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Request for proposals

Consultant team – Biodiversity baseline study, Surat Thani province

Deadline: 27 February 2026

1. Background

RECOFTC is an international nonprofit organization working towards a future where resilient communities with respected rights thrive in forest landscapes that they manage sustainably and equitably. We take a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach in supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equality. We have more than 37 years of experience working with people and forests and have built trusting relationships with partners at all levels. As a trusted, honest broker, we occupy a distinct position as an international organization that supports, informs and brings together governments, communities, businesses, academia and civil society organizations. Our innovations, knowledge and initiatives enable countries to foster good forest governance, mitigate and adapt to climate change and achieve the UN Global Goals.

RECOFTC operates in the Asia-Pacific region, with country program offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam.

2. Project background

The Urban Resilience Building and Nature (URBAN) project aims to enhance the capacity of cities and nature to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate crises. Funding is provided by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Republic of Germany. The project is jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), RECOFTC Thailand, the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and the Urban Design and Development Center (UddC) in Chiang Rai and Surat Thani provinces, Thailand, over a five-year period from 2023 to 2028. The Department of Water Resources serves as the main governmental political partner at the national level.

RECOFTC and IUCN jointly lead the design, implementation and integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into urban planning processes in Chiang Rai and Surat Thani provinces, with the objective of mitigating climate-related risks and promoting sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods.

In late 2025, Bung Khun Thale wetland in Surat Thani province was selected as a pilot demonstration site under the Urban Resilience Building and Nature project, recognizing its critical role as an urban wetland in addressing climate change impacts, particularly urban flooding, floodwater retention and seasonal variability in water

availability. To support NbS implementation, the project requires a biodiversity assessment to establish baseline data for monitoring and evaluation. The baseline will be used to assess ecosystem conditions before, during and after project implementation, enabling evaluation of intervention effectiveness and long-term wetland ecosystem recovery.

Accordingly, the project is seeking a consultant team to conduct a biodiversity study, with an expected contract duration of four (4) months.

