REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Philippines
Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency Project
Loan No.: Loan No.9480- PH

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR COASTAL AND MARINE HABITAT PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, AND MANAGEMENT (CMHPRM) IN SELECTED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREAS (FMAS) IN THE PHILIPPINES (2025–2026)

Reference No.: **PH-BFAR CO - DA-477617-CS-QCBS**

The Republic of the Philippines has received funding from the World Bank for the Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project to accelerate the sustainable sectoral transition of its fisheries sector, aiming to boost food security, alleviate poverty, and improve resilience to climate change and other disruptions, including those caused by COVID-19. It intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

One of its objectives under FISHCRRM Sub-component 1.3 is to assist LGUs in translating the strengthened governance mechanisms and plans of the FMA-wide initiative into tangible actions at the local level.

In relation to this. the FishCoRe Project Develop a national framework for Coastal and Marine Habitat Management and Rehabilitation (CMHPRMP) that integrates scientific research, best practices, traditional knowledge, and stakeholder input, using adaptive management for flexible, results-based conservation and sustainability.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) - Fisheries Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project, now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are summarized below:

- Must have gained experience and expertise (>5 projects) in the last 15 years in the Philippines, with proven expertise in coastal and marine resource assessments, critical habitat studies, socio-economic surveys and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).
- Proven exceptional ability to assemble and manage highly qualified, multidisciplinary teams with diverse expertise, delivering cost- and time-efficient project execution.
- Sound knowledge of the impacts of climate change, pollution, fisheries,

aquaculture, and coastal zonation on tropical coastal habitats, with a strong track record of designing and implementing effective mitigation, restoration, and adaptation measures derived from DPSIR model This includes packaged science-based and relevant technical, administrative and policy recommendations.

Submissions should include a list of relevant contracts completed by the Consultants over the last five years, along with supporting documents.

Attachment 1 includes the comprehensive Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Services. The procurement of contracts funded by the World Bank shall adhere to the procedures outlined in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (Procurement Regulations) and is open to all eligible firms as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

The attention of interested Consultants is directed towards Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations, which delineate the World Bank's policy regarding conflicts of interest.

Consultants may collaborate with other firms to augment their qualifications; however, it is imperative that they explicitly clarify whether the association constitutes a joint venture or a sub-consultancy. In the event of a joint venture, all partners, should they be selected, shall bear joint and several liability for the entirety of the contract.

A consultant shall be selected using the Quality Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method outlined in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [*9:00 am to 4:30 hours, Mondays to Fridays except public holidays*].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail no later than 21 April 2025, 5:00 PM.

BFAR Special Bids and Awards Committee
to the FishCoRe Project
2nd floor, FishCoRe SBAC Office,
National Food Authority Building,
Visayas Avenue, Brgy. Vasra, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 02-8740-9880
Official email address: bac.fishcore@bfar.da.gov.ph

Original Signed
ROY C. ORTEGA
Chairperson, Special Bids and Awards Committee
BFAR-FishCoRe Project

Terms of Reference

For

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR COASTAL AND MARINE HABITAT PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, AND MANAGEMENT (CMHPRM) IN SELECTED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREAS (FMAS) IN THE PHILIPPINES (2025–2026)

Fisheries and Coastal Resource Project (FishCoRe)

2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview of the Country Profile

The Philippines has a population of 107 million and a land area of approximately 300,000 km^2 spread across 7,641 islands. These diverse tropical islands are grouped into three geographic regions: Luzon, the Visayas, and the southern island of Mindanao. The population has an annual growth rate of 1.4 percent and 47 percent live in urban areas. The population is relatively young with only 5 percent of the population aged 65 years and older. Adult literacy is high (98 percent in 2015) and the average life expectancy was estimated at 72 years in 2023. However, current trends reveal mixed human capital outcomes that undermine the well-being and productivity of current and future generations. The Philippines ranked 84th out of 157 countries in the WBG Human Capital Index (HCI), which measures the impact of human capital on future growth prospects. The national HCI for the Philippines (0.55) indicates that the future productivity of a child born today in the Philippines will be 45 percent below what could have been achieved with complete education and full health.

Despite the country's rapid economic growth since 2010, the average real wage has been stagnant since 2000 partly owing to a lack of market competition. Ethnic, geographic, and demographic diversity are reflected in inequitable income and access to social services across and within the islands. The geography of poverty reflects the strong nexus between poverty and vulnerability, both to conflict and to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change.

Approximately 17 percent of the population resides in low-lying coastal zones that are often subject to a variety of mutually reinforcing hazards. Coastal ecosystems, which provide valuable services including coastal defense, have been significantly degraded. Over 50 percent of mangroves have been lost since 1918. Likewise, 30–50 percent of the seagrass meadows in the Philippines have been lost due to natural disasters, destructive fishing practices, dredging, sedimentation, pollution, and unsustainable coastal development (Fortes et al. 2018). The Philippines has one of the most extensive coral reef areas (Aliño et al. 2004), which holds an extraordinary diversity of species including more than 400 species of hard coral, 12 of which are unique to the area and more than 900 species of reef fish (Burke et al. 2002). Reef fisheries constitute about 20% of the total marine production (1.64 million mt), as of the late 1990s. Coral cover declined from an estimated 26,000 km^2 (Wilkinson 2008) to 12,576.84 km^2 (NAMRIA 2020). Findings on the nationwide assessment of coral reefs in the country reported a further decline of reef condition where none of the sampled areas are in excellent condition regarding hard coral cover (Licuanan et al. 2017).

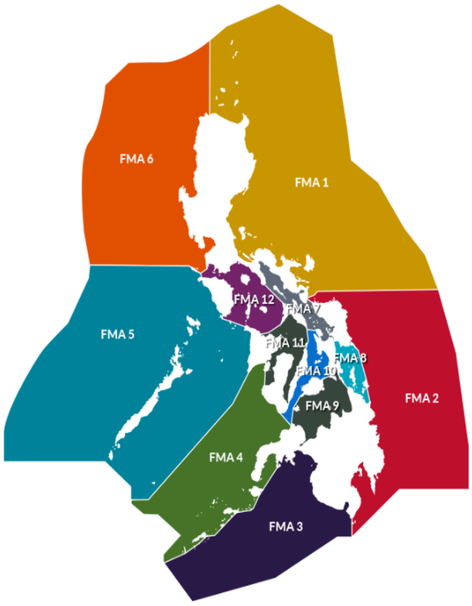
Pollution is also a severe problem in many sheltered coastal waters. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of typhoons and storm surges, while at the same time jeopardizing remaining coastal ecosystems. Projections suggest a potential reduction of coastal GDP by up to 52.3 percent due to intensified storm surges by 2100 and that 45 percent of wetlands will be at risk. Small-scale municipal fishers, who play an important role in providing food security for coastal fishing communities and the growing population of the country, bear the brunt of such compounded vulnerabilities as their livelihood is critically dependent on the health of natural resources that are under multiple threats.

1.2. Overview of the Fisheries Sector

The fisheries sector comprises (i) aquaculture (including marine, brackish and freshwater farming); (ii) municipal capture fisheries (within 15 km of the shoreline) where vessels are limited to 3 tonnes (gross); and (iii) commercial capture fisheries (beyond 15 km from the shoreline to EEZ) in the 12 FMAs of the Philippines. As of 2019, the total annual production from capture fisheries and aquaculture stands at 2.05 million and 2.35 million metric tons, producing a total economic value of PHP 163 billion and PHP 117 billion, respectively. Although the share has been shrinking in recent years, the fisheries sector accounts for 1.3 percent of GDP and is ranked 8th globally in terms of production volume, including the 3rd largest production of seaweed. With a total export value of $1.125 billion and an import value of $749 million, the Philippines is a net fish exporter with an annual trade surplus of over $337 million in 2018. The fisheries sector provides approximately 1.6 million jobs (4 percent of the labor force), including for low-income families engaged in subsistence fishing in municipal waters. It contributes to food security, providing over 12 percent of animal protein intake of Filipinos. According to the Department of Science and Technology Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) 2018-2019 survey, each Filipino consumes an average of 34.27 kilograms (kg) of fish and fish products per year, higher than the world average of 20.5 kg per capita. However, the fisherfolk are among the poorest (poverty incidence was 26.2% in 2018, and increased to 30.6% in 2021). Approximately 6.2 percent of the poor in the Philippines rely on fisheries for their livelihood.

Marine fish stocks are in decline. Capture fisheries production from major taxonomic groups (pelagics, demersals, crustaceans, and cephalopods) has fallen by 20% over the last decade. Most stocks are categorized as overfished or are exposed to overfishing. Landings are dominated by juvenile fish. As well as excessive fishing effort, the sustainability of fisheries is also threatened by habitat loss and degradation arising from climate and land-use change, destructive fishing practices, and pollution. Effective management is constrained by inadequate policy and relatively weak institutional capacity.

Post-harvest losses are significant. About 20-40 percent of wild-caught and farmed fish are lost annually, with further loss of quality and nutritional value due to poor post-harvest practices often associated with inadequate infrastructure for ice supply, safe handling, cold storage, and transport of seafood. Export rejection is common arising from (i) food quality issues including the presence of filth and substandard end products; (ii) food safety issues such as the presence of microbial contaminants and chemical contaminants; and (iii) non-compliance with regulatory requirements, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.



Institutionally, the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is responsible for the development, improvement, management, and conservation of the Philippine fisheries and aquatic resources. While the municipal/city government has jurisdiction over municipal waters within 15 km from the shoreline, they are mandated to manage coastal and marine fisheries through planning, legislation and regulation, institutional development and partnerships, enforcement, and monitoring and evaluation. The BFAR is enjoined to provide technical assistance to the LGUs. While many LGUs are proactive in managing their shorelines and near coastal areas, approaches, priorities and capacities of LGU administrations vary across time and space, while the irregular configuration of the Philippines' 33,900 km of coastline and indistinct boundaries between some municipalities has resulted in unclear administrative mandates in some waters. In addition, the BFAR, in collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has the responsibility to establish, administer, and manage locally-managed Marine Protected Areas and/or fish sanctuaries, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has 94 Protected Seascapes. The lack of effective mechanisms for coordination has led to largely unstructured and inefficient coastal zone and fishery resources management.

The Philippines' capture fisheries policy framework has progressively evolved from production maximization to conservation and sustainable use of resources. The establishment of 12 Fishery Management Areas (FMAs) in 2019 represented a fundamental transition from the open access nature of sectoral governance to an ecosystem approach fisheries management (EAFM), whose operationalization is a key short-term priority. Overall, aside from some fishing effort restriction measures recently introduced, such as fishing licenses and seasonal closures for commercial fisheries, the on-the-ground sectoral governance essentially remains open access with no output control (e.g., catch quota) in place. Meanwhile, the policy framework has recently seen improvements, including the 2015 amendments to the 1998 Philippines Fisheries Code tightening monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). Furthermore, in 2019, the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 263 established 12 FMAs delineating Philippine waters based on the approximation of fish stocks and fisheries distribution and management. Underpinning the FMA concept is the recognition that sustainable fisheries (and aquaculture) management and development cannot be achieved at the level of the individual LGUs, and without regard to the health of the ecosystem – particularly the coastal and marine habitats. Rather, it advocates a coordinated ecosystem approach to management and development across the entire FMA as described by an *FMA Framework Plan (FP)* and three subordinate cross-cutting plans: *Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)*; *Aquaculture Development and Management Plans (ADMPs)*; and *Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation and Management Plans (CMHPRMPs).*

At present, the 12 Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) are at different stages of development. All FMAs have successfully established and operationalized their respective Management Boards (MBs) and Science Advisory Groups (SAGs). The SAGs have conducted reviews of the proposed reference points (RPs), harvest control rules (HCRs), and harvest control measures (HCMs). To date, six (6) RPs, HCRs, and HCMs have been formally adopted by the MBs, while seven (7) FMA management frameworks have been approved. Of which, two (2) FMA frameworks have been adopted by the local government units (LGUs).

