Terms of Reference (ToR)

Guiding the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and OECMs Management Plan in Chumphon Province

1. Background and Rationale

Thailand's marine and coastal ecosystems are critical for biodiversity, climate resilience, and the livelihoods of millions of people. However, they are increasingly threatened by habitat degradation, coastal erosion, overfishing, pollution, and climate change impacts.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer an effective approach to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage marine and coastal ecosystems, delivering co-benefits for biodiversity, climate mitigation/adaptation, and socio-economic well-being. The application of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) extends conservation efforts beyond formally protected areas, while Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) ensures that human activities are planned and managed holistically.

This ToR outlines the scope for developing and implementing an NbS-driven ICZM and OECMs Management Plan in the pilot area, integrating scientific knowledge, stakeholder participation, and Citizen Science for monitoring and evaluation.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this assignment are to:

1. Develop a Coastal Zoning Plan and NbS-oriented management strategies for conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.
2. Align the management plan with OECM standards, national policies, and international frameworks.
3. Develop guidelines for the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and OECMs Management Plan
4. Develop and incorporate Citizen Science into monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

3. Scope of Work and Tasks

Task 1: Definition of Project Area

- Review coastal zone definitions relevant to the Thai context (landward and seaward boundaries) and relevant concepts and research.
- Use baseline data from Ramkhamhaeng University surveys, DMCR's Marine and Coastal Resources Situation and Coastal Erosion Reports, and other sources.
- Delineate the project area by administrative boundaries and resource distribution.
- Define the project areas by highlighting ecological and socio-economic significance, including NbS potential for ecosystem restoration and conservation.

Task 2: Assess resource Status and NbS Opportunities

- Conduct joint field research with Ramkhamhaeng University and IUCN to collect data on resource status, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.
- Assess:
    - Current conditions of key habitats (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, beaches).
    - Threats and pressures (e.g., erosion, marine debris, overfishing).
    - Resource uses and conflicts.
- Identify NbS interventions (e.g., mangrove reforestation, coral restoration, seagrass rehabilitation) for ecological and socio-economic benefits.

Task 3: Conduct stakeholder analysis and mapping

- Identify government, private sector, community, and NGO actors and others.
- Map influence, roles, relationships, and mechanisms for participation.

- Ensure representation of women, ethnic and vulnerable groups.
- Review legal and policy frameworks relevant to NbS, ICZM, and OECMs.

Task 4: Vision and Goal Setting (NbS-Integrated)

- Facilitate stakeholder workshops to establish a shared vision for the coastal zone management.
- Define short-, medium-, and long-term goals integrating:
    - Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and mitigation.
    - Habitat conservation and restoration.
    - Sustainable livelihoods (e.g., eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries).
    - Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.
- Use tools such as SWOT analysis, scenario planning, and NbS opportunity mapping.

Task 5: Design Coastal Zoning and NbS-Based Management Plan

- Develop a zoning plan with designated areas for:
    - Conservation and restoration (e.g., strict protection, seasonal closures).
    - Fisheries and aquaculture.
    - Navigation and tourism.
    - Urban and industrial use.
- For each zone, define NbS-based measures (e.g., living shorelines, wetland restoration) to maintain or enhance ecosystem services.
- Integrate OECMs principles into zone management strategies and plan.

Task 6: Propose and recommend Implementation Measures and Governance Mechanisms

- Recommend integrated approaches:
    - Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
    - Ecosystem-based Management (EbM)
    - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
- Propose local to national level governance structures that facilitate multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Align measures with IUCN standards and relevant Thai policies.

Task 7: Citizen Science in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

- Design a Citizen Science framework enabling communities to:
    - Collect ecological and socio-economic data.
    - Monitor habitat health and species populations.
    - Report threats and changes.
- Train local stakeholders in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Integrate citizen-generated data with official monitoring systems to ensure consistency and reliability.
- Develop clear outcome indicators (biodiversity, governance, and socio-economic) align with ONEP, Thai policies and its relevance.

Task 8: Continuous Stakeholder Engagement

- Co-implement awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing activities with IUCN on NbS, ICZM, and OECMs.
- Facilitate ad hoc community and public consultations.
- Facilitate validation workshop on finalizing Integrated coastal zone management plan and OECMs management plan.

4. Deliverables and payment plan

The consultant(s) shall submit the following to IUCN Thailand Country Office:

Deliverables	Description	Deadline (after contract signing)	Payment plan (%)
D1	Inception Report: methodology, NbS integration strategy, detailed work plan.	30 Nov 2025	30%
D2	Baseline and NbS Opportunity Assessment Report: including ecological, socio-economic, and stakeholder data.		
D3	Coastal Zoning and NbS Management Plan: zoning maps, management guidelines, governance arrangements.	31 Jan 2026	30%
D4	Citizen Science Monitoring Framework: protocols, training materials, data integration guidelines.		
D5	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: indicators, methods, reporting schedule.		
D6	Stakeholder Engagement Report: documenting participation processes.	31 March 2026	40%
D7	Final ICZM Management Plan and OECMs management plan including climate change and tourism aspects provided by RU: ready for adoption and implementation.		

5. Timeline

The assignment will be implemented over 6 months, with the following indicative phases:

- Month 1: Inception and baseline studies.
- Month 2–3: Field research, NbS opportunity mapping, stakeholder analysis.
- Month 4: Draft zoning and management plan and guidelines for implementation.
- Month 5: Citizen Science training and MEL framework design.
- Month 6: Final plan submission and validation workshop.

6. Qualifications

- At least master's degree (PhD preferred) in natural resource management, fisheries, marine science, or similar field with 5+ years' work experience in natural resource management, fisheries, ecology, or related fields.
- At least 10 years of proven experience in ICZM, NbS, and marine/coastal ecosystem management and understand Thai coastal governance and policy frameworks.
- At least 10 years of experience in participatory planning and stakeholder facilitation.
- Excellent writing skill in Thai and English and skills in designing and implementing Citizen Science programs and using spatial planning (GIS) and ecosystem monitoring.
- Demonstrated experience with similar projects (e.g., protected area management, biodiversity monitoring, governance evaluations)
- Demonstrated understanding of OECMs framework and Area-based conservation, and conservation governance of Thai context (e.g., protected areas, restoration, stakeholder processes)

7. Reporting and Coordination

The consultant/team will report to IUCN and coordinate closely with IUCN, and Ramkhamhaeng University. Regular progress updates and stakeholder consultations will be required.