



Mekong River Commission

P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road, Unit 18,
Ban Sithane Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Telephone: (856-21) 263 263. Facsimile: (856-21) 263 264

10 October 2017

TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Consultancy Summary: International consultant (IC) to support MRC Technical Support Division in the preparation of MRC State of Basin Report 2018 under TD framework

Title:	International Consultant to support Technical Support Division in the preparation of MRC State of Basin Report 2018 under TD framework
Consultancy type:	Individual Consultant (SSA)
Division:	Technical Support Division
Duration:	25 days during 15 November 2017 and 31 December 2018
Duty station:	Home-based with travelling to MRC Member Countries (MCs)
Reporting to:	Director of Technical Support Division
Required deliverables for this consultancy:	(1) An Updated MRC Indicator Framework (subjects listed below), with a short explanatory note for each Strategic Indicator and each Assessment Indicator; (2) Final Chapters/Sections on assessment under technical support division (listed below), and (3) Final MRC State of Basin Report 2018

2. Background

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established by the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation 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 Environmental Management Division (ED), in cooperation with Planning Division (PD) and Technical Division (TD), is responsible for environment monitoring, assessment, planning and management to support basin planning management and development for sustainable development of the Mekong River.

MRC Indicator Framework: Reference is made to the MRC Annual Work Plan 2017 that MRC is updating the MRC Indicator Framework developed during the last MRC SP period 2011-2015 based on the experiences gained after practical uses. The purpose of the MRC Indicator Framework is to provide a unified and integrated approach to assessing the impacts of current and proposed water development projects and the management actions needed within the Mekong River Basin to achieve the development aims of the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

The MRC Indicator Framework will be used as the basis for: (1) State of the Basin reporting; (2) Assessment of basin-wide development plans, scenarios and projects (e.g. Council Study, PNPCA, the next BDP, etc.); (3) Collection and sharing of data and information needed for MRC activities agreed in the MRC Strategic Plan and enabled by the improved implementation of the Procedures for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing, PDIES); and (4) Decentralization and strengthening of primary data collection at the national level.

The development process of the MRC Indicator Framework has been started since 2012 and the third draft was prepared in December 2015 based on feedback from national consultations, MRC former Programmes and the BDP scenario assessment team followed by a regional working session held in April 2017 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to discuss and finalize the strategic indicators and assessment indicators only, while updating the monitoring indicators of the MRC Indicator Framework is needed. The current MRC Indicator Framework is already being used in ongoing preparatory work for the 2018 State of Basin Report and for environment, social, economic and scenario assessment under the Council Study. The use of the Framework during the coming years will provide a wealth practical implementation experience to further refine the Framework.

The current MRC Indicator Framework is structured as a hierarchy of indicators within the five dimensions of social, environment, economic, climate change and cooperation. Within these five dimensions, a hierarchy of 15 strategic indicators, more than 65 assessment indicators and approximately 250 supporting monitoring parameters has been established. Based on the results of national and regional consultations, the current Draft MRC IF will need to be updated as a living document, with a short description or explanatory note of each strategic indicator and assessment indicator, and review and update of the 250 monitoring parameters, for approval of the MRC Joint Committee by the end of August 2018.

MRC State of Basin Report: The MRC launched its first State of the Mekong Basin Report (SOBR) in June 2003. The second SOBR was published in 2010, which was built on the first SOBR of 2003.

The SOBR aimed at providing readers with an understanding of (i) the important role that the

Mekong system plays in people who live in the basin and depend on its water and related resources; (ii) the present state of and trends in water related resources within the basin; (iii) the need to develop water-related resources in ways which are equitable and sustainable from an economic, social and environmental point of view; and (iv) the importance of planning and monitoring development on a basin-wide scale so that gains in one sector or one geographic area do not result in losses in others.

Per the agreement among the MRC Member Countries, the State of Basin Report will be updated every 5 years serving as an important reference for the cyclic updating of the MRC Basin Development Strategy (BDS) and preparation of the Strategic Plan (SP) as well as the planning cycles of the basin countries (i.e. NIP). With this principle, the 3rd State of Basin Report will need to be available in 2018 prior to updating the BDS, SP and NIP for the strategic period 2021-2025.

Following the decision of the MRC Joint Committee at its 43rd Meeting, the preparation of the 3rd SOBR has been started since late 2015 by the former MRC Environment Team with support and participation of all former MRC programmes/teams. Under the new structure of the MRC Secretariat, this exercise will be executed through overall coordination of the Environmental Management Division (ED) with collaborative support and participation of all other Divisions and Office of CEO. To date, the Draft SOB Report or Preparatory SOB Report has been completed by the MRCS ED and was consulted with the MRC Member Countries at its regional consultation workshop held in March 2017. Based on the results of national and regional consultations, the Draft SOB (v.2.2) will need to be improved and finalized by the end of December 2018, with additional collection of latest data and information, and expansion of the scope of the report to cover whole Mekong River Basin, including Upper Mekong Basin in Myanmar and China, for approval of the MRC Joint Committee.