1.3. Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (FISHCORE) Project

The $176 million World Bank-funded FISHCORE Project (2023-2029) is assisting the Philippines' fisheries sector in accelerating its sustainable sectoral transition to fulfill its full potential in supporting food security and poverty alleviation, while enhancing its resilience to adverse climate impacts and other disturbances, including those related to COVID-19.

This will be achieved by establishing in FMAs 6 and 9, science-based and ecologically sound fish stock management systems; restoring and protecting critical marine habitats; supporting and guiding the expansion of sustainable aquaculture production; and enhancing value retention and addition across the sector.

The following are the components of the FishCoRe Project with their respective sub-components:

Component 1: Fisheries and Coastal Resilient Resource Planning & Management (FishCRRM)

Sub-component 1.1: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Planning and Institutions

Sub-component 1.2: Aquaculture Development and Management

Sub-component 1.3: Strengthening Management of Coastal Resources in Municipal Waters

Component 2: Modern and Resilient Livelihood Investments (MARLIN)

Sub-component 2.1: Fishers' Livelihood Diversification & Development

Sub-component 2.2: Aquaculture & Fisheries Enterprise Development

Sub-component 2.3: Aquaculture & Fisheries Infrastructure

Component 3: Project management, coordination monitoring and evaluation

1.4. Fisheries and Coastal Resilient Resource Planning & Management (FishCRRM)

Component 1 or the FishCRRM aims to establish a comprehensive planning framework and institutional arrangements, strengthen capacity, and implement management measures to achieve an ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture management and development in FMAs 6 and 9. Specifically, it will support the development of overarching FMA Framework Plans (FPs), and the formulation and implementation of targeted Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs), Aquaculture Development and Management Plans (ADMPs), and Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management Plans (CMHPRMPs) to maximize ecological and socio-economic benefits and build resilience in coastal communities.

Sub-component 1.1 will involve:

- development of institutional and planning mechanisms for fisheries governance and management in FMAs 6 and 9;
- formulation and implementation of resources management plans for each FMA, including FMPs for target fisheries and CMHPRMPs, and management information system (MIS), M&E in support of adaptive FMA management; and
- research, development, and extension (RDE) services for climate-smart fisheries management and development and implementation of information, communication, and education (IEC) strategies

Sub-component 1.2 will encompass:

- formulation of ecosystem-based ADMPs, design of ABCs, and their integration into the LGU coastal zoning/resource management plans;
- integration of aquaculture information and establishment of an aquaculture registry system (Aqua-R)
- Identification of climate and disease risk assessment, and adaptation and risk management measures;
- testing and demonstration of experimental climate-smart and efficient aquaculture technologies and livelihoods
- development of
- guidance materials, including brochures, training modules, web-based resources, and other formats, on climate-resilient good aquaculture practices (GAPs); and
- design and implementation of risk management and certification systems

Sub-component 1.3 will:

- assist LGUs in translating the strengthened governance mechanisms and plans of the FMA-wide initiative into tangible actions at the local level, focusing on those LGUs most critical to achieving the objectives of the FMA-level FMP and CMHPRMP, as well as enhancing LGU contributions within municipal waters to FMA monitoring and information systems.

This support will involve:

- integration of the FMA-level resource management plans into the policy and legal frameworks at the LGU level, particularly within their municipality-level Coastal Resource Management

(CRM) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plans including capacity-building activities;
- implementation of fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems;
- implementation of climate-proofing coastal and marine (including riverine) habitat protection, rehabilitation, and management plans and resiliency strategies;
- support in the development of alternative nature-based livelihood sub-projects for individuals and communities affected by new rules and enforcement regimes; and
- contribution/support to LGUs in FMA-wide monitoring and information systems in guiding or improving fisheries management and biodiversity conservation as part of EAFM plans.

These terms of reference (ToR) relate to Component 1, Sub-component 1.1, and Sub-component 1.3.

Specifically, the ToR relates to the following project activities:

Activity 1.3.1 *Development and Establishment of Baselines and Monitoring Programs for Critical Fisheries and Coastal (including Riverine) and Marine Habitats*

Activity 1.3.2 *Fisheries Management, and Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management Planning*

Activity 1.3.3 *Implementation of Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation and Management Plans (CMHRMP)*

Target Audience of the Deliverable (provide details of the target audience of the assessment and their role)

2. OBJECTIVES

Terms of Reference (TOR) Objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive national framework for Coastal and Marine Habitat Management, and Rehabilitation Plan (CMHPRMP) to provide a unified, strategic approach to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, integrating scientific research, best practices, traditional ecological knowledge and stakeholder input. The holistic approach will integrate adaptive management principles to allow for flexibility and adjustments based on monitoring and evaluation results.

- Provide technical assistance to BFAR in refining existing field methodologies related to assessment and monitoring of coastal and marine habitats, including riverine areas for a ridge-to-reef ecosystem-based approach. This includes improving methods for assessing resource and ecological parameters, such as water quality, area of habitats, species composition and distribution, etc., and identifying critical habitat areas and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), such as coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves. This also involves capacity building components to train BFAR staff and other stakeholders on refined methodologies and strategies, including utilization of modern technology and traditional ecological knowledge in data collection and monitoring. Identify major threats, and develop effective strategies for the protection, rehabilitation, and management of these areas.

