



Mekong River Commission

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TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Consultancy Summary:

Consultancy Title:	International consultant for MASAP mainstreaming into BDS, MRC sectoral strategies and national activities, and climate change adaptation monitoring
Consultancy type:	Special Service Agreement - home based, daily rate: one-time assignment, 1 TOR, number of consultancy days within 12 calendar months
Duration (# of days/months/from month to month):	65 working days, from May 2019 to April 2020
Division/OC:	Planning Division
Working station:	Homebased and MRCS office
Total budget: (for lumpsum)	

2. General background:

2.1. Background and objective/s of the consultancy

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established by the 1995 Agreement on Co-operation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, between the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. The role of the MRC is to coordinate and promote cooperation in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin.

The MRC Secretariat (MRCS) is the operational arm of the MRC. It provides technical and administrative services to the Joint Committee and the Council to achieve the MRC's mission.

The Planning Division is responsible for strategic basin development planning, and strategic analysis and planning of issues related to socio-economics, climate change adaptation, hydropower, and agriculture and irrigation to support basin planning management and development for sustainable development of the Mekong River.

The Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP) sets out the strategic priorities and actions at basin level through which the Mekong River Commission (MRC) can contribute to addressing climate change risks and strengthen basin-wide resilience. The MASAP identifies critical dimensions of development that need transboundary cooperation for the purpose of adaptation to climate change and enhances the capacity of Member Countries in implementing their own national strategies. In terms of climate-resilience for the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), the MASAP contributes to ensuring that people, communities, businesses, and other organizations be able to cope with current climate variability as well as adapt to future climate change, preserving development gains, and minimizing damages. The MASAP has condensed the current state of the art knowledge on climate change in the LMB. It identifies priorities and actions for MRC in order to support the Member Countries to further increase the resilience in LMB. The MASAP therewith provides the opportunity for the Member Countries to use and build upon this knowledge and streamline their actions with their neighbouring countries.

Mainstreaming at regional level and national level

Climate change fundamentally alters precipitation patterns, influencing the water and water related resources and sectors in the basin. Any water-related strategies and long-term programmes in the LMB should therefore consider such modifications due to climate change and should address them in the planned

actions. In the context of climate change, mainstreaming implies that awareness of climate impacts and associated measures to address these impacts are integrated into the existing and future policies and plans of the countries, as well as multilateral institutions, donor agencies and NGOs.

In MRC, the current Basin Development Plan (BDS) for 2016-2020 is being updated for the next planning cycle. Besides, several sectoral strategies such as flood management and mitigation strategy, are also being updated in 2019. In this context, therefore, it needs to take into account climate change into the BDS and sectoral strategies.

Monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation

Since the information on climate change, its impact and climate change adaptation are required to enable decision-making to develop and implement appropriate response measures, a key element of the MRC's work has been the development of a system for monitoring and reporting on the status of climate change and adaptation in the LMB. The purpose of the monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation is to help to track changes and store relevant data for assessing status, trend and impact of climate change on environment, social and economic in the LMB for supporting adaptation planning. MRC has already defined a comprehensive set of relevant climate indicators, impacts indicators and adaptation indicators which have been agreed by Member Countries. Each indicator has been defined and for some of them the baseline value has already been calculated. In addition, a number of actions have been identified to underpin the further development and operation of the monitoring and reporting system such as (i) promote wider ownership of the monitoring and reporting system throughout the LMB; (ii) enhance a coordinated LMB-focused monitoring programme across all MRC member countries; (iii) operationalize the indicators developed in this report; (iv) develop relationships with other monitoring and reporting systems in the LMB; (v) share information with key audiences.

Objectives:

The objective of this consultancy is (i) to mainstream climate change with regional perspective into BDS, action plan of MRC basin-wide fishery management strategy, environment management strategy and flood management and mitigation strategy update; and (ii) provide guidance and technical support to four national consultants (one in each MRC Member Country), coordinate and document their interventions, on following issues:

- Identifying and implementing MASAP mainstreaming activities at national level in order to achieve the national priorities on climate change adaptation
- Operationalize the monitoring and reporting system on the status of climate change impacts and adaptation based on the agreed set of indicators.

2.2. Expected final product

(a) Mainstreaming at regional level

- A technical note of a section of BDS on climate change and mainstream climate change at any relevant parts to enhancing climate resilience, and commented version of the BDS to ensure a comprehensive and relevant mainstreaming of climate change into this document
- Formulation of a part on climate change dimension in Action Plan of Basin-wide Fishery Management Strategy and proposed actions/ activities of this part, and commented MRC environment management strategy to taking account climate change into the strategy
- A brief note of Basin-wide Assessment of Climate Change Impact (BWA) regarding flood and recommendation on what and how Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) can do to address climate change, and commented FMMS update to taking account climate change into the strategy

(b) Mainstreaming at national level

- Regional report on the MASAP mainstreaming into national actions/ activities/ projects

(c) Monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation

- Agreed indicators on climate change and adaptation, in line with current MRC indicator framework
- Regional database of the agreed indicators on climate change and adaptation
- Regional report on the monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation.

