

Terms of reference (ToR) for the procurement of services below the EU threshold

CONFIDENTIAL

Project title:	Project number/
Consultancy Services for Pilot Intrinsic Ecological Value in Cambodia	cost centre:
	WBS G-018142-003
Subject of the tender procedure:	Tender number
Development of methodologies to scale the Intrinsic Ecological Value as an evaluation tool for Nature	10046006

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0.List of Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
EU	European Union
GHGs	Greenhouse gases
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
NDC	Nationally determined contribution

1. Context

Brief information on the project: Support of the Nature Solution Finance Hub in Asia (UNS)

The "Unterstützung des Nature Solutions Finance Hub in Asien (UNS)" module aims to support the Nature Solutions Finance Hub (NSFH) in Asia, under the project number 2025.2085.6. This initiative is part of a broader effort to align global finance with equitable, nature-positive outcomes, contributing to sustainable development. The NSFH focuses on developing financial instruments that support nature-based solutions (NbS) and address the biodiversity financing gap.

The module also addresses the role of nature-based solutions in climate adaptation strategies for all relevant sectors like water management, cities, agriculture, infrastructure, etc. It aims to build knowledge on climate adaptive actions through networking and knowledge exchange. Furthermore, the module will focus on gender mainstreaming in water management, recognizing the critical role of women in adaptation governance.

Overall, the module seeks to develop financial instruments tailored to NbS, enhance nature markets, improve nature risk and alignment, promote nature investment. It will involve research and analysis, development of financial instruments, stakeholder engagement, implementation and monitoring, and capacity building to achieve its objectives.

UNS and the international cooperation

The project is embedded in existing cooperation frameworks between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union. The EU-funded programme "Nature Solutions Finance Hub (EU Contribution to ASEAN)" includes both financial and technical cooperation with the NSFH. In this context, EU grants are leveraged with ADB loans to finance green infrastructure and climate adaptation projects in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. In addition, part of the EU project funds is intended to be used for feasibility studies.

The project contributes to improving the investment pipeline of scalable Nature-based Solutions (NbS) approaches in the focus countries. Several of the projects identified through the technical cooperation (TC) module can be further developed to financial close using EU project funds. Furthermore, the funds are intended to be used for risk mitigation, thereby increasing the attractiveness of the projects for private financial investors. In this way, the development of innovative instruments for mobilising private capital is strengthened. Moreover, the experience gained by the EU can be utilised for upscaling at the regional level through the TC module (outcome level).

The contribution of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to the NSFH includes the secondment of a long-term expert to the NSFH as well as potential co-financing. Synergies arise with the TC experts deployed under the project, particularly in the development of financing instruments and the organisation of regional exchange formats. In principle, it is possible to use AFD financial resources to further develop the projects identified within the TC module. This creates a leverage effect for the TC module (outcome level).

Close cooperation with KfW is also envisaged. Investment requirements as well as KfW's existing NbS portfolio are to be taken into account in the identification of projects in order to enable potential co-financing. In addition, KfW will contribute to the project as a knowledge partner as needed and where possible (outcome level).

Close coordination will also take place with the interface projects funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

(BMUKN) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI). Scaling potential arises for the NbS measures implemented by IKI projects through the NSFH (outcome level), as the experience gained can be transferred to other countries.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the implementation of Pilot at Cambodia under the project Support of the Nature Solutions Finance Hub (NSFH) in Asia, supported by GIZ in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Intrinsic Ecological Value (IEV) is an innovative method to evaluate nature, biodiversity and climate resilience, which can be used as the foundation for a financial instrument designed to transform carbon from a liability into an asset. The method aims to bridge carbon markets, ecosystem services, and capital markets. The method was published in an article in Treitler, R., Kongapai, P., Ngamsing, J., Sansud, K., & others. (2021). *Economic benefits of EbA measures to assure water security: A case study on EbA for sediment trap versus dredging*. In M. Babel, A. Haarstrick, L. Ribbe, V. R. Shinde, & N. Dichtl (Eds.), *Water security in Asia: Opportunities and challenges in the context of climate change* (pp. 581-593). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-54612-4_43

The pilot will test the application of a full lifecycle of a IEV based financial instrument including registration, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), issuance, governance simulation, and reporting—within a controlled, real-world environment using publicly accessible ecosystems.

The pilot is funded by GIZ NSFH, with partner contributions limited to in-kind support such as data access and ecosystem permissions.

2. Tasks to be performed by the contractor

Objective: The primary objective of this assignment is to design, implement, and evaluate a pilot system for the Intrinsic Ecological Value (IEV) in Asia, with a focus on testing its real-world applicability as an innovative climate finance instrument that links verified carbon removals and ecosystem services to structured financial and governance mechanisms.

- Design and implement an Intrinsic Ecological Value pilot that establishes a fully operational framework for the issuance, tracking, and management of the IEV, where each unit represents one verified ton of CO₂ removed and water stored through eligible nature-based or technological interventions.
- Test the technical feasibility of the IEV system by assessing its performance under real-world pilot conditions, including system architecture, operational workflows, governance structures, stakeholder coordination, and market interaction mechanisms.
- Validate Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) methodologies and governance structures to ensure that carbon removal quantification is accurate, transparent, auditable, and aligned with internationally recognized standards, including UNFCCC principles and emerging Article 6 frameworks.
- Generate actionable insights for scaling IEV and related climate instruments into national and global carbon markets, including lessons learned from pilot implementation, identification of system bottlenecks, regulatory gaps, and practical recommendations for integration into broader climate finance ecosystems and carbon trading mechanisms.

The Consultant will be responsible for the support to GIZ for the implementation of the Intrinsic Ecological Value (IEV) Pilot, including technical design, operational deployment, verification,

market testing, and final reporting. The scope of work is structured into 08 interrelated components to ensure the pilot comprehensively tests the feasibility of Carbon Vouchers as a scalable climate finance mechanism.

2.1 Pilot Design & Setup

The Consultant will support overall technical and operational foundation of the pilot.

- Defining the pilot methodology, implementation framework, and operational procedures for the Intrinsic Ecological Vale system
- Preparing a detailed inception workplan, governance arrangements, and stakeholder coordination mechanisms
- Identifying and assessing suitable pilot ecosystems, including terrestrial and/or marine systems, based on carbon sequestration potential, feasibility, accessibility, permanence, and stakeholder readiness in coordination with stakeholders
- Conducting site screening and ecosystem prioritization using technical, ecological, and implementation criteria
- Developing baseline scenarios for carbon sequestration and/or carbon removal using recognized carbon accounting methodologies
- Establishing pilot boundaries, system assumptions, and project eligibility criteria
- Defining project including requirements, data standards, and operational protocols

2.2 MRV System Development

The Consultant will design and operationalize a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework to ensure credible and transparent carbon and water accounting.

- Designing an MRV framework aligned with UNFCCC principles, IPCC guidance, and internationally recognized carbon accounting practices.
- Developing protocols for data collection, monitoring frequency, reporting formats, and verification workflows
- Applying digital monitoring tools, including:
 - GIS and remote sensing
 - Satellite imagery analysis
 - Field-based measurement systems
 - Mobile data collection applications etc.
- Developing methodologies for carbon quantification of removal potential in tCO₂/ha and carbon stock per ha
- Developing methodologies for quantification of water volumes
- Establishing quality assurance and quality control procedures
- Ensuring data transparency, traceability, reproducibility, and auditability throughout the pilot lifecycle

2.3 Project Registration & Verification

- Registering pilot project(s) under the established framework
 - Preparing project documentation, including project description, boundaries, baseline assumptions and monitoring plan
- Conducting field validation and technical verification activities
- Reviewing project data
- Ensuring compliance with agreed standards, methodologies, and operating procedures
- Preparing verification records and audit documentation

2.4 Intrinsic Ecological Value Application

- Calculating verified carbon removals based on approved methodologies and monitored data
- Calculating water balances
- Converting verified removals and water volumes into a financial instrument
- Preparing issuance approval documentation
- Developing issuance protocols and serial numbering systems
- Establishing and supporting the registry interface for recording and managing issued vouchers
- Documenting issuance metadata, project identifiers, and verification references

2.5 Governance Simulation

The Consultant will support the institutional governance architecture required for the developed financial instrument.

- Development of institutional structure
- Conduct governance stress-testing to identify operational bottlenecks and institutional risks
- Develop recommendations to strengthen governance structures for future scale-up.