- Assist in the drafting of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plans, and mainstreaming of the ICM Plans into their Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)/ Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP) and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs). The ICM Plans should incorporate Coastal Resource Management (CRM), ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM), sustainable aquaculture, habitat restoration, protection and management, pollution reduction and management, and climate actions, for the adoption of the LGUs.

- Provide technical guidance and support to ensure these plans are comprehensive, effective, and aligned with national and regional objectives for sustainable and inclusive coastal and marine ecosystem management.

- Use a participatory approach to involve local communities, fisherfolk, women, and other stakeholders from key sectors in the planning process and define clear objectives and performance indicators for the ICM plans to facilitate implementation, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

- Support the establishment and implementation of a network of marine protected areas and marine and coastal spatial plan and zoning scheme, including zoning ordinances, for priority areas within Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) 6 and 9 to protect key biodiversity areas, optimize fishing and aquaculture resources, and address pollution, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and resource use conflicts.

- Identify the key biodiversity areas, fishing grounds, and suitable aquaculture areas. Identify also the pollution hotspots, IUU fishing hotspots, and areas of multiple resource use conflicts. Oversee and guide survey operations, analyze and interpret survey data, and formulate and support the implementation of the CMHPRMP for each FMA, ensuring alignment with an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

- Develop comprehensive training programs for stakeholders to enhance their capacity in ICM, coastal and marine habitat protection, restoration, and management, waste management, climate resiliency, marine spatial planning, resource and environmental monitoring, and M&E; and

- Explore diverse financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the ICM Plan implementation, monitoring program, and coastal resource and habitat management. These assignments demand meticulous attention to capability development activities for LGUs and key stakeholders and the identification of financing mechanisms and sources to ensure the sustainability of ICM, MPA Networks, and the coastal resource and environmental monitoring program beyond the project's duration.

3. SCOPE, APPROACH AND DELIVERABLES

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
1. Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management (CMHPRM) Workplan (Including Benchmark, Gap Analysis, Action Plan and Financing Strategy to Address Gaps)	1.1. Facilitate engagement with relevant stakeholders, consolidate and review relevant project and policy documents, legislation, literature, and existing data and information on critical coastal habitats and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the project area (FMA 6 and 9). 1.2. Prepare Inception Report and present the findings of Task 1.1 outlining the proposed methodology, approach and workplan for the assignment subject for approval by BFAR. 1.3. Conduct workshops to draft objectives and scope of the CMHPRM-LGU framework with government agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions. Engage experts to facilitate the workshops and ensure productive discussions. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify all necessary inputs for the CMHPRM framework. This includes technical, institutional, policy, and financial requirements 1.4. The input requirements to achieve the agreed CMHPRM objectives and scope include: - Identify and collect the necessary data to support CHMR objectives, including the relevant sources, collection methods, and analysis techniques. - Establish systems to manage, store, and process data efficiently and effectively for CMHPRM purposes.	Inception Report outlining the proposed assignment methodology, approach and work plan with costing. The report should include: - Agreed objectives, approach, methodology , scale, and scope -Background information - Input requirements for CMHPRMP - Assessment process details - Required coordination mechanisms to ensure alignment with FishCoRe integration - Determined TIER based on the updated data - Identified gaps and challenges that may impact the ability to fulfill the project scope and objectives - Agreed-upon plans to address these gaps -agreed methodology and tools in gap assessment and operational plan - Costs of implementation of the work plan, associated with addressing critical gaps and the agreed-upon priorities for resolution - detailed stakeholder mapping to identify key players and their roles in the CMHPRM process. - Incorporate feedback from stakeholders into the Inception Report to ensure it meets their needs and expectations

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	- Evaluate and develop the tools required to analyze, assess, and apply CMHPRM-related information. - Build institutional, technical, and human capacity to ensure the successful implementation of CMHPRM activities. - Develop policies that align with and support the objectives of CMHPRM, ensuring compliance with national and international frameworks. Supporting Resources: - Secure scientific expertise and research to inform decisions and actions under CMHPRM. - Conduct economic evaluations to assess the impacts, costs, and sustainability of CMHPRM initiatives. - Identifying and securing financial resources and mechanisms necessary for implementing CMHPRM. Institutional Arrangements: - Define clear roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms to facilitate effective management of CMHPRM. - Ensure active participation from stakeholders in decision-making processes, fostering collaboration and inclusive management of CMHPRM. 1.5. Review and evaluate the results of the benchmarking activities and TIER, and develop a summary of findings.	Criteria and Methodology for Final Performance Evaluation: Develop criteria and methodology for the final performance evaluation process. This should include indicators, data collection methods, and evaluation timelines.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	1.6. Compare the benchmarking results with the input requirements from Workstream 1 to identify gaps requiring attention for the CMHPRM-LGU framework and assessment processes. This will involve a workshop with experts to confirm and prioritize these gaps. 1.7. Prepare a cost and prioritized plan to implement the plan and address critical gaps, then share the draft with experts for feedback and revise as needed.	
2. Develop a Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management (CMHPRM-LGU) Framework for LGUs	2.1. Review the existing survey methodologies and community-based participatory resource assessments currently implemented by BFAR, NFRDI, DENR, academic institutions, and other key stakeholders. Identify gaps and areas for improvement in the current methodologies 2.2. Recommend standardized/harmonized methods to enhance assessment and monitoring measures of ecosystem abundance, distribution, quality (health), value, and diversity, including the status and condition of critical habitats such as mangrove swamps, beach forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, and assessing fish biomass, integrating citizen science to enhance data collection and community engagement. 2.3. Conduct a strategic workshop for the development of the CMHPRM-LGU framework, incorporating Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to track progress, measure the effectiveness of implemented strategies, and identify gaps	Consolidated and updated guidelines and protocols for coastal and marine habitat assessments, including methods for monitoring and reporting on habitat condition, extent, recovery, and other ecological parameters. Develop comprehensive Coastal Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management (CMHPRM) and M&E frameworks with clear guidance on the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of habitat protection and rehabilitation efforts. Pilot test the draft framework in selected sites to identify any issues and make necessary adjustments before finalizing the CMHPRMP-LGU