3. Duration

1 March – 30 June 2026 (approx. 4 months)

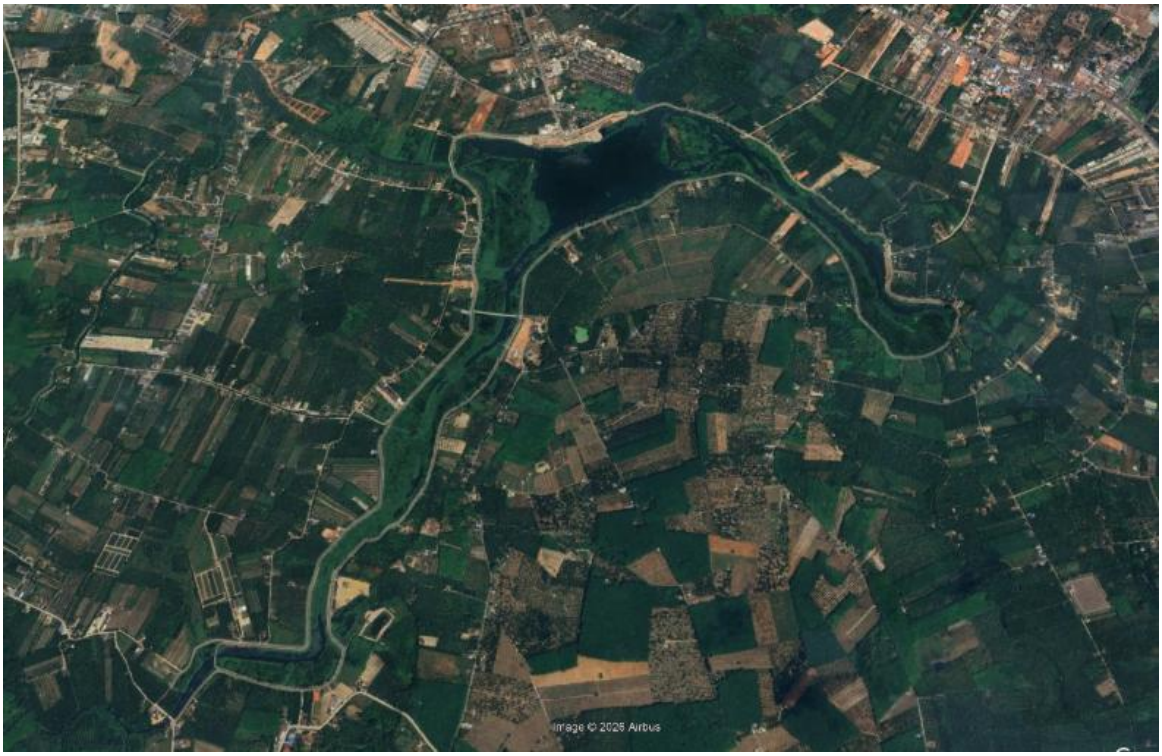
4. Objective

1) Assess the current status of biodiversity within Bung Khun Thale wetland
2) Establish baseline biodiversity data to enable comparison before, during and after NbS implementation
3) Identify key species, habitats and ecological indicators relevant to wetland ecosystem health and NbS performance
4) Provide recommendations for biodiversity monitoring aligned with NbS and urban resilience objectives

5. Study site

Bung Khun Thale wetland is a natural freshwater wetland located in Mueang Surat Thani district, Surat Thani province, covering parts of Khun Thale, Makham Tia and Wat Pradu sub-districts, with an approximate area of 1,270 rai. The wetland is characterized by a low-lying topography and functions as a natural water retention area, comprising both permanent and seasonal water bodies influenced by seasonal rainfall. It supports diverse wetland-related flora and fauna and provides important ecosystem services within an urban setting. Due to its ecological significance and increasing urban pressures, Bung Khun Thale is an appropriate site for biodiversity data collection to establish baseline information for monitoring and evaluation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) interventions.

However, the specific sampling locations will be determined at a later stage, following the identification of designated NbS demonstration sites.



Study site: Bung Khun Thale wetland

6. Scope of work

The consultant team shall perform the following tasks:

1) Review relevant project documents, policies, previous studies, maps and secondary data related to Bung Khun Thale wetland, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and urban wetlands
2) Design and conduct biodiversity field surveys in the project area, including identification of key species, habitats and indicator species, and collect spatial information of survey locations
3) Analyze collected data to establish biodiversity baseline conditions, including species composition, abundance and distribution, and identify key pressures and threats affecting the study area
4) Prepare a biodiversity baseline assessment report and provide recommendations for biodiversity monitoring and integration into NbS planning and evaluation frameworks

7. Deliverables

The consultant team is expected to deliver the following outputs:

1) Inception report (including methodology, work plan and survey design)
2) Biodiversity baseline assessment report (draft and final versions)
3) Datasets and spatial information (as applicable)
4) Presentation of key findings to the project team and relevant stakeholders

8. Timeline

No	Activity	Mar				Apr				May				June			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	Review secondary data and develop data collection tools and methods	X	X														
2	Inception report and detailed work plan submission			X													
3	Data collection in sampling sites				X	X	X										
4	Data analysis and report writing							X	X	X	X	X					
5	First draft of report submission												X				
6	Present findings to relevant stakeholders													X	X		
7	Final report submission															X	

9. Payment terms (30-40-30 installment)

1) First installment (30%) shall be paid upon contract signing
2) Second installment (40%) shall be paid upon submission of the inception report or work plan completion
3) Final installment (30%) shall be paid upon submission and acceptance of the final report and all completed deliverables in accordance with the Terms of Reference

10. Qualifications and experience

The consultant team should have:

- A bachelor's degree or higher in Ecology, Biology, Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management or a related field
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in biodiversity assessment or ecological studies, preferably in wetland or freshwater ecosystems
- Demonstrated experience in conducting field surveys, species identification and biodiversity baseline assessments
- Experience in projects related to Nature-based Solutions (NbS), climate change adaptation or urban resilience

11. How to apply

Please submit proposals by email to itthirit.suwannakam@recoftc.org, using the subject line “Consultant team – Biodiversity baseline study, Surat Thani province”. RECOFTC must receive proposals no later than 27 February 2026 17:00 p.m. ICT. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Proposals must include:

1) Technical proposal
2) Financial proposal
3) Curriculum vitae (CV) of the consultant team members

For more information about RECOFTC, please visit our website at recoftc.org.

RECOFTC is committed to non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Applicants will not be discriminated against based on ethnicity, religion, age, nationality, physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, marital status, medical condition or any other classification protected by RECOFTC's values and code of conduct. Successful candidates will be selected based on merit. RECOFTC strongly encourages women and individual from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply.