

## **Terms of Reference: Scenarios Expert - Marine and Coastal Ecosystems - for Thailand's National Ecosystem Assessment**

### **Background:**

Thailand is conducting a National Ecosystem Assessment with a focus on marine and coastal ecosystems. As part of this assessment, we require an expert to lead the development, application and analysis of 3-4 scenario archetypes through a participatory process.

Thailand formally joined the global National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) Initiative in April 2021, together with Botswana, the Dominican Republic, and Malawi. The Thailand NEA project will run until September 2026, and is divided into four stages: Scoping, Expert Evaluation, Approval, and Dissemination and Use of the Assessment Findings. The assessment will examine the state of knowledge on past, present and future interactions between people and nature, including by highlighting thresholds, feedback, synergies, and trade-offs. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) framework (Diaz et. al., 2015) has been used as a guidance and integrated with other tools for improving the capabilities of the science-policy interface and achieving the project's goals.

Scenarios of future trends, impacts and responses related to biodiversity and ecosystem services is a key element of the Expert Evaluation stage, and will be integrated into the final assessment outputs.

### **Objectives:**

1. To develop and apply 3-4 scenario archetypes related to the future drivers and impacts, status and trends, and policy options for Thailand's marine and coastal ecosystems. Initial discussion of the scenarios suggest that these may include (but not limited to):
  - A Business as Usual scenario
  - A Blue Growth scenario
  - A Nature-Positive scenario (aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)
2. To facilitate a participatory process engaging diverse stakeholders and knowledge holders, in order to a) further develop and document the scenario archetypes, and b) to apply the scenarios to highlight possible impacts, trajectories and policy options for coastal and marine ecosystems.
3. To integrate the scenario analysis into the broader National Ecosystem Assessment framework and outputs, including A chapter on scenarios for inclusion in the full NEA report; a summary of key findings/messages for inclusion in the Summary for Policy Makers; and development of an infographic or similar to capture key findings related to the scenarios.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

The contract will be under UNEP-WCMC who will act as overall supervisor for this assignment. However, the scenarios expert will work closely with the Thailand NEA team, in particular the National Coordinator and relevant chapter lead authors (e.g. governance/policy chapter, Indigenous & Local Knowledge (ILK) chapter). The main tasks are:

1. Review existing literature, knowledge sources and data on scenarios and projections relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially marine and coastal ecosystems, in the Thailand context, including reference to the Thailand NEA scoping report, draft chapters, knowledge/resources compiled during preparation of the assessment, role of ILK in scenarios, and existing scenarios for the country (e.g. climate change projections).
2. Design and facilitate participatory workshops to develop and refine scenario archetypes with stakeholders, and support the Thailand NEA team to deliver these workshops. The exact number, content and timing of the workshops shall be decided with the Thailand NEA team, who will manage all workshop logistics.
3. Document the final scenario archetypes and together with lead author/expert and stakeholder inputs, and develop an appropriate approach/framework (qualitative, quantitative or both) for projecting future changes under each scenario and analyzing impacts.
4. With inputs from lead authors, experts and stakeholders, analyze the potential impacts of each scenario on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Thailand's marine and coastal areas.
5. Capture findings in workshop reports as needed, and synthesize final results/findings into a report, including policy implications and management options for each scenario, and noting relevance to other chapters of the NEA report. This scenarios report will also be used by the expert as a basis for preparing the scenarios chapter for the full NEA report.
6. Collaborate with the broader assessment team, in particular with Chapter Lead Authors, to integrate the scenario analysis with other components of the National Ecosystem Assessment, e.g. into specific chapters.

**Required Qualifications and Desired Expertise:**

1. Advanced degree in environmental science, marine biology, ecology, or a related field.
2. Proven experience in scenario planning and analysis, particularly in marine and coastal ecosystems.
3. Strong understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and ecosystem assessment concepts.
4. Experience with participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement.
5. Proficiency in relevant modelling and mapping software desirable
6. Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
7. Familiarity with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant policy contexts, and with the Thailand ecosystem and policy context.
8. Thai language skills

## Deliverables:

1. Inception report outlining the proposed methodology for scenario development and analysis, and workplan (with detailed timeline).
2. Workshop report summarizing the outcomes of stakeholder engagement on scenarios
3. Detailed report on scenario archetypes and findings, including analysis of impacts, policy implications, and management options.
4. Maps and/or other visual representations of scenario outcomes.
5. Scenarios chapter for NEA report and key messages for the Summary for Policy Makers

## Tentative timeline:

Task/deliverable	Timeframe
Review literature & knowledge; inception report	December 2024 – January 2025
Participatory workshop/s prepared and held	February – June 2025
Framework developed and analysis conducted	April – August 2025
Scenarios report	September-October 2025
Draft chapter and key messages for SPM	December 2025
Final chapter and key messages for SPM	January-February 2026

## How to apply:

Please submit the following documents in English to [assessment@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:assessment@unep-wcmc.org)

- A one page cover letter outlining your suitability for the position
- A CV of no more than 4 pages
- A financial proposal in table format clearly showing: 1) the tasks/activities covered by the assignment; 2) your estimate of person-days required per task/activity - the financial/technical proposal should be based on 35-45 days of work; 3) your proposed daily rate in USD

## Resources: Thailand assessment-related

- Thailand NEA Scoping Report: <https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/resource/th-scoping-report/>
- Some example NEA Reports:
  - Vietnam NEA Report: <https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/content/uploads/2022/06/Vietnam-Final-NEA-Report-Eng-final.pdf#page=135>
  - Grenada NEA Report: [https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/content/uploads/2023/10/CANARI-NEA-Report-2023\\_Final\\_V03.pdf#page=435](https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/content/uploads/2023/10/CANARI-NEA-Report-2023_Final_V03.pdf#page=435)
  - Thailand TEEBAgriFood Assessment – Sustainable Rice in the Northeast and Central regions of Thailand <https://www.unep.org/topics/teeb/teeb-agriculture-and-food-teebagrifood/teeb-agrifood-country-implementation>

## Resources: Scenarios-related

1. IPBES resources on scenarios & models

- Scenarios & models assessment: <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/scenarios>
  - Developing multiscale and integrative nature–people scenarios using the Nature Futures Framework: <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pan3.10146>
2. NEA Initiative resources on scenarios:
- Deciding on scenarios: <https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/content/uploads/2022/07/Scenarios-1-Deciding-on-which-scenarios.pdf>
  - Getting started with scenarios <https://www.ecosystemassessments.net/content/uploads/2022/07/Scenarios-2-getting-started-with-scenarios.pdf>