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	and areas for improvement. 2.4. Prepare draft CMHPRM-LGU Framework, including a roadmap for the process to be used as a guide for the pilot sites and outline the steps for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.	
3. CMHPRM Planning & Monitoring, and Capability-Building	3.1. Develop a training design for Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management (CMHPRM) planning and monitoring for BFAR and local implementers. The content should encompass objectives, curriculum, training materials, and evaluation methods. 3.2. Identify local institution(s) to partner with to build capacity and capability for CMHPRM planning. 3.3. Conduct of Training of Trainers (ToT) on the CMHPRM Planning & Monitoring for BFAR personnel and stakeholders, Including practical, hands-on training sessions to ensure participants can apply the knowledge and skills in real-world scenarios 3.4. Support the review and updating of field survey methodologies and data-collection systems and timeframe , while also assisting in the development of a modern information/knowledge management system.	Develop a Comprehensive Training design for CMHPRM planning and monitoring for BFAR and local implementers, and identified local institution(s) to partner with for building capacity and capability in CMHPRM planning and monitoring. Develop a framework for monitoring and capacity building. This framework should include initiatives and programs to consider, a results framework and implementation plans, performance indicators, and an impact assessment method. Additionally, it should focus on planning and management for CMHPRM and effective communication strategies. Conduct a thorough needs assessment to tailor the training design to the specific needs of BFAR and local implementers to ensure the training is relevant and effective. Develop capacity of BFAR personnel, training materials, and provide assistance in the conduct of knowledge management and technology transfer for key stakeholders; Establish certification programs for trainers

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
		and provide ongoing support and refresher training sessions to ensure trainers stay current with the latest practices and methodologies. - Develop clear criteria for selecting local institutions to partner with. This includes their expertise, experience, and capacity to deliver training and support CMHPRM planning Updated field survey methodologies and data-collection systems Develop Information/knowledge management system accessible to all stakeholders including training on effective usage Integrate data from various sources to provide a comprehensive view of coastal and marine habitats,to supports better decision-making and management
4. CMHPRM-LGU Planning & Monitoring (including community-based habitat monitoring program)	4.1. Prepare end survey and action plan for coastal habitats and resource ecological assessments in FMAs 6 and 9. This includes detailed data collection on habitat conditions, species presence, and ecological functions 4.2. Identify major threats to critical habitat and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and provide information for preparing the CMHPRMPs.	Based on the survey findings, develop a detailed action plan that outlines specific steps for habitat protection, rehabilitation, and management. The action plan should include: - Identification of pilot sites (i.e., bay-wide), - M&E plan for each CMHPRMP per LGU and FMA - List of major threats to critical habitat and VMEs and proposed rehabilitation strategies -provide detailed technical reports and GIS maps of the

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	4.3. Facilitate coordination of field surveys and laboratory testing activities to be conducted by BFAR and relevant stakeholders, such as DENR, NFRDI, LGUs, NGOs, and academic institutions, ensuring comprehensive coverage, efficient resource utilization, and timely delivery.- Use detailed and standardized methodologies for conducting end surveys and ecological assessments to ensure consistency and reliability of data. 4.4. Collect and analyze essential data, conduct detailed mapping, and assess completed surveys to identify threats and factors contributing to habitat degradation for developing CMHPRMPs in designated pilot sites in FMAs 6 & 9. 4.5. Prepare comprehensive reports proposing rehabilitation strategies to restore the ecosystem functions of the identified critical habitats.	data collected. including methodologies, findings, and recommendation - Develop standardized protocols for data collection and laboratory testing to ensure consistency and reliability of results. -Develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan for each CMHPRMP per LGU and FMA.
5. Resource Assessment Policy Study	5.1. Prepare at least two resource assessment policy studies based on ecological evaluations to enhance critical habitat protection, rehabilitation, and management, integrating findings into local plans, ordinances, and community-based fisheries management programs to strengthen FMP support. 5.2 Utilize best practices and internationally recognized standards when conducting ecological evaluations. This includes adopting a precautionary approach to natural	Develop a report on Resource assessment policy studies based on ecological evaluations: -Outline the methodologies used in the resource assessment policy studies, including the criteria for selecting critical habitats and the techniques used for ecological evaluations. -Based on the studies' findings, provide specific and actionable recommendations including identifying

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	resource management to ensure opportunities for environmentally sustainable development. 5.3 Involve key stakeholders, including local communities and NGOs, in the ecological evaluation process. This ensures that the evaluations are comprehensive and take local knowledge and concerns into account. 5.4 Ensure that the findings of the resource assessment policy studies align with existing local plans and ordinances. This can be achieved by reviewing and updating municipal coastal resource management (CRM) and integrated coastal management (ICM) plans, as well as accompanying legislation to incorporate the study findings. 5.5 Develop and implement capacity-building programs for local communities to support the findings of the resource assessment policy studies. This includes training on habitat monitoring, restoration techniques, and sustainable fisheries management. 5.6 Integrate citizen science initiatives to engage local communities in habitat monitoring and data collection. This will build local capacity and ensure the sustainability of the management programs.	priority areas for habitat protection and rehabilitation and suggesting practical measures for implementation. -Develop a policy brief -Outline the structure and component of the policy resource assessment policy report

