RECOFTC Main Office
P.O. Box 1111
Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
T +66 (0)2 940 5700
F +66 (0)2 561 4880
info@recoftc.org

Request for proposals

Baseline study consultant team – Soil resources and aquatic ecosystems, 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.

Toward the end of 2025, the project received approval for implementing demonstration activities on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) at Surat Thani and Chiang Rai provinces. The pilot areas include the peat swamp forest area in Surat Thani Rajabhat University, Khun Thale sub-district.

For the implementation of activities in the pilot areas, the project is required to conduct studies on soil resources and aquatic ecosystems to establish baseline indicators prior to the implementation of the pilot demonstrations. These baseline data will be used for the design of appropriate measures, as well as for monitoring and evaluation at the later stage of the project.

Therefore, the project is currently looking for a consultant team to conduct a study on soil resources and aquatic ecosystems in the pilot peat swamp forest area located in Surat Thani Rajabhat University, with a contract duration of three (3) months.

3. Duration

1 March – 31 May 2026 (approx. 3 months)

4. Objective

1) Assess the current status of soil resources and aquatic ecosystems in the pilot peat swamp forest area
2) Establish baseline indicators prior to the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
3) Provide scientific evidence to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of project interventions

5. Study site

The baseline study in Surat Thani province will focus on the peat swamp forest in Surat Thani Rajabhat University. Sampling locations will be determined after the on-site field assessment. At the preliminary stage, approximately 5–6 sampling sites are anticipated, which will serve as locations for the demonstration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) interventions.

Study site: Peat swamp forest in Surat Thani Rajabhat University

6. Scope of work

The consultant shall perform the following tasks:

1) Conduct a review of relevant secondary data
2) Identify and finalize sampling locations (approximately 5–6 sites) based on site conditions and planned NbS demonstration areas
3) Conduct soil resource assessment, including peat characteristics and soil physical, chemical and biological properties
4) Conduct aquatic ecosystem assessment, including hydrological conditions, water quality and biological components
5) Analyze collected data and establish baseline values and indicators for soil and aquatic ecosystems
6) Prepare technical reports and present findings to relevant stakeholders

7. Deliverables

1) Inception report and detailed work plan
2) Baseline assessment report on soil resources and aquatic ecosystems
3) Maps, figures and photographic documentation

8. Timeline

No	Activity	Mar				Apr				May			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Inception stage													
1	Initial site visit	X											
2	Review secondary data and develop data collection tools and methods	X	X										
3	Inception report and detailed work plan submission			X									
Field work													
1	Data collection in sampling sites: • Soil resource assessment • Aquatic ecosystem assessment				X								
Report writing and presentation													
1	Data analysis					X	X	X					
2	First draft of report submission								X				
3	Present findings to relevant stakeholders									X			
4	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 Soil Science, Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Environmental Science, Water Resources, Forestry or other related fields
- Demonstrated experience in soil science, wetland ecology or aquatic ecosystem assessment
- Experience working in peat swamp or wetland ecosystems
- Familiarity with Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects
- Proven experience in baseline studies and environmental assessments

11. How to apply

Please submit proposals by email to itthirit.suwannakam@recoftc.org, using the subject line “Baseline study consultant team – Soil resources and aquatic ecosystems, 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.