



TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

Title	Consultant for supporting MRC national line agencies on MASAP mainstreaming
Consultancy/Staff Type	Special Service Agreement - home based, daily rate: one-time assignment, 1 TOR, number of consultancy days within 12 calendar months
Division	Planning Division
Duration	20 working days, from June 2020 to February 2021
Duty Station	Homebased and MRCS office
Reporting to	Director of Planning Division through Climate Change Adaptation Specialist
Expected Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestions to NDCs updating and their implementation by taking account of MASAP mainstreaming• Capacity building to respective line agencies on MASAP and the regional climate change adaptation mainstreaming at national level• Regional report of the activity

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) is an inter-governmental organisation that works directly with the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam to jointly manage the shared water resources and the sustainable development of the Mekong River. The 1995 Mekong Agreement establishes the goals, objectives and underlying principles by which the four Member Countries intend to cooperate. These may be summarised as (i) to cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin, including but not limited to irrigation, hydropower, navigation, flood control, fisheries, timber floating, recreation and tourism, in a manner to optimize the multiple-use and mutual benefits of all riparian and to minimize the harmful effects that might result from natural occurrences and man-made activities; and (ii) to protect the environment, natural resources, aquatic life and conditions, and ecological balance of the Mekong River Basin from pollution or other harmful effects.

Climate change is expected to have serious impacts on the temperature and hydrology of the Mekong River. Uncertainties in the direction of the changes are high given the range of plausible future climatic patterns and emissions that have to be considered, but this is ever more a reason to study the situation, set a vision and develop measures through which MRC can contribute to increase the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) regardless of the direction of change.

Already various initiatives exist at the national levels to cope with climate change. However, there is a need to address water management at national, regional and international levels in a

coordinated way. 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.

The MASAP is also intended to create greater awareness of the impacts of climate change and the actions that can be taken at MRC level to mitigate them. Greater awareness will enhance support for developing adaptation measures. Moreover, where climate change impacts the general way of working, it also provides opportunities for change and through this change, to implement improvements.

The MASAP is part of, among others, the MRC Integrated Water Resources Management-based Basin Development Strategy (BDS) 2016-2020, the MRC Strategic Plan 2016-2020, and the MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) Framework Document 2009-2025. The MASAP will contribute to ensuring sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin in line with the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. The MASAP provides initial direction for basin-wide climate change adaptation that will continue to be reviewed and updated by MRC.

Since the 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.

MRC has been carrying out mainstreaming of regional climate change adaptation into national actions/ activities. The technical guidance on the mainstreaming and report of batch 1 of the mainstreaming at national level were finalized. The MASAP mainstreaming at national level needs to be promoted by enhancing line agencies's capacity to implement the mainstreaming.

Under Paris agreement, MRC MCs submitted the first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to UNFCCC during 2016-2017. In 2020, the countries are developing their new and updated NDCs. In order to support the updating process of NDC, MASAP mainstreaming into the NDCs and their implementation are also considered with regards to water and climate change adaptation for inclusion into the NDCs.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

The objective of this consultancy is to (1) provide suggestions to NDCs updating and their implementation by taking account of MASAP mainstreaming, (2) provide capacity building to

respective line agencies on MASAP and regional climate change adaptation mainstreaming at national level.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

- Suggestions to NDCs updating and their implementation by taking account of MASAP mainstreaming
- Capacity building workshop to respective line agencies on MASAP and the climate change adaptation mainstreaming at national level
- Regional report of the activity.

5. DELIVERABLES AND CONCRETE TIMELINES

Deliverables and Expected Quality	Number of Days	Deadline
Overview and progress of NDCs update formulation process at MRC MCs	2	June 2020
Suggestions to NDCs updating and their implementation, by taking account of MASAP mainstreaming	8	June 2020
Outline and materials for a two-days capacity building workshop for national relevant line agencies on MASAP mainstreaming	5	July 2020
Facilitate the capacity building workshop for national line agencies	2	August 2020
A regional report	3	February 2021
Total Number of Days	20	

6. REQUIRED TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review the NDC update formulation process at MRC MCs and its progress
- Develop suggestions/ recommendation for the NDCs updating and their implementation, by considering the MASAP mainstreaming
- Develop training outline and materials for national relevant line agencies on MASAP mainstreaming to promote the the mainstreaming of Mekong regional climate change adaptation into national actions/ activities including NDCs formulation and implementation
- Facilitate the two-days capacity building workshop for the national line agencies
- Develop the regional report.

7. PAYMENT MODALITY

A first payment (30 % of total contract value) will be paid after signing the contract. The second payment (30 % of total contract value) will be paid after deliverables outlined in section 5, equivalent to 12 working days completed. The final payment will be made based on presentation of the deliverables outlined in section 5, including all reports, a short progress report and timesheet. All deliverables must be satisfactorily accepted by the MRCS Planning Division.

The Consultant will invoice for completed deliverables outlined in Section 5.

Note: Consultancy rate is defined by the MRCS consultancy rate policy and the level of consultancy. MRC is a tax-exempted agency for the work done for the MRC. Consultant, in case mission is required, will be covered with a return ticket to and from the assigned duty stations with a daily related subsistence allowance of 75% of the UN for the mission days.

8. 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.

9. WORKING ARRANGEMENT

- Reporting Line:** Director of the MRCS Planning Division through Climate Change Adaptation Specialist
- 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.
- Work station:** Homebased and MRCS office.

10. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- 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;
- Demonstrated state of the art knowledge and experience on climate change adaptation mainstreaming into development programme and Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement;
- Familiarity with Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, the Lower Mekong River Basin, and working with stakeholders in the region;
- Excellent communications skills, including writing and presentation in the English language;
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate the workshop and 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.

11. SIGNATURE BLOCK

MRCS:

Signature: _____

Incumbent's Signature: _____

Name and Title: Dr. Thim Ly
OIC of PD

Date: _____

Date: _____