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
6. Stakeholder Engagement on the CMHPRM-LGU Planning & Monitoring Process (LGU-level)	6.1. Engage LGUs and other relevant stakeholders in each FMA and assess their existing capacity on coastal resources management planning and preparation of accompanying legislation to implement the FMPs; 6.2. Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the CMHPRM-LGU, incorporating climate change resilience and adaptation, along with the community-based habitat monitoring program. This should include the creation of CMHPRM-LGU training manuals for BFAR and local implementers, integrating citizen science and traditional ecological knowledge to strengthen critical habitat monitoring, restoration, protection techniques, and reporting processes. 6.3. Review of existing municipal CRM/ICM plans and accompanying legislation. 6.4. Draft/Update ICM plans for all priority LGUs with accompanying relevant legislation consistent with the CMHPRM-LGU framework. 6.5. Develop strategic communication plans at the local level to effectively implement the updated ICM plans, and encourage them to take action and actively participate in fisheries resource management.	A report detailing: - Capacity building approach and outcomes. This will include any training materials developed. - Stakeholder workshop outcomes - Planning process Drafted ICM Plans for adoption of priority LGUs with legislation support Draft strategic communication plan- Develop and implement strategic communication plan to ensure stakeholder buy-in for the FMA management objectives and approaches

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management – FMA level (CMHPRM-FMA)		

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
7. Pilot CMHPRMP (FMA scale) drafting and critical habitat mapping	7.1. In collaboration with the partner institution(s), BFAR and LGUs, and consistent with the CMHPRM-LGU framework and the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Standards of the World Bank, prepare the draft pilot CMHPRMP-FMA content. 7.2. Identify and map distribution of critical habitat and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) in each FMA, with layers indicating habitat health (condition), socio-economic value, and major threats, causes of habitat degradation and other major habitat threats. 7.3. Identify and map areas prioritized for habitat restoration and protection, along with respective identified municipalities; 7.4. Collaborate and coordinate with FMA governance (FMA Management Boards and SAGs) and RFOs in the formulation of marine spatial plans (MSPs) in the pilot areas. This should define the goals, objectives, indicators and targets of each plan and priority locations within each FMA for critical habitat and VME restoration and protection. Identify effective methodologies, and criteria for selection. The draft MSP shall promote integration of LGU-level ICM plans, and existing (and future) fisheries and aquaculture	CMHPRMP-FMAs for FMA 6 and 9 will include: - Descriptions of the goals, objectives, indicators, and targets for each plan Provide Critical habitat maps - Maps illustrating the distribution of critical habitat and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) in each FMA, with layers indicating habitat health (condition), socio-economic value, and major threats - Maps and descriptions of areas prioritized for habitat restoration and protection, along with respective identified municipalities; -validate regular reviews and formal evaluations against objectives and indicators to facilitate adaptive management

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	development plans (especially in adjacent LGUs and MPA networks). This will require the draft CMHPRMP-FMA to include recommended policy and regulatory changes required for implementation of the MSP and zoning schemes. 7.5 Identify resiliency strategies to enhance coastal zone management, such as protective measures for spawning aggregations and migratory paths, establishment of community-based monitoring systems for timely reporting and response to environmental issues, and development of management plans for locally managed MPAs and MPA networks. 7.5. Conduct workshops and sessions with relevant experts and affected stakeholders to discuss and validate plan priorities, conflicts, risks and opportunities to integrate across different planning and policy frameworks at LGU and sectoral / agency levels.	
8. Final CMHPRMP & Action Plan	8.1 Final CMHPRMP & Action Plan Conduct a workshop to discuss and revise the draft CMHPRMP-FMA accordingly: - Discuss the draft management plan and its alignment with ecological, social, and economic goals -Identify areas that need revision or strengthening in the plan. -Ensure that actionable steps, responsible parties, and timelines are clearly defined for the restoration and management activities.	Final CMHPRMP for FMA 6 & 9: Produce Final CMHPRMP for FMA 6 & 9 for integration into municipality-level CRM and ICM plans. Action Plan -outline an action plan content Develop a detailed Action plan to implement the CMHPRMP-FMA by key stakeholders, including institutional arrangements and financing. mechanisms. - Costed measures for the rehabilitation and/or protection of habitat in priority areas Support for LGUs - Recommendations to support LGUs,

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	-Involve various stakeholders in shaping the plan, ensuring that it reflects a wide range of inputs and expertise. -Achieve consensus on the final version of the plan for each pilot area. Receive written feedback from reviewers/experts and produce final CMHPRMP-FMA for each pilot area. 8.2 Action Plan Collaboration -Develop an action plan collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure that their views and inputs are considered, and foster appropriate capacity and capability development. The plan will include recommendations for ongoing enforcement, capacity building, data gathering, monitoring, and reporting to assess the effectiveness of implementation. This action plan will be created collaboratively with partner institutions involved in the process to ensure appropriate capacity and capability development. Technology transfer -Ensure the action plan incorporates necessary technology transfer and resource allocation essential for the successful implementation and monitoring of CMHPRM and ICM plans. Oversee the distribution of these resources in alignment with BFAR's procurement process manual guidelines.	enforcement, future data needs, and monitoring and evaluation of implementation. Prepare Technical reports and publications reporting the activities and outcomes of the assignment and the performance of the CMHPRMPs. -develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing the action plan, including timelines, responsibilities, and key milestones.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables
	8.3 Financing strategy Costing exercise - Undertake a comprehensive costing exercise for all of the recommended actions in the CMHPRMP. This will involve identifying the resources needed and financial requirements for each action, estimating the corresponding costs, identifying potential sources of funding and financing mechanisms to support the implementation of the CMHPRMPs. Financing Strategy - Recommend financing and resource mobilization strategy. It should identify existing and potential financing mechanisms and supporting institutional arrangements to sustain the implementation of the CMHPRMP-FMA beyond the project. Examples of financing mechanisms are: mainstreaming of the CMHPRMP for annual government funding allocation, grants, public-private partnerships, collaborative partnerships with donors, private sector, and NGOs, and community-based financing.	