Specific subjects under Technical Support Division which need this consultancy:

1. Flow condition at Phnom Penh, Tan Chau and Chau
2. Salinity intrusion in Delta
3. River bank erosion, river channel condition and sediment transport, sand mining
4. Flood and drought data
5. Climate change covering greenhouse gas, extreme events, temperature, rainfall
6. Navigation

3. Objective of the Consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to support Technical Support Division preparing of MRC State of Basin Report 2018 under TD framework in the reviewing of MRC Indicator Framework by August 2018, specifically the list of subjects above and the preparation of the State of the Basin Report 2018 by December 2018, based on available inputs from MRC Divisions and Office of CEO, and available information from the four MRC Member Countries.

4. Key Expected Outputs

The following outputs of this consultancy are expected:

(1) Section report covering the following subjects:

- Flow condition at Phnom Penh, Tan Chau and Chau
- Salinity intrusion in Delta
- River bank erosion, river channel condition and sediment transport, sand mining
- Flood and drought data
- Climate change covering greenhouse gas, extreme events, temperature, rainfall
- Navigation

(2) Final draft report

5. Responsibilities and tasks:

- Work with other international consultants and national consultants to review the current draft MRC Indicator Framework,
- Support the lead international consultant and international/national consultants to prepare short explanatory notes for 15 strategic indicators and more than 65 assessment indicators
- Provide Section report covering the following subjects based on the inputs available:
 - Flow condition at Phnom Penh, Tan Chau and Chau Doc
 - Salinity intrusion in Delta
 - River bank erosion, river channel condition and sediment transport, sand mining
 - Flood and drought data
 - Climate change covering greenhouse gas, extreme events, temperature, rainfall
 - Navigation
- Provide Final draft report

6. Working principles and reporting line:

The consultant will be working under the overall supervision of the Director of the Technical Support Division and in close and direct consultation and supervision with the Chief Hydrologist Officer, relevant technical staff of the TD and the MRCS SOBR Core Team.

7. Deliverables and timelines:

A tentative schedule is provided below. The exact schedule will depend on the timing of the contracting with the successful consultant, but it is anticipated that the assignment will commence in 15 November 2017 until 31 December 2018.

No.	Task	Deliverables	No. days	Schedule
1.	Work with other international consultants and national consultants to review the current draft MRC Indicator Framework	A short report, including recommendations for simple, practical, replicable, and	1	December 2017

		cost-effective indicators of TD (e.g. hydrology, sediment, flood and drought, and navigation)		
2.	Contribute to an MRCS Internal Working Session on the review and update of MRC IF and the preparation of the SOBR 2018	The above short report finalized	1	December 2017
3.	Support the lead international consultant and international/national consultants to prepare short explanatory notes for 15 strategic indicators and more than 65 assessment indicators	TD's related strategic indicators and assessment indicators updated and agreed	1	December 2017
4.	Provide Section report covering the following subjects based on the inputs available: Flow condition at Phnom Penh, Tan Chau and Chau Doc Salinity intrusion in Delta River bank erosion, river channel condition and sediment transport, sand mining Flood and drought data Climate change covering greenhouse gas, extreme events, temperature, rainfall Navigation	Full section report	13	September 2018
5.	Provide draft final report	Draft Final report	5	November 2018
	Grand total		25	

8. Qualifications and Requirements:

- Advanced degree in river hydrology or related fields;
- At least 15 years of working experience and knowledge on hydrology or other water related issues;
- Strong knowledge and experience in preparation of river basin assessment reports or state of the basin reports;
- Demonstrated ability to write technical reports which can be readily understood by decision makers and the public;
- Familiarity with the Lower Mekong River Basin, the Mekong River Commission and the

- MRC stakeholders would be beneficial;
- Excellent verbal communication ability, including ability to make positive and insightful contributions to consultation workshops and inspire learning motivation amongst stakeholders;
 - Strong work ethics, including commitment, responsibility, team spirit, and timely delivery; and
 - Fluency in written and spoken English.

9. Condition of payment

Since there will be several milestones/deliverables to be completed and to avoid many administrative works, payment by instalment will be selected for this assignment and it is shown below:

- First payment of 20% of total consultancy budget upon signing of the Contract (5 working days).
- Second payment of 15 days after:
 - Working with other international consultants and national consultants to review the current draft MRC Indicator Framework;
 - Contributing to an MRCS Internal Working Session on the review and update of MRC IF and the preparation of the SOBR 2018;
 - Supporting the lead international consultant and international/national consultants to prepare short explanatory notes for 15 strategic indicators and more than 65 assessment indicators; and
 - Providing Section report covering the following subjects based on the inputs available:
 - Flow condition at Phnom Penh, Tan Chau and Chau Doc
 - Salinity intrusion in Delta
 - River bank erosion, river channel condition and sediment transport, sand mining
 - Flood and drought data
 - Climate change covering greenhouse gas, extreme events, temperature, rainfall
 - Navigation
- Third payment of 5 working days after:
 - Providing Final draft report

10. 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.

10. Signature Block

<p>MRC Secretariat</p> <p>Division: Technical Support Division</p> <p>Name of Director: Bounlap Phethany</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>
<p>Division: Environmental Management Division</p> <p>Name of Director: Dr. Tien Hong Truong</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>
<p>Consultant</p> <p>Name of consultant: -----</p> <p>Signature: -----</p>	<p>Date: -----</p>