

Terms of Reference (ToR):

Call for Consultancy Service for a Stocktake of National Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) Assessments in Southeast Asia

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1. About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of 1,400 Member organisations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

2. Background

At the UN COP15, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). A key feature of the KMGBF is its comprehensive monitoring framework, designed to track progress towards its goals and targets through a set of "headline indicators."

The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) has been officially adopted as Headline Indicator A.1 for the KMGBF monitoring framework. This positions the RLE as an essential tool for countries to assess the status of their ecosystems and report on progress towards achieving Goal A of the framework, which focuses on the integrity, connectivity, and resilience of all ecosystems.

As countries work to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with these new global targets, there is a rapidly growing interest in conducting national RLE assessments. This consultancy will undertake a strategic stocktake of the needs, interests, and capacities for such assessments in Southeast Asia, which will also explore how ecosystem-related data is managed and shared in the region. The findings will provide crucial inputs to a broader project's activities on identifying networks of practice and summarizing recommendations for methodology replication.

3. Overview and Objective of the Consultancy

The primary objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive stocktake of the needs, interests, and existing capacities for national RLE assessments across Southeast Asian countries. The consultant will utilize desktop reviews, surveys, and interviews with key stakeholders, particularly the CBD focal points of ASEAN countries.

The final output will be a concise report (max. 25 pages) that provides a clear overview of the status of RLE in the region, identifies opportunities for support, and offers recommendations. The report will also contribute to the identification of existing regional and global networks and communities of practice on the priority NBSAP-related learning topics

among countries in Southeast Asia (in this context, RLE) and inform suitable learning approach to be undertaken in the region.

This is a short-term, home-based consultancy.

4. Description of Tasks

The consultant(s) will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Develop a detailed workplan and methodology for the consultancy upon contract signing.
- Conduct a thorough desktop review of existing literature, including NBSAPs (current and draft), national reports to the CBD, and other relevant policy documents from Southeast Asian countries to identify references to ecosystem assessments and the RLE.
- Design and implement a survey and/or structured interviews to gather information from key stakeholders, including CBD national focal points and relevant conservation practitioners in the ASEAN region.
- Analyse the collected data to assess the level of interest, identify capacity needs (technical, institutional, financial), and understand the current state of ecosystem-related data management and sharing in each country.
- Identify and map existing regional networks and communities of practice relevant to RLE and other ecosystem assessment topics. Provide recommendations on how these networks can be strengthened and utilized for continuous learning.
- Draft a comprehensive stocktake report (max. 25 pages) summarizing the findings, analysis, and strategic recommendations for IUCN and its partners. The report can be modelled on the example provided in the link:
https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/status-of-oecms-in-asia_compressed.pdf.
- Incorporate feedback from IUCN and finalise the report.

5. Key Deliverables, Timeline and Budget

The consultancy is expected to be completed within a two-month period. The total fee for this consultancy is **EUR 4,800**, all-inclusive. This is a home-based assignment with no travel costs covered.

Deliverables	Timeline	Payment
Inception Report including a detailed work plan and methodology	3 days after contract signature	30% of the total payment
First draft of the Stocktake Report, including initial findings on existing networks and communities of practice	5 days after contract signature	30% of the total payment
Final Stocktake Report (max 25 pages), incorporating IUCN feedback and recommendations for replication	No later than 45 days of contract signature	40% of the total payment
Addressing feedback from IUCN on the final report	No later than 7 days after feedback received from IUCN	

6. Required Experience and Qualifications

The consultant should possess the following qualifications and experience:

- An advanced university degree in environmental science, conservation biology, natural resource management, or a similar relevant field.
- At least 5 years of professional experience in biodiversity conservation, environmental policy, or ecosystem management.
- Demonstrated understanding of ecosystem assessment methodologies, with specific knowledge of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems considered a strong asset.
- Proven experience in conducting research, including desktop reviews, surveys, and stakeholder interviews.
- Strong familiarity with global biodiversity policy frameworks, particularly the CBD and the KMGBF.
- Excellent analytical, synthesis, and report writing skills in English are mandatory.
- Experience working with or in Southeast Asian countries is a significant advantage.

7. Application

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following in one document by email to [Insert IUCN contact email] with the subject "**Application: RLE Stocktake Consultancy**".

1. A detailed curriculum vitae highlighting specific experience relevant to this consultancy.
2. A cover letter detailing your suitability for the role, a brief proposed methodology for undertaking the tasks, and confirming your availability for the proposed timeline and budget.

8. Evaluation of Applications

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: (i) profile and experience in relation to the subject of the consultancy, and (ii) the methodology and understanding of the tasks proposed in the cover letter.