4. TIMING OF DELIVERABLES, PAYMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

DELIVERABLES	TIMING (IN WKS)	PAYMENT SCHEDULE	2025												2026												2027				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
Contract Signing	0	15%																													
Workstream 1: Inception Report (Benchmark, Gap Analysis, Plan and Budget to Address Gaps)	4		x																												
Workstream 2: Coastal and Marine Habitat Protection, Rehabilitation, and Management at LGU level(CMHPRM-LGU) and M&E Framework	10			x	x																										
Workstream 3.1: CMHPRM-LGU Planning & Monitoring training design	12				x																										
Workstream 3.2-4: CMHPRM-LGU Planning & Monitoring survey methodologies and KMS	16					x																									
Workstream 4.1.: CMHPRM-LGU action plan	20	15%					x																								
Workstream 4.2-5: CMHPRM-LGU Planning & Monitoring (including community-based habitat monitoring program) technical reports	44	20%						x	x	x	x	x	x																		
Submission and acceptance of the progress report														x																	

Workstream 5: Resource Assessment policy study reports	52														x																
Workstream 6: Stakeholder Engagement on the CMHPRM-LGU Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring & Evaluation Process and integration into ICM Plans (LGU-level)	76	10%													x	x	x	x	x	x											
Workstream 7: Draft Pilot CMHPRMP-FMA and critical habitat map (FMA scale), pilot MSP, and MPA networking	96	15%																			x	x	x	x	x						
Workstream 8: Final CMHPRMP-FMA with Action Plan, Financing Strategy, and Institutional Arrangements	104																									x	x				
Submission and acceptance of the final report	116	25%																										x	x	x	

The acceptance criteria for the deliverables are set to be met against the specified work under each task, and the set timeline, as minimum criteria.

5. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND CAPACITY

The assignment will be executed by a consulting firm, academic institution, non-governmental organization, or research entity [referred to as "the Technical Assistant(s)(TA(s)"], which must possess a highly qualified technical team and a proven track record to ensure the successful completion of the assignment. TA(s) are encouraged to form partnerships to enhance their qualifications and ensure the comprehensive range of skills required, encompassing both technical and operational expertise .

Key qualifications may include expertise in financial analysis and sustainable financing strategies for protected areas, combined with experience working on conservation projects. The TA(s) should demonstrate a strong understanding of governance structures, ecological principles, and the challenges faced in marine ecosystems. Additionally, experience in facilitating communication and collaboration among diverse stakeholders and the ability to design and implement effective social surveys are essential for the successful execution of this assignment.

The TA(s) selected to provide this technical assistance must have gained experience and expertise within the last five (5) years in conducting coastal resource assessments, community-based monitoring, critical habitat studies, and similar assignments within the agri-fishery sector in the Philippines, including projects using the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to ensure that the activities are contextually relevant and aligned with local ecological and socio-economic conditions. Proven ability to assemble and manage a multidisciplinary team skilled in cost- and time-effective data collection and analysis techniques. Sound knowledge of the impacts of climate change, pollution, fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal zonation on tropical coastal habitats, with the capability to develop and implement effective mitigation, restoration, protection and adaptation measures. Proficient in analyzing and interpreting large-scale survey datasets using IT software and relevant applications for effective fisheries resource management. Demonstrated track record and experience preparing Coastal Resource Management Plans in the Philippines is an advantage.

The TA(s) will collaborate with relevant government agencies and must also establish a local presence by partnering with local institutions. This approach aims to build capacity and capability through the project, which can then be applied to future Coastal Habitat Management and Restoration initiatives across the Philippines. In this context, the Consultant is encouraged to engage with relevant local private sector entities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and academic institutions that have demonstrated experience and expertise in providing technical support for coastal resource management, integrated coastal management, ecosystem-based management, and community-based management in the Philippines.

The Consultant(s) shall mobilize all necessary project team personnel, materials, resources, and manpower with the required skills, competency and expertise, ensuring they are sufficiently staffed for efficient project execution.

5.1. Key Personnel

Key Personnel whose qualifications indicated by the Consultants in their Technical Proposals will be used for evaluating the Key Experts at the time of evaluation of Technical Proposals are detailed below.

Project Lead – a graduate degree in Fisheries, Development Studies, or a related discipline, with a preference for an M.Sc. or Ph.D. in Environmental Resources Management Planning or Fisheries Management. Should have at least 15 years of professional experience in preparing coastal and integrated coastal management plans, including related legislation, and a minimum of 5 years in designing, conducting, and managing field surveys. The candidate must be well-versed in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and fisheries management areas (FMAs), and familiar with research, extension, and training conditions in the sector. Experience working with local governments and fishery communities is essential, as well as expertise in training needs assessment, capacity strengthening, and understanding multi-level and multisector governance arrangements and institutional concerns in fishing and coastal communities. Exceptional writing and editorial skills required, with a strong ability to produce clear, compelling content and effectively manage publication processes to ensure high-quality deliverables.

Institutional Development Specialist - a graduate degree in Public Administration, Development Studies, Organizational Development, or a related field, with at least 5 years of experience in institutional development, capacity building, and organizational change, preferably within environmental or fisheries management contexts. Must have proven expertise in assessing institutional needs, designing and implementing capacity-building programs, and strengthening governance structures, with familiarity in multi-level and multisector governance arrangements and institutional issues related to fisheries and coastal management. Experience working with government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to enhance institutional effectiveness and stakeholder engagement is essential, with prior work experience with relevant government agencies or international development organizations being preferred.

