



RESPONSE TO BID CLARIFICATION
No. 01

Request for Proposal: International Consulting Firm for implementing the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Pilot Projects as Part of 9C-9T Project in Cambodia and Thailand

RFP26-003

With reference to the above RFP, MRC Secretariat would like to respond to the below queries from bidder as follows:

No.	Question/ Clarification	Response
1	Q1 – Section I: Title – Definition of “International Consulting Firm” Could you please clarify the definition of the term “International Consulting Firm” in this RFP? Specifically, is the classification of an international firm determined based on its location relative to the Mekong River Commission Secretariat in Lao PDR, or relative to the countries of assignment, namely Cambodia and Thailand?	All interested Consulting Firms regardless of their country of origin are encouraged to submit proposals in response to the RFP.
2	Q2 – Section II, Part 2: Procurement Package We understand that the RFP covers the planning and supervision of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation pilot projects in both Cambodia and Thailand under a single procurement package. Could you please confirm whether bidders are required to submit one proposal covering both Cambodia and Thailand, or whether bidders are permitted to submit a proposal for only one country? For example, if our firm intends to participate only in the Cambodia component, would we still be eligible to submit a proposal?	Bidders are required to submit a single proposal covering both Cambodia and Thailand. The firms submitting the proposal covering only one country will not be considered.

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3	Q3 – Section II, Part 7.1: Electronic Submission Section 7.1 states that “Alternatively, bidders are allowed to submit their proposals by email.” Could you please confirm whether a bidder may opt to submit the proposal entirely by email, without also submitting a hard-copy proposal in a sealed envelope to the Mekong River Commission Secretariat in Lao PDR?	Yes, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat(MRCS) accepts the option to submit the proposal entirely by email.
4	Q4 – Section II, Part 7.2: Maximum Email Size Section 7.2 states that the maximum size per email that MRC can receive is 5 MB, and that bidders may need to split their proposals into parts to comply with this limit. Could you please confirm whether bidders are permitted to submit the proposal through multiple emails where necessary? For example, if the Technical Proposal exceeds 5 MB, may it be divided into several emails, provided that each individual email does not exceed the 5 MB limit and the emails are clearly labelled in sequence (e.g., Technical Proposal – Part 1 of 3, Part 2 of 3, Part 3 of 3)?	Yes, bidder could submit their proposal through multiple emails with clearly label the attachment files.
5	The TOR indicates a total input of 232 working days for both Cambodia and Thailand. This appears to be rather low total amount of labour for the requested scope of works. Could you please clarify whether this is intended as an indicative estimate or as a ceiling for the consultancy input and financial proposal?	The total of 232 working days specified under this TOR covers both Cambodia and Thailand and represents the maximum number of working days.
6	In addition, could MRC please indicate the estimated budget available for this assignment?	No

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7	The TOR refers to the need for the design to remain within the allocated budget. Could you please indicate the estimated budget available for the implementation/construction for each pilot project that the consultant should consider during the design development?	It is not relevant for the bidding.
8	MRC may rely on local authorities and their permission to implement and construct the projects. Could you please elaborate the (confirmed) ownership and support of the relevant authorities in Cambodia and Thailand for this project, including during the different stages of construction, operation, and long-term maintenance?	Local authorities have been already involved in the projects since the beginning. Currently ongoing site surveys have been granted permission. Preparing the construction permit application is part of the ToR.
9	Could you kindly clarify the proposed contract model and the applicable limitation of liability provisions that would apply to the successful consultant?	The proposed contract model is a lump-sum contract with a fixed contract price, as provided in Section IX – Draft Contract, pages 47–48 of the RFP. Regarding limitation of liability, in accordance with Clause 29.1 of Annex I – General Conditions of Contract, page 64 of the RFP, except in cases of criminal negligence or willful misconduct, the Consultant shall not be liable for indirect or consequential loss or damage. The Consultant’s aggregate liability to the Employer shall not exceed the total Contract Price, subject to the applicable contractual provisions
10	Given the multidisciplinary scope of work covering two countries and the requirement to mobilize qualified national experts and partners, would MRC consider extending the proposal submission deadline by 4 weeks to allow bidders sufficient time to prepare a comprehensive and competitive proposal?	No