

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

### Consultancy Firm – Stakeholder-Led Enhancement of MPA Plans and Development of Sustainable Financing for MPAs in Thailand

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) intends to engage the services of a **Consultancy Firm – Stakeholder-Led Enhancement of MPA Plans and Development of Sustainable Financing for MPAs in Thailand** under the *Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS) Project*.

The primary objective of this consultancy is aimed at engaging Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), with support from Department of Fisheries (DoF), in leading the enhancement of existing MPA management plans of Ranong Biosphere Reserve, Mu Ko Surin National Park, Mu Ko Similan National Park, and Tarutao National Park, integrating sustainable financing options, and facilitating stakeholder consultations to present, validate, and adopt improved management plans. This shall include securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from ethnic groups, where necessary.

These activities are expected to strengthen financial resilience of MPAs, and diversify revenue streams that can support ongoing conservation and management of MPAs and promote community engagement activities that enhance both livelihood benefits and stewardship of marine resources

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- I. **Government-Led Engagement and Policy Alignment.** Engage DNP and DMCR, with active involvement of DoF, as lead agencies in the enhancement of existing MPA management plans for the four targeted MPAs and support inter-agency coordination to ensure consistency between enhanced management plans, fisheries management measures, marine corridor considerations, and national mandates. Proposed enhancement must address identified environmental and social risks and are fully aligned with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.
- II. **Review and Analysis of Existing Financing Structures and Recommendations for Sustainable Financing.** Review and analyse existing financing mechanisms and options surrounding the implementation and management of MPAs. Consequently, a set of tailored recommendations for sustainable financing strategies for the target MPAs must be developed to aid local stakeholders and governing bodies in crafting appropriate strategies for effective implementation. These strategies may include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, payment for ecosystem services (PES), eco-tourism revenue enhancement, public–private partnerships, corporate social responsibility contributions, blue carbon and biodiversity credits, and other innovative financing mechanisms. Additionally, case studies, lessons, and best practices from other MPAs and MPA networks in the country or region (ASEAN) may be used to reinforce recommended strategies. Recommendations must be guided by the results of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) and aligned with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.
- III. **Consultations with, and Presentation to Stakeholders.** Through workshops and consultations, the consultant shall present the improved MPA plans and sustainable financing options to key stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, ethnic groups, and private sector actors, for validation and feedback. The consultant shall document stakeholder inputs and incorporate them into the development of business plans and list of other recommendations.
- IV. **Documentation of Adoption and FPIC Processes.** Facilitate FPIC processes with ethnic groups residing in or affected by the target MPAs, ensuring compliance with UNDP safeguards and national legal frameworks and document agreements, resolutions, and formal adoption process.



- V. **Business Plans.** Based on stakeholder inputs, the consultant shall develop business plan(s) outlining operational, marketing, and financial strategies aligned with the recommended activities and strategies laid out in the enhanced MPA plan. The business plans should include projected revenue streams, cost structures, investment requirements, potential risks, implementation timelines, and monitoring framework. The plan(s) should outline how financial strategies will contribute to biodiversity conservation objectives and socio-economic benefits for local communities. Feedback from stakeholders shall be collected to aid in refining the business plans.
- VI. **Integrated Analysis and Report.** Results of the above-mentioned activities shall be consolidated in an integrated report, summarising all technical, financial, and stakeholder consultation outputs to provide clear guidance for implementation, financing, monitoring, and progress reporting of enhanced MPA management plans.

### Qualifications Requirement

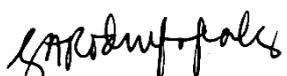
- Thailand-registered firm/institution with authorisation to work within Thailand
- Advanced degree and a demonstrated expertise in environmental governance or policy, sustainable or conservation financing, resource economics, resource management, or conservation/biodiversity-related fields.
- Prior experience working with MPAs in Thailand, including in the Andaman Sea Region.
- Demonstrated experience in dealing with government agencies and relevant authorities in Thailand and strong stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills, including with ethnic groups, women's, and marginalised groups.
- Adequate understanding of Thailand's coastal and marine governance structures, including decentralisation frameworks.
- Experience in developing business plans, feasibility studies, or investment proposals for conservation-related initiatives.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively, manage multiple priorities under tight deadlines, and deliver high-quality outputs in complex and dynamic environments.
- Proficiency in English, to facilitate communication with the National Project Manager for Thailand and other project staff and consultants.
- Familiarity with ASEAN regional frameworks, the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and relevant multilateral environmental agreements is an advantage

Interested firms may obtain further information from the ACB Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and may download the Terms of Reference and the Consultant's Pre-Qualification Form on the ACB website.

Applicants should prepare the following and send all to [acb-bac@aseanbiodiversity.org](mailto:acb-bac@aseanbiodiversity.org):

- 1) Letter of Intent of no more than two pages addressed to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) through the BAC Secretariat, elaborating how their qualifications and experiences make them qualified for the position **Consultancy Firm – Stakeholder-Led Enhancement of MPA Plans and Development of Sustainable Financing for MPAs in Thailand** should be indicated in the aforesaid letter;
- 2) Accomplished Consultant's Pre-qualification Form.

Deadline for submission of completed application is on **1 April 2026** Only applications with complete documentary requirements will be processed. Applications received beyond this date will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be given due notice.

  
**GRACE ANNE R. PALIS**  
 Chairperson  
 Bids and Awards Committee

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