Coastal Resource Management Specialist - a graduate degree in Fisheries, coastal resource management, Development Studies, or a related discipline, with at least five years of experience in designing, conducting, and managing field surveys and community organization. With experience in comprehensive coastal resource assessments, including biodiversity surveys, habitat mapping, and environmental impact assessments. Must be familiar with the theory and practice of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and fisheries management areas (FMAs), as well as with research, extension, and training experience in the sector. Well-equipped to manage and support coastal resource management projects effectively.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist - a graduate degree in Statistics, Social Sciences, Development Studies, or a related field, with at least 5 years of experience in monitoring and evaluation, including designing and implementing M&E frameworks and tools. Must have proven skills in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting both quantitative and qualitative data to assess project outcomes and impact, and be proficient in M&E software and data analysis tools. A strong understanding of M&E principles and best practices is essential, along with experience developing and managing performance indicators, logic models, and data collection systems. Experience in coastal management, fisheries, or environmental conservation projects is highly desirable, and prior work with international development organizations, government agencies, or NGOs is preferred. Familiarity with World Bank requirements and reporting standards is also advantageous.

For all applicable positions, candidates must possess knowledge of or be familiar with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) standards. This understanding is essential to ensure that our projects align with global best practices in environmental and social risk management, thereby promoting sustainable development and compliance with international guidelines.

6. Logistics

6.1. Location

The TA(s) will be based at the National Project Management Office (NPMO) in BFAR Central Office, Quezon City but their area of assignment shall cover FMAs 6 and 9.

6.2. Timing and Duration

The assignment is expected to begin by January 2025 and be completed by December 2026 following a final performance evaluation of the 1 National CMHPRMP Framework, at least 2 resource assessment policy studies on protection and restoration of critical habitats, 2 FMA level (FMAs 6 & 9) CMHPRMPs incorporated into at least 40 LGU level CRM/ICM Plans with legislations, and submission of the Terminal Report at least 1 month before the project end date.

7. Contractual Arrangements

7.1. The TA(s) shall cover all operational expenses for the implementation and completion of deliverables, including but not limited to professional fees, traveling expenses, meals and accommodation, equipment and supplies, communication, etc., except for expenses as stated in the Sub-component 1.3 Work and Financial Plan;

7.2. The TA(s) shall submit quarterly and annual progress reports and other reports as required for the activities conducted. Each quarterly progress report should cover the activities conducted during the three-month period, tracking progress against the plan's objectives, timelines, and key performance indicators (KPIs). The annual progress report should provide a more comprehensive overview of the project's progress, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned over the course of the entire year. It should follow a similar structure to the quarterly report but with more detailed analysis and a forward-looking perspective;

7.3. BFAR reserves the right to demand modifications to the delivered output based on its requirements as described above at no additional cost and within its required timeframe, prior to payment of the TA(s), for the abovementioned services;

7.4. Payments shall be made when output has been fully accepted by BFAR based on its requirements as described above, evidenced by acknowledgment receipt and acceptance by BFAR.

7.5. BFAR reserves the right to terminate the Contract if the TA(s) fail to perform or complete the agreed-upon tasks or deliverables within the stipulated time frame without valid justification, fails to meet the required performance standards and does not rectify deficiencies after being notified, breaches any terms of the contract including legal, environmental, or ethical standards, fails to comply with financial commitments or local legal requirements (such as licensing, permits, or tax obligations), or fails to cooperate with BFAR or stakeholders in a manner that hinders project progress hereby rendering the Contractor incapable of fulfilling the terms of the contract. If the contract is terminated, the TA(s) shall be paid for all services that have been completed and accepted by BFAR.

7.6. The FishCoRe Project shall retain exclusive ownership of all intellectual property and proprietary rights related to materials produced under the project, including but not limited to reports, data, software, training materials, visual content, and research findings, with the TA(s) granted a non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use such materials solely for the purposes of fulfilling the contract; any pre-existing materials used by the contractor shall remain the contractor's property, with the contractor granting the FishCoRe Project a perpetual, royalty-free, worldwide license to use, modify, and distribute them in relation to the project; all intellectual property created shall be subject to copyright and patent ownership by the FishCoRe Project, and the contractor shall assist in securing any relevant patents; confidentiality obligations shall apply to all materials, and the FishCoRe Project shall be properly acknowledged in any public dissemination of materials.

7.7. No medical insurance is provided by the Project but may be opted for by the TA(s) at their own expense.

8. Submission of Proposals

8.1. Technical Proposal

Interested firms will submit a technical proposal showing the following:

- Information on each previous project, which demonstrates relevance to the proposed Midterm Survey and Study
- Samples of previous work or case studies that demonstrate the firm's ability to successfully deliver similar projects.
- Individual experiences of the nominated team leader;
- Demonstration of understanding of the requirements of the TOR
- Sound and comprehensive methodology in response to the TOR;
- Organization and composition of consulting team members;
- Mechanics and details on baseline/monitoring data collection and analysis methods;
- Working arrangements/relationships within the Team; between the Team and DA/BFAR and World Bank and between the Team and other key stakeholders at the national, regional, provincial, and FMA levels; and
- Risk Management Plan within the Timeline of Activities, identifying potential risks and outlining mitigation strategies for each identified risk

8.2. Financial Proposal

Interested firms will include the following in their financial proposal:

The financial proposal should ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with the project's financial requirements. It must include a detailed budget breakdown that aligns with the project activities and deliverables. The proposal must include the following:

- Cover Page with the project title, contractor's name, date of submission, and contact information;
- Executive Summary highlighting the total budget, key cost categories, and funding structure;
- Detailed Budget Breakdown covering personnel costs, operational costs, indirect costs, and any other project-related expenses, including justification for each category;
- Funding Sources (if applicable) identifying external sources of co-funding;
- Payment Schedule with milestone-based payments;
- Total Budget Summary with a contingency fund (if applicable); and
- Terms and Conditions outlining payment conditions, invoicing, and reporting requirements. This structure ensures transparency and provides a clear understanding of how the funds will be allocated and used throughout the project.