TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Consultancy Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultancy Title:</th>
<th>International consultant to scope the use of the RSAT in national or transboundary hydropower assessment and planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy type:</td>
<td>Special Service Agreement - home based, daily rate: one-time assignment, 1 TOR, number of consultancy days within 12 calendar months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration (# of days/months/from month to month):</td>
<td>10 working days, from March 2020 to December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division/OC:</td>
<td>Planning Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working station:</td>
<td>Homebased and MRCS office /4 Riparian countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total budget: (for lumpsum)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. General background:

2.1. Background and objective/s of the consultancy

The Rapid Basin Scale Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool (RSAT) has been developed and tested by MRC member countries over the period 2008 to 2015. RSAT is a tool developed in the Mekong for the Mekong context which is considered as transboundary in nature.

The RSAT is a multi-stakeholder dialogue and assessment tool designed to consider hydropower sustainability issues in a river basin context. Placing hydropower in a basin wide context requires looking beyond individual projects to take a broader integrated approach to planning and management. The application of tools such as the RSAT can assist to identify development strategies, institutional responses and management measures that can be deployed to optimise the benefits of hydropower development and reduce the risks. The RSAT includes a framework of topics and criteria and an assessment approach that helps to achieve this.

The MRC has worked with multiple stakeholders to develop the RSAT topics and to make it appropriate for the Mekong context. MRC Member countries have found the tool a valuable and flexible framework with which to engage stakeholders on the topic of basin scale hydropower and to highlight and scope particular actions to tackle basin scale sustainable hydropower challenges.

Hydropower development is continuing to expand across the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) on the mainstream (five projects submitted for PNPCA) and within tributaries. This basin scale development has brought benefits and impacts on economic, social and environmental fronts. Particularly, at a basin scale, cascades of projects owned by different private operators exist on many tributaries. The operation of these projects requires basin scale dialogue between all stakeholders for not only the economic optimisation of the power production, but also importantly for the sustainable management of the basin’s resources. Multiple use opportunities must also be explored.
Basin scale operation of these hydropower assets requires dialogue on this wide range of topics with numerous stakeholders and potentially across national boundaries. RSAT provides a framework for this dialogue.

The RSAT has been successfully used for national assessments in all member countries and also for transboundary dialogue between Vietnam and Cambodia on the Sre Pok/Sesan. Regional facilitators have been trained between 2014-2016 in the use of RSAT.

Through the activities proposed in the MRCS WP 2020/2021 as requested by MCs, RSAT will be reintroduced to MCs and stakeholders and proposals developed to use RSAT to assist MCs in managing these complex basin scale hydropower sustainability challenges. These may be to tackle national or transboundary applications.

The assignment will be generally to achieve the following objective: To develop the dissemination process proposal and consult with the Member Countries on the use of the RSAT in national or transboundary hydropower assessment and planning to assist MCs in managing these complex basin scale hydropower sustainability challenges in order to tackle national or transboundary applications.

2.2. Expected final product
- The proposal to use RSAT to assist MCs in managing these complex basin scale hydropower sustainability challenges in order to tackle national or transboundary applications.

3. Required deliverables, timelines and responsibilities
3.1. Deliverables and concrete timelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables and expected quality/quantity</th>
<th>Expected time investment (in days)</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To prepare the dissemination process proposal on the use of the RSAT in national or transboundary hydropower assessment and planning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mid of March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To conduct regional consultations (1-day) with Member Countries on the prepared TB / National RSAT</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To develop proposal to use RSAT to assist MCs in managing these complex basin scale hydropower sustainability challenges in order to tackle national or transboundary applications</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total | 10 |

3.2. Required tasks and responsibilities:
- To prepare the dissemination process proposal and consult with the Member Countries on the use of the RSAT in national or transboundary hydropower assessment and planning
- To conduct regional consultations with Member Countries on the prepared TB / National RSAT both theory and practical (1-day Regional consultations)
- To develop proposal to use RSAT to assist MCs in managing these complex basin scale hydropower sustainability challenges in order to tackle national or transboundary applications.

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 Sustainable Hydropower Specialist of Planning Division. He/she will also work with National Consultants and the Sustainable Hydropower technical advisor as well.

5. Payment mode:

A first payment (20% 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 3, equivalent to 4 working days completed. The final 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 invoice for completed deliverables outlined in Section 3.

6. Qualifications and Requirements:
The IC should have detailed understanding of the hydropower sustainability assessment techniques and specific knowledge and experience of practice and deployment in the Mekong region. Specific skills and experience of the IC include:

- In-depth knowledge and experience working in the hydropower sector of the Lower Mekong Basin;
- Detailed understanding of the approach and international practice in hydropower sustainability assessment;
- Proven understanding of the regional context and of engagement of stakeholders in the Mekong basin;
- At least 15 years’ experience in the field and related activities;
- Proven ability to facilitate assessments/workshops in cross cultural environments;
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal and proven ability to work with the diverse stakeholders;
- In-depth knowledge of IWRM and sustainable water resource development;
- Experience working with MRCS;
- In-depth knowledge and experience using RSAT (Optional)

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