3. Required deliverables, timelines and responsibilities

3.1. Deliverables and concrete timelines:

Deliverables and expected quality/quantity	Expected time investment (in hours, days or months)	Deadline
<i>MASAP mainstreaming at regional level</i>		
A technical note of a section of BDS on climate change and mainstream climate change at any relevant parts to enhancing climate resilience	4	September 2019
Commented version of the BDS to ensure a comprehensive and relevant mainstreaming of climate change into this document	3	December 2019
Formulation of a part on climate change dimension in Action Plan of Basin-wide Fishery Management Strategy	2	June 2019
Proposed actions/ activities for Action Plan of BFMS	3	July 2019
Commented MRC environment management strategy to taking account climate change into the strategy	3	
A brief note of BWAs regarding flood and recommendations on what and how FMMS can do to address climate change, and commented FMMS update to taking account climate change into the strategy	4	July 2019
Commented FMMS update to taking account climate change into the strategy	2	December 2019
<i>MASAP Mainstreaming at national level</i>		
Technical supports to national consultants to implement the activities of the mainstreaming	10	December 2019
A regional report of the implementation of MASAP mainstreaming at national level	10	December 2019
<i>Monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation</i>		
Agreed indicators on climate change and adaptation, in line with current MRC indicator framework	2	June 2019
An approach to gather dataset for indicators of the monitoring and reporting system on the status of climate change impacts and adaptation including identification of proxies for indicators for which the data is not readily available, with integrated comments from national consultants	3	July 2019
Provide technical supports to the national consultants	5	December 2019
Collected regional dataset informed by global/ regional data sources	2	August 2019
Reviewed national dataset and consolidated regional dataset and data analysis for each indicator for baseline and present condition	4	October 2019
Comments/ revisions to national reports and developed dashboard template for presentation of indicator values	4	December 2019

A regional report of the activity, including mechanisms and recommendations for a regular and coordinated update and maintenance of the system in the future	4	December 2019
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3.2. Required tasks and responsibilities:

MASAP mainstreaming at regional level

- Mainstreaming climate change with regional perspective into BDS
- Mainstreaming climate change into action plan of MRC basin-wide fishery management strategy, and MRC environment management strategy
- Mainstreaming climate change into flood management and mitigation strategy update

MASAP mainstreaming at national level

- Provide technical support to national consultants on selecting national action/ activity for the mainstreaming
- Provide technical supports to national consultants to implement the identified activities
- Develop the regional report of the activity based on the national reports.

Monitoring and reporting system on climate change and adaptation

- Review CCAI set of indicators and MRC indicator framework
- Define and develop an approach to gather datasets for the indicators of the monitoring and reporting system taking into account the potential synergies with other national and/or regional monitoring system in the LMB. Integrate the recommendations from national consultants to finalize the approach
- Provide technical support to national consultants on data collection and analysis, including spatial scale, data QA/QC, and baseline. The support includes the facilitation of working session with national consultants
- Define spatial scale, review baseline if necessary and collect datasets for indicators informed by global/ regional data sources, including MRCS sources
- Review national datasets and consolidate the regional datasets on parameters for the agreed indicators
- Analyze the indicators values at regional level to grasp present condition of climate change impacts and adaptation in LMB
- Identify mechanisms and recommendations for a regular and coordinated update and maintenance of the system in the future, that will be incorporated into the regional report
- Develop and propose a dashboard format to communicate the indicator values in a user-friendly way
- Develop the regional report of the activity based on the national reports

4. Working Arrangement

4.1. Director supervisor: Director of the MRCS Planning Division

4.2. Communication line: The Consultant will work under the overall managerial and technical direction of the Director of the Planning Division and Chief River Basin Planner. He/she will work directly with the Climate Change Adaptation Specialist of Planning Division. He/she will also work closely with National Consultants and the GIZ-MRCS technical advisor as well.

5. Payment mode:

Payment will be made based on presentation of the deliverables outlined in section 3, including all reports, a short progress report and timesheet. All deliverables must be satisfactorily accepted by the MRCS Planning Division.

The Consultant will quarterly invoice for completed deliverables outlined in Section 3.

6. Qualifications and Requirements:

The international consultant will have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in climate change adaptation, natural resource management, environmental sciences or a related discipline;
- At least 10 years of experience working on assessment of climate change impact and climate change adaptation, water resources management, and similar assignments;
- Familiarity with the Lower Mekong River Basin, the MRCS and working with stakeholders in the region;
- Excellent communications skills, including writing and presentation in the English language;
- Demonstrated ability to write technical reports which can be readily understood by decision makers and the public; and
- Strong work ethics, including commitment, responsibility, team spirit, and timely delivery

7. Intellectual property rights:

Intellectual property rights - IPR: Information, data, database, knowledge resources in the forms of briefings, reports, proceedings, articles, essays, etc. issued by and for the MRCS will be the MRCS property. Any utility, announcement and disclosure that are without MRCS highest levels of authority' permission is considered illegal and will be charged by relevant local and international legal procedures.

8. Signature Block