

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant to synthesize progress with coastal and marine ecosystem and community impact assessment in the Yellow Sea

Consultancy:	National
Estimated start of work:	September 2017
Duty Station:	Home-based

Background and Justification

UNDP/GEF is providing assistance through UNOPS to countries bordering Yellow Sea in support of their efforts to address among others the increasing trends of depleting fishery stocks, loss of coastal wetland, land and sea-based pollution and implementation of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme (YSLME SAP) adopted by China and RO Korea with support of DPR Korea. One of the assistance programs to implement the SAP is the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS project entitled Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: Restoring Ecosystem Goods and Services and Consolidation of a Long-term Regional Environmental Governance Framework, or the UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project. The project was launched in July 2017.

The objective of this regional project is to achieve adaptive ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem bordered by China, RO Korea and DPR Korea by fostering long-term sustainable institutional, policy and financial arrangements for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea in accordance with the YSLME SAP.

There are four components of the project:

1. Sustainable national and regional cooperation for ecosystem based management.
2. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to provisioning services.
3. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to regulating and cultural services.
4. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to supporting services.

The key outcomes sought are:

1. Establishment of a self-sustaining cooperative mechanism for ecosystem-based management.
2. Recovery of depleted fish stocks and improved mariculture production and quality.
3. Improved ecosystem health;

4. improved inter-sectoral coordination and mainstreaming of ecosystem based management principles at the national level, maintenance of habitat areas, strengthened stakeholder participation in management and improved policy making.
5. Skills and capacity significantly developed for region-wide ecosystem-based management.

In the YS, climate change has resulted in increasing sea surface temperatures, changing the characteristics of the Yellow Sea Cold Water Mass (YSCWM) as a fish habitat and changing the structure of plankton communities. In Outcome 4.3 of Component 4 entitled “Adaptive management mainstreamed to enhance the resilience of the YSLME and reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change impacts on ecosystem processes and other threats identified in the TDA and SAP”, the project will help better understanding of impacts of climate change to the coastal communities in the YS. Output 4.3.1 of Outcome 4.1 specifically seeks to adopt regional strategies on site-based ICM plans enhancing climate resilience. Impacts of climate change in the YS ecosystem, in particular the impacts of the plankton community, had been studied in the demonstration sites of the first project. There is a need for further efforts to determine the impacts of climate change. As one of proposed activities, vulnerability studies on coastal communities and ecosystem services in YSLME to impact of climate change were planned. Findings of this study conducted in national/regional scale would contribute to the development of regional strategies on adaptive management to enhance climate resilience.

Objectives

The objective underlying the proposed consultancy is conducting stock-taking vulnerabilities of coastal communities and ecosystem services in YSLME to impact of climate change.

Expected Outputs

The consultant is expected to deliver the following results:

- A review report with information on stock-taking vulnerabilities of coastal communities and ecosystem services in YSLME to impact of climate change;
- Management measures planned and/or being implemented by both countries (China and RO Korea) on vulnerabilities of coastal communities and ecosystem services to impact of climate change

Activities

The consultant under supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor and in close collaboration with the local project team, will:

1. Review of vulnerabilities of coastal communities and ecosystem services in YSLME to impact of climate change;
2. Collect relevant activities carried out in regional and global scale

3. Analyze constraints, opportunities, threats, issues, problems and capacity needs and identify solutions through consultation with stakeholders and interest groups (coastal communities)
4. Prepare the draft review report and submit it for consultation and review, including presentation at a Biodiversity Conservation Planning Workshop for consultation with different stakeholders in November 2017
5. Incorporate comments and submit a final comprehensive report in hard copy (in English) and electronically

Inputs

UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project management Office (PMO) will provide the background information and documents, and will be responsible for providing financial support and the logistics support to participation in the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Workshop by the PMO.

Timing

The consultancy will begin in mid-September 2017 and complete in 31 December 2017.

Reporting

The consultant will produce a review report on ecosystem-based restoration activities conducted. The consultant will submit both electronically and in hard copy in the number of 2 copies to the PMO. The initial draft should be submitted to PMO before 31 October for inclusion in workshop documents. Second version should be submitted before 1 December for review by PMO. Final version should be submitted before 31 December for publication as a knowledge product of the YSLME. All reports should be submitted in English.

Competencies

- A good understanding of ecosystem-based restoration both in China and Korea linked to biodiversity conservation
- Advanced university education at MSc or Ph.D. level with expertise in the area of climate change and marine science
- At least 5 years of professional experience in vulnerability studies to the impact of climate change projects
- Strong skills in analysis and evaluation, and experience in implementing environmental projects
- Ability to produce high quality reports, publications in English
- Previous experience with GEF projects and ecosystem-based restoration project is an added plus
- Excellent writing skills in Chinese and English

Payment and Submission

The consultant will be paid for a lump sum of USD 8,000 for consultancy upon submission of the report to Mr. Yinfeng Guo, CTA/Manager at email: yinfengg@unops.org. Costs for participation in the YSLME Biodiversity Planning Workshop will be covered by separate project budget.