

Call for Quotation/Application for Consultancy Services

Title:

Pilot network of Fisher Volunteers (FVs) reporting incidental catch (bycatch) of sea turtles and other protected marine species through the using Bycatch App.

Objective of the Consultancy

Mobilize the role of the Fisheries Association and the Gia Lai Fisheries Sub-Department through the participation of local Fisher Volunteers using the reporting application to report incidental catches of sea turtles, marine mammals, and protected marine species to:

- Strengthen reporting of incidental catch (bycatch) cases involving sea turtles, marine mammals, and other legally protected marine species;
- Support field data collection for conservation and sustainable fisheries management through the reporting application trained and introduced in Gia Lai;
- Raise awareness and responsibility among fishing communities on responsible fisheries practices; and
- Reduce bycatch incidents and marine plastic pollution.

Background

Across Viet Nam's coastline, fishing is more than a livelihood — it's a way of life. Thousands of small-scale fishers rise before dawn each day, casting their nets into the sea that sustains their families and communities. Yet, beneath these waves lies a growing crisis that threatens both marine biodiversity and the very future of these coastal livelihoods.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has become a widespread challenge. Destructive practices such as trawling in seagrass beds or using cyanide and explosives in coral reefs are devastating fragile ecosystems. Unregistered boats, poor catch documentation, and limited capacity in fisheries administration have made sustainable management even more difficult.

Among the species most affected are Vietnam's **five species of sea turtles** — creatures that have roamed our oceans for over 100 million years. Each year, it is estimated that **over 1,000 sea turtles die** in Vietnamese waters, often as unintended bycatch in fishing gear such as trawls, gill nets, and longlines. The situation is particularly severe in the Central and South-Central provinces — including Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, and Khanh Hoa — where large fishing fleets operate with limited monitoring and support.

While awareness among fishers and local authorities is slowly growing, much more must be done to turn knowledge into lasting action.

Project Reference: *Protecting Viet Nam's sea turtles and empowering small-scale fishers for a sustainable future*

RfP Reference: P05302

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

About the Project

We aim to work hand-in-hand with small-scale fishers and local authorities to tackle bycatch and promote sustainable fisheries management. By combining local knowledge with accessible technology, we hope to protect endangered species and strengthen the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them. Project will pilot this initiative in Gia Lai (old Binh Dinh) Province, working with 15–40 small-scale fishing boats, fisheries managers, and conservation organizations.

The project will strengthen community participation in marine biodiversity conservation by reducing turtle bycatch through a volunteer observer network, assessing migratory species to inform mobile marine protected areas, and promoting awareness and education. The initiative contributes directly to Vietnam's commitments under national endangered species protection laws and aligns with global biodiversity and sustainability goals (CBD, SDG 14: Life Below Water) by safeguarding critical marine habitats and fostering resilient coastal communities.

Position Details

- Title: Local Fisheries Consultant
- Category: National Individual Consultant
- Duration: 40-50 working days, spread over 07 months (June – Dec 2026)
- Payment Modality: Delivery-based (against accepted deliverables)
- Budget: VND 75,000,000 (inclusive of all taxes)

Description of the Assignment

The consultant will directly coordinate and oversee all operational activities of the Fisher Volunteer network participating in the pilot program on monitoring incidental catch of sea turtles and marine wildlife. Work closely with fishers to maintain engagement and organize community communication activities, training sessions, review meetings, and final evaluation workshops.

Scope of Work

- Develop and implement monthly activity plans for the Fisher Volunteer network.
- Monitor the use of the application or reporting forms by fishers to report sightings and incidental catches of sea turtles and marine wildlife.
- Serve as the main focal point for regular communication with Fisher Volunteers in the project sites.

- Monitor participation levels, remind and encourage volunteers to submit reports through the app on time.
- Encourage and recognize active reporting cases to maintain long-term engagement of Fisher Volunteers.
- Support fishers in addressing difficulties related to the use of the bycatch reporting app or paper reporting forms.
- Organize awareness-raising training sessions for fishing communities at fishing ports, fishing groups, or coastal communities approximately 4–5 times during the program period.
- Collect practical feedback from fishers regarding challenges in safely releasing entangled sea turtles, marine mammals, or other protected marine species.
- Coordinate logistical preparations for field monitoring trips, training activities, and communication events.
- Compile monthly reports on sea turtles, marine mammals, and other endangered protected marine species.
- Coordinate with technical agencies to verify information and provide feedback to fishers.
- Coordinate with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on technical support activities, additional training, field monitoring, mid-term review meetings, and final workshops as appropriate.
- Report implementation progress to the Chair/Vice Chair of the Gia Lai Fisheries Association and IUCN.
- Recommend adjustments to the operation of the Fisher Volunteer network to improve reporting effectiveness.
- Serve as the focal point connecting local communities authorities, Gia Lai Fisheries Sub-Department, fishing port management boards, and fishing groups.

Deliverables and Timeline

No	Deliverable	Format	Timeline
1	Monthly activity plans, list of issues encountered and proposed solutions in using App bycatch;	Vietnamese	Monthly
2	Organize training and meetings with Fishers Volunteer; Consolidated Fisher Volunteer bycatch/observer data reports; training, meeting reports and articles based on the activities;	Vietnamese	June – Oct 2026
3	Articles and final reports on Fisher Volunteer program activities, including organizing final workshop.	Vietnamese	Dec 2026

Qualifications and Experience

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- University degree or relevant background in fisheries, marine conservation, community development, environmental management, social sciences, or related fields;
- At least 3–5 years of experience working with coastal communities, fishers, fisheries co-management groups, or community-based conservation programs.
- Demonstrated experience in engaging and maintaining participation of local fisher networks or community volunteers in Gia Lai Province.
- Experience organizing community outreach activities, training workshops, awareness campaigns, or participatory meetings with fishers and local authorities.
- Good understanding of fisheries issues, marine biodiversity conservation, bycatch mitigation, and protected marine species in Vietnam.
- Strong facilitation and communication skills.

Duty Station

Applicant based in Gia Lai

Travel Requirements

No travel required for this assignment.

Application Process

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be free of conflict of interest.
- Be a Vietnamese citizen (for national position).
- Be tax compliant.
- Not have been found guilty of environmental, financial, or ethical misconduct.

Required Documents:

Applicants must submit the following documents in PDF format:

- Letter of Expression of Interest (EOI), with proposed daily rate.
- CV (using attached form).
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate and Tax Registration.
- Signed Declaration Form (if applicable).

Submission Details:

- **Submission Deadline:** **25 May 2026**
- **Email Address:** ***hien.buithithu@iucn.org***
- **Email Subject Line:** ***IUCN-VN-TURTLE-2026-01 – 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.