

## Call for Quotation/Application for Consultancy Services

### Title: Technical Consultancy for Mangrove Restoration and NbS Integration in Ca Mau and Vinh Long

#### Objective of the Consultancy

The primary objective of this consultancy is to provide expert technical and environmental oversight for mangrove restoration activities within integrated aquaculture systems and coastal mudflats. The consultant will ensure that planting techniques, species selection, and site assessments align with local ecological conditions and international Nature-based Solutions (NbS) standards

#### Background

##### Terms of Reference: Consultancy Services for Mangrove Restoration and Management

#### 1. Background

The Mekong Delta is identified as one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change, particularly due to sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion. To enhance the resilience of coastal communities, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is implementing projects that utilize mangroves as a natural buffer against erosion while supporting sustainable fisheries. These efforts are grounded in Vietnam's legal framework for forest development and climate adaptation.

The coastal provinces of Ca Mau and Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta are characterized by dense river networks and critical mangrove forests. These ecosystems support local livelihoods through aquaculture and provide essential services like shoreline protection and carbon sequestration. However, recent degradation due to intensive shrimp farming, erosion, and climate change—manifesting as sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion—has compromised regional resilience.

Current initiatives, including the Vinh Long Resilient Livelihoods Project and the Bạc Liêu IONIQ Forest Project Phase 2, seek to restore at least 30 hectares of mangrove belt and plant over 100,000 trees. Field assessments indicate significant challenges in mangrove restoration. In aquaculture ponds, massive die-offs of *Avicennia marina* (Mắm biển) and poor growth of *Rhizophora mucronata* (Đưng) have been linked to prolonged deep flooding (30–50 cm), lack of tidal exchange, organic mud accumulation, and soil acidification (acid sulfate soils). Furthermore, improper planting techniques and damage to root systems (cutting "chang" roots) have exacerbated low survival rates. Therefore, this consultancy is vital to ensuring these restoration efforts overcome existing technical barriers such as poor hydrological exchange and high seedling mortality.

**Project Reference:** "Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions through Mangrove Restoration to Improve the Environment in Ca Mau Province - P04762

**RfP Reference:** IUCN -IONIQ-2026-RQ000933

#### About IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a global membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public,

private, and non-governmental entities with the tools and knowledge needed to advance sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. IUCN combines the latest science with traditional knowledge and stakeholder engagement to support effective and equitable environmental governance.

More information: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

### About the Project

This consultancy supports two major technical assistance initiatives:

- Project 1 (IONIQ Forest Phase 2): "Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions through Mangrove Restoration to Improve the Environment in Ca Mau Province".
- Project 2 (Coastal Resilience): "Strengthening Resilience through Sustainable Livelihood Support and Mangrove Restoration in Coastal Areas, Vinh Long Province".

### Position Details

- **Title:** Mangrove Restoration Consultant
- **Category:** National Individual Consultant
- **Duration:** 12 months (April 2026 – March 2027), approximately 30 working days
- **Payment Modality:** Delivery-based (against accepted deliverables)

### Description of the Assignment

The consultant will act as a technical bridge between project management and field execution. The assignment involves assessing 80,000 intended mangrove plantings in Ca Mau and 20,000 in Vinh Long, focusing on high-survival techniques for both mudflat "pioneer" zones and "mangrove-shrimp" pond systems.

### Scope of Work

The consultant is required to perform the following tasks:

#### Task 1: Field-based Assessment

1. Conduct on-site evaluations of planting locations in Ca Mau and Vinh Long provinces.
2. Evaluate soil suitability, hydrology, and the status of existing mangrove belts.
3. Evaluate the growth and development of mangroves at all project planting sites six months after planting.

#### Task 2: Technical & Environmental Advisory

1. Advise on the technical specifications for planting *Rhizophora apiculata* (Đước đỏ), *Avicennia marina* (Mắm trắng), and *Sonneratia caseolaris* (Bần chua) based on site-specific salinity.

#### Task 3: Community Training and Capacity Building

1. Develop training modules for local communities on effective mangrove planting techniques and long-term forest management.
2. Conduct hands-on training sessions for at least 100 households in Ca Mau and 60 households in Vinh Long.

### Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverable	Description	Level of Effort	Due Date
Field Assessment Report	Data on site suitability and environmental baselines.	5 days	April 2026

<b>Technical Guidelines</b>	Guideline for planting and management mangroves in mudflats and ponds.	7 days	May 2026
<b>Training for local communities</b>	Conduct training for local communities in Ca Mau and Vinh Long	4 days	May 2026
<b>6-Month Assessment Report</b>	Evaluation of mangrove development and survival rates.	8 days	November 2026
<b>Final Report</b>	Summary of all consultancy activities and expert inputs.	6 days	March 2027
<b>Total</b>		30 days	

### **Qualifications and Experience**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- MSc or PhD in Forestry, Coastal Ecology, Aquaculture, or Environmental Science with a focus on mangrove systems.
- Proven experience (minimum 5 years) with NGOs such as IUCN or GIZ; preference for candidates with experience in mangrove restoration in coastal areas, estuaries, and the Mekong Delta provinces.
- Demonstrated understanding of aquaculture–mangrove integration models.
- Familiarity with project development and community consultation in conservation or sustainable livelihoods.
- Excellent written and spoken Vietnamese and English. Experience in participatory conservation planning and community engagement.
- Strong analytical, facilitation, and communication skills.

### **Duty Station**

IUCN Viet Nam in Ho Chi Minh city, with required travel to project field sites.

### **Travel Requirements**

Travel to project field sites in Ca Mau and Vinh Long is required. All related travel costs will be reimbursed according to IUCN's travel policy (travel via public transport or IUCN vehicles for business trips from Ho Chi Minh city). Travel insurance will be arranged and covered by IUCN.

### **Application Process**

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be free of any conflict of interest.
- Be a citizen of Vietnam (for national positions).
- Be compliant with all applicable tax obligations.
- Not have been found guilty of environmental, financial, or ethical misconduct.
- Not be involved in any pending bankruptcy or legal proceedings.

### **Required Documents:**

Applicants must submit the following documents in PDF format:

- Letter of Expression of Interest (EOI), including proposed daily rate (inclusive of all applicable taxes).
- CV (following the attached form)
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate and PAN/VAT Registration.
- Signed Declaration Form [Attach if applicable].

**Submission Details:**

- Submission Deadline: 10 April 2026
- Email Address: Chu The Cuong <cuong.chuthe@iucn.org> **AND** Pham Hong Nhung <Nhung.PHAMHONG@iucn.org>
- Email Subject Line: IUCN -IONIQ-2026-RQ000933– Applicant Name
- All submissions must be in PDF format. If necessary, split large files into multiple emails (e.g., Email 1 of 2, Email 2 of 2).
- Do not use file-sharing links or platforms for submission.

**Additional Information**

- IUCN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without providing any reason.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further steps.