

UNESCO Bangkok

Call for Proposal (Company or Organization)

Indigenous and Local Knowledge Scoping Activities for the Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment

Type of Contract: Contract for Services

Duration: 1 April – 30 September 2022, tentatively

Closing date: **24 March 2022**, 18:00 Bangkok time (GMT +7).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office in Bangkok and UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Programme (LINKS), in close consultation with the Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment team, is seeking a contractor to support the implementation of indigenous and local knowledge scoping activities for the Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment.

Terms of Reference: Indigenous and Local Knowledge Scoping Activities for the Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment

Background

Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) was launched in 2021. It focusses on marine and coastal ecosystems. To ensure the best available knowledge informs the assessment, Thailand NEA established an indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) working group.

UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme supports the ILK component in the NEAs under the BES-Net extrabudgetary project, co-implemented with UNDP and UNEP-WCMC. UNEP-WCMC hosts the NEA Initiative. UNESCO LINKS is working closely with UNESCO Bangkok to ensure meaningful engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and their knowledge in Thailand NEA.

NEA is a country-driven process led by a national team and authors. The Thailand NEA team and authors requested UNESCO's technical and financial support to implement planned ILK scoping activities in the NEA 2022 workplan. The scoping ILK activities aim to:

- Identify and map coastal IPLCs and IPLC organizations and other partner organizations in Thailand that could be engaged in the assessment process.
- Introduce the NEA to coastal IPLCs and IPLCs organizations and networks in Thailand.

- Develop key ILK questions that will feed into the overall NEA policy questions in each chapter.
- Develop a roster of potential ILK contributors (ILK holders and scholars).
- Identify suitable methods and approaches of mobilizing and synthesizing ILK during the evaluation stage.

These objectives and the deliverables below are designed to feed into the Thailand NEA Scoping Report.

Assignment

The contractor is requested to carry out the following tasks:

1. Identify and map IPLCs and intermediary organizations related to coastal/marine areas in Thailand that could be engaged in the NEA. This will include, but not be limited to, fisher community groups and NGOs, youth groups, and local research organizations working on advocating for IPLCs and ILK, particularly among vulnerable indigenous peoples such as Moken/Moklen/Urak Lawoi.
2. In close collaboration with the Thailand NEA team and UNESCO:
 - i. Identify and map IPLCs and intermediary organizations related to coastal/marine areas in Thailand that could be engaged in the NEA. This will include, but not be limited to, fisher community groups and NGOs, youth groups, and local research organizations working on advocating for IPLCs and ILK, particularly among vulnerable indigenous peoples such as Moken/Moklen/Urak Lawoi. Develop a roster of mapped coastal IPLCs and IPLC organizations and networks to be incorporated in the Final Report. The roster should include reference to the identified ecosystems of focus by the NEA team.
 - ii. Document participatory methodologies for mobilizing and mapping ILK related to coastal and marine ecosystems and natural resource management that have been utilized in various countries, including those being piloted by various organizations in Thailand, including but not limited to Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre, Chulalongkorn University, and MONRE. Highlight successful participatory research case studies that have incorporated the principle of free, prior and informed consent in Thailand and samples from across the world. Provide a shortlist of recommended methodologies which may be considered for use during the evaluation stage of the NEA and seek inputs/feedback about their suitability during ILK scoping workshops (see next activity).
 - iii. Develop (based on the FPIC principle) and disseminate ILK awareness videos to sensitize IPLCs about the NEA and encourage their participation.
 - iv. Develop and submit a progress report (with a roster of mapped IPLCs, suggested methodologies and awareness video) to UNESCO.

3. Provide technical, logistical and support services for the organization of ILK scoping workshops targeting the coastal IPLCs and IPLC organizations mapped in Paragraph 2.
4. In collaboration with NEA team members and authors and UNESCO, lead the facilitation of ILK scoping workshops to:
 - i. Introduce the Thailand NEA to coastal IPLCs and IPLC organizations and networks. The principle of free, prior and informed consent to be introduced and discussed.
 - ii. Engage IPLCs to establish FPIC and where agreed, to specify community support and contributions to the NEA. Co-identify avenues of contributions and develop a database of potential ILK holders and contributors, with agreement on database content and use.
 - iii. Provide a suitable platform during the workshop for IPLCs to discuss and share relevant ILK issues connected to coastal and marine ecosystems. Based on identified ILK issues, co-develop key ILK questions to be addressed by the assessment. The ILK questions are expected to feed into the overall assessment policy questions and into various sections/chapters of the assessment.
 - iv. Present the proposed ILK methodologies to IPLCs and provide a suitable platform for the IPLCs to discuss and assess the suitability of ILK proposed methodologies. In collaboration with IPLCs, co-identify suitable ILK methods and approaches for mobilizing and synthesizing ILK to address identified ILK research questions.
 - v. Draft a report summarizing key ILK questions for each chapter of the assessment, co-identified ILK methods, and preliminary ILK data gathered in the scoping workshops. *Note: The Draft report shall be incorporated in the National Ecosystem Assessment Scoping Report and articulate how the ILK will be mobilized, synthesized and woven into the assessment and its contributions to the assessment.*
5. Undertake advocacy and produce advocacy/communication materials (drawing upon collected information and other available content) that will facilitate the engagement of ILK holders and scholars in the NEA process.
6. Develop a final report based on activities 1 to 5.

Deliverables and timeframe

- By 30 April 2021, the contractor will submit an overall workplan with estimated budget (Paragraph 1).
- By 30 June 2021, the contractor will submit Progress report (Paragraph 2).
- By 31 July, the contractor will submit concept note, programme and list of participants for the framing workshops (Paragraph 3).
- By 30 September 2021, the contractor will submit final report (Paragraph 6).

Duty station and travel

Based in Thailand

Qualifications, experience and competencies

Institution:

- Professional experience in organizing participatory workshops with indigenous and local communities in Thailand.
- At least 10 years of experience in conducting participatory research on biodiversity/ecosystems and indigenous and local knowledge in Thailand, with a particular focus on coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Familiarity with coastal and marine natural resource management issues
- Familiarity with UNESCO's work related to indigenous and local knowledge systems
- Familiarity with international standards and protocols related to working with indigenous peoples and local communities, including FPIC and multiple evidence-based approach.
- Previous engagement in Thailand National Ecosystem Assessment will be added advantage.

Personnel:

Team Leader

- Advanced degree in any of the related areas: anthropology; development studies, public policy, environmental studies or other social sciences;
- Professional knowledge and experience (minimum 5 years) in relevant technical areas, including social inclusion and indigenous and local knowledge;
- Experience working with ethnolinguistic and minority communities and an understanding of the social and political sensitivities associated with indigenous peoples, gender equality, rights-based approaches;
- Excellent writing and communication skills including the production of written/oral advocacy content for both targeted and general audiences;
- Fluency in spoken and written Thai language
- Strong command of the English language (oral and written).

Application

Interested companies/organizations are invited to submit to UNESCO Bangkok the application package including

- A technical proposal illustrating how the tasks will be carried out

- A detailed organization portfolio/individual CV with examples of relevant work
- A detailed financial proposal indicating rate per unit

Application package is to be sent **no later than 24 March 2022**, 18:00 Bangkok time (GMT +7).

To the attention of:

Chief of Culture unit

UNESCO Bangkok Office

E-mail: culture.bgk@unesco.org

Only short-listed companies/organizations will be contacted.