



**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/LAO PDR -IRBM/2026-010

Title	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE RAPID ASSESSMENT OF LAND-BASED POLLUTANT LOADINGS IN NAM THA RIVER BASIN IN LAO PDR
Type	National / River Basin Level
Duration	November 2026 to April 2027
Closing Date	October 26, 2026
*The consultancy is open to Lao PDR nationals or entities only.	

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 seven 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. In Lao PDR, the project's priority river basin is the Nam Tha River Basin (NTRB) located in the northern part of the country and encompasses the Provinces of Bokeo, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay.

Component 1 of the project focuses on conducting a baseline assessment of the S2S management continuum with a targeted outcome of improving understanding of governance, socioeconomic, ecological conditions, gaps and needs of priority river basins/sub-basins and associated coastal areas through the establishment of State of River Basin (SORB) reporting, including the conduct of rapid assessment of land-based pollutant loadings in the priority river basin.

This Terms of Reference require a consultant or Consulting Firm to conduct a rapid assessment of land-based pollutant loadings into NTRB using Total Pollutant Loading (TPL) models or other applicable rapid appraisal methodology to estimate current and forecast total pollutant loadings in NTRB, identify the sources, confirm the priority areas and hotspot locations, and assess their potential impacts in the river basin.

SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

Under the direct supervision and guidance of the Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (DWR/MAE), Lao PDR with technical guidance from the Regional Project Management Unit, the Consultant/Consulting Firm will:

- 1) Prepare a concept note detailing the methodology, expected outputs and work schedule for the conduct of TPL study or rapid assessment of pollutant sources and loadings in NTRB;
- 2) Gather available data and information for the TPL modelling or rapid assessment, including, but not limited to, socioeconomic, demographic, land use/land cover, sanitation facilities, point and non-point sources of pollution, etc.;
- 3) Estimate the current total pollutant loading in the NTRB in terms of, but not limited to, organic pollutants and nutrients, and determine the contribution of key economic sectors (e.g., domestic, agriculture, industries, etc.), as well as hotspot areas of pollution in the basin;
- 4) Develop projections/forecast of pollution loading using population and economic growth data in the basin, land-use change scenarios, and other relevant factors, including scenarios to evaluate the impacts of different pollutant reduction options;
- 5) Facilitate the conduct of consultation workshop involving relevant national and local government agencies, the academe and other key stakeholders, including other related projects to present and validate the results of the TPL study;
- 6) Organizing training sessions on accurate data analysis and technical report writing, in accordance with established guidelines for staff from the Department of Water Resources and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment.
- 7) Share the relevant findings from the TPL study to support the updating of the Nam Tha River Basin Management Plan 2026-2030.
- 8) Develop a practical assessment guideline that can be applied to comparable river basins in Lao PDR.
- 9) Prepare the TPL report incorporating the results from the consultation workshop and submit to DWR/MAE and RPMU for review; and
- 10) Finalize the TPL report incorporating the DWR/MAE and RPMU's comments and recommendations and resubmit the report to DWR/MAE and RPMU.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Concept note detailing the methodology, expected outputs and work schedule for the TPL study in Nam Tha River Basin
- Guideline for conducting TPL study and reporting
- Report on consultation workshop conducted
- Draft and Final TPL reports for Nam Tha River Basin incorporating feedback from the consultation workshop and comments and recommendations from DWR/MAE and RPMU

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement

RPMU through DWR/MAE Lao PDR will provide access to available materials and documents to the Consultant/Consulting Firm, including facilitating arrangements for consultations and meetings with key partners and stakeholders in Nam Tha River Basin. The Consultant/Consulting Firm will be coordinating regularly with DWR/MAE.

Duration of the Work

The expected duration of the work is from October 2026 to March 2027.

Duty Station

The Consultants/Consulting Firms will be home-based with regular coordination with DWR/MAE.

Travel Plan

Local travel cost to render services, as required in the TOR, are expected to be included in the financial proposal.

Qualifications of the Consultants/Consulting Firms

- Post Graduate Degree in relevant discipline.
- 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 the issues related to pollution, freshwater environmental flows and climate change that may undermine sustainable development.
- At least 10 years working experience in Lao PDR on ecological protection, environmental management, pollutant loading and similar assessments, watershed/river basin governance and management.
- Previous experience in developing similar reports, applying, assessing and analyzing relevant governance, socioeconomic and environmental indicators, engaging in stakeholder consultative process, and coordinating with partners from the national and local governments, international organizations, nongovernment organizations academe, etc. in Lao PDR or in the wider East Asian Region.
- Relevant experience in leading multidisciplinary teams and dialoguing with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Fluency in written and spoken Lao and 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 <https://www.pemsea.org/what-we-do/integrated-river-basin-management-project>.
