs in place, nor are they in any negotiations with private or public entities. Thus, Amadeo Municipality was selected as the possible site for the pilot project on septage management under the IRBM Project.

This Terms of Reference require a consultant or consulting firm to review and update the Feasibility Study and provide recommendations for consideration by the Imus Ylang Ylang Rio Grande Rivers WQMA Governing Board in the selection of effective and sustainable septage treatment processes that balance environmental protection with operational efficiency.

SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Under the guidance of the IYRR WQMA Technical Working Group and the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) of PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), represented by the Regional Project Manager, in close coordination with the IRBM Technical staff, and in collaboration with DENR-EMB R4A/IYRR WQMA Secretariat and the Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO) of Cavite Province, the Consultants/Consulting Firm will be responsible in undertaking the necessary tasks, as elaborated in the duties and responsibilities below and deliver the corresponding outputs within the agreed timeline.

Duties and responsibilities

- 1) Prepare a concept note outlining the detailed methodology and work schedule for reviewing and updating the Feasibility Study for the Identification of Concept Design for Sanitation Project in Amadeo, Cavite with focus on septage management.
- 2) Based on the approved methodology, conduct a detailed review of the Feasibility Study and identify components of the FS that need updating, particularly on the following, with focus on septage management:
 - a. **Technical feasibility:** assessing the viability and practicability of the proposed technology, the availability and accessibility of the required resources, such as hardware, software, data, expertise, treatment technology, as well as land, energy and related infrastructure that can help in determining the requirements, specifications, and limitations of the proposed project.
 - b. **Operational feasibility:** appropriateness of the selected system and technology, efficiency of the collection, conveyance, and treatment process, the management of energy and other resources, ability to meet regulatory standards, and asset management dealing with upgrades and retrofits to ensure that the facility remains efficient and effective over time.
 - c. **Economic and financial feasibility:** analyzing the financial risks and uncertainties of the project, such as the costs, tariffs/charges, revenues, cash flows, break-even point, return on investment (ROI), economic and financial internal rate of return, and payback period that can help in assessing the viability, sustainability, bankability, and attractiveness of the proposed project.



- d. **Environmental feasibility:** measuring and monitoring the environmental impact and footprint of the project, such as energy consumption, carbon intensity, waste generation, pollution emission, land use, odor, noise level, ambient water quality, etc.
 - e. **Social feasibility and gender mainstreaming:** assessing and measuring the social feasibility of the proposed project, such as the benefits, costs, risks, and challenges, including public awareness and political will, for the stakeholders, customers, and society that can help in finding out the desirability and acceptability of the proposed project.
 - f. **Legal and institutional feasibility:** identifying and reviewing the relevant legal and policy frameworks and requirements, such as contracts, licenses, permits, patents, trademarks, copyrights, taxes, tariffs, and trade agreements, including political acceptance, administrative capacity, institutional arrangements, and the alignment of the project with institutional goals and objectives.
- 3) In addition to the above components, identify and evaluate potential financing, investment and partnership mechanisms for the construction and operation of the proposed septage treatment facility, including public sector, private sector, public-private partnership, and other financing models.
 - 4) Organize consultation meetings with PRF, DENR-EMB R4A/IYRR WQMA Secretariat, OPENRO, Amadeo Water District, Amadeo Municipality, LWUA and DPWH to discuss the preliminary results of the assessment and FS updating.
 - 5) Organize public consultations to inform, gather feedback and build consensus on recommended septage management concept and design options and investment model.
 - 6) Prepare the draft updated FS for presentation to the IYR WQMA Technical Working Group.
 - 7) Refine the updated FS incorporating comments and suggestions from public consultations and from the IYR WQMA TWG.
 - 8) Consolidate the results from items 2-7 and submit the final draft of the updated FS with recommendations to the WQMA Governing Board for review and consideration for endorsement.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Concept note detailing the methodology and work schedule for the review and updating of the Feasibility Study
- Draft and final updated Feasibility Study for Septage Management for Amadeo Municipality
- Summary reports on the public consultations

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement



The Consultants/Consulting Firm will be coordinating regularly with the PRF, DENR EMB R4A/IYRR WQMA Secretariat and OPENRO 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 October 2026 – March 2027.

Duty Station

The Consultants/Consulting Firm will be home-based with regular coordination with the RPMU and IYRR WQMA Secretariat.

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 ecological protection, watershed/river basin governance and management.
- Relevant experience on river basin governance and management encompassing coordination of water, land and the coastal and marine areas and resource use, including data integrated and decision support systems, stakeholder engagement, policy coherence, use of technical tools and understanding of complex social and political factors, such as decentralization, dispute resolution and management of ecosystem services to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits in support of sustainable development goals and targets.
- Relevant experience on wastewater engineering, environmental and socio-economic baseline assessments, site suitability assessment, climate and hazard screening, treatment technology evaluation, preliminary infrastructure planning, financial and economic assessment, stakeholder consultation, and previous engagement in similar assignments.
- 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 and programs and action plans.
- 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