2.6 Market & Private Sector Engagement

- The Consultant will test the market relevance and practical usability of the financial instrument.
 - Identifying potential buyers, users, or institutional participants
- Mapping relevant stakeholders including corporates, financial institutions etc.
- Simulating purchase transactions and settlement processes
- Testing reporting and disclosure use cases
 - Assessing corporate integration pathways, including accounting treatment, balance sheet recognition, sustainability disclosures and internal carbon accounting use cases

2.7 Legal & Policy Alignment

- Reviewing compatibility with national GHG accounting systems, carbon accounting rules and national climate frameworks etc.
- Assessing alignment with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, international carbon transfer requirements and corresponding adjustment rules etc,
- Identifying risks related to double counting , ownership rights, environmental claims, regulatory compliance etc.
- Identifying regulatory gaps, barriers, and enabling conditions for scale-up

2.8 Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

- Tracking pilot implementation against defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Monitoring technical, operational, governance, and market performance metrics
- Evaluating system efficiency, transparency, and stakeholder usability
- Documenting lessons learned, implementation challenges, and system bottlenecks
- Identifying technical and institutional improvement opportunities
- Preparing recommendations for scaling the financial instrument

2.9 Stakeholder Engagement

- Conduct stakeholder consultations and inception meetings to align expectations, roles, and responsibilities
- Support collaboration with policy and regulatory institutions to ensure alignment with national and international climate frameworks

2.10 Capacity Building and Training

The Consultant will develop a training module based on the case study findings and Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) to strengthen stakeholder understanding of the IEV based system. A **half-day to one-day training** will be conducted for officials and relevant stakeholders, covering key topics such as MRV processes, project registration, issuance procedures, and governance mechanisms. Training materials, presentations, and summary documentation will be provided as part of the assignment.

In addition to the outputs, the contractor must be responsible on the following requirements.

- The contractor provides equipment and supplies (consumables) and assumes the associated operating and administrative costs.
- The contractor manages costs and expenditures, accounting processes and invoicing in line with the requirements of GIZ.
- The contractor reports regularly to GIZ in accordance with the current AVB of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Certain milestones, as laid out in the table below, are to be achieved during the contract term:

Milestones/partial works	Deadline
Inception Report • Detailed methodology framework, workplan and pilot design	2 weeks from the issue of contract
MRV Framework Report • Methodologies, tools, and verification protocols, Carbon quantification methodology etc,	8 weeks from the issue of contract
Pilot Implementation Report • Documentation of registration, verification, and issuance, Validation documentation Verification records and compliance reports	12 weeks from the issue of contract
Governance Simulation Report • Performance of governance structures, Governance recommendations	16 weeks from the issue of contract
Policy & Regulatory Assessment • Policy and Regulatory Assessment Report , Gap analysis Legal recommendations in alignment with national and international framework	20 weeks from the issue of contract
Final Report and Scale up strategy • Key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations	24 weeks from the issue of contract

The GIZ will provide support to the consultants regarding contact and coordination at the partners as well as on-site logistical coordination via GIZ other means decided by them accordingly. For this stage, the contractor shall report to the project steering committee (e.g , GIZ NSFH) and submit short monthly reports on the tasks performed during such period. Throughout the consultancy regular follow-up meetings shall take place. GIZ team will coordinate such meetings.

Note:

GIZ shall be responsible to give inputs/comments/suggestions on the deliverables submitted by the contractor, and Data ownership and confidentiality

- All outputs remain the property of the contracting authority
- Partner contributions remain anonymous unless otherwise agreed
- Data sharing must comply with agreed confidentiality terms

Period of assignment: from 2 December 2026 until 30 June 2027.

3. Concept

In the tender, the tenderer is required to show *how* the objectives defined in Chapter 2 (Tasks to be performed) are to be achieved, if applicable under consideration of further method-related requirements (technical-methodological concept). In addition, the tenderer must describe the project management system for service provision.

Note: The numbers in parentheses correspond to the lines of the technical assessment grid.

Technical-methodological concept

Strategy (1.1): The tenderer is required to consider the tasks to be performed with reference to the objectives of the services put out to tender (see Chapter 1 Context) (1.1.1). Following this, the tenderer presents and justifies the explicit strategy with which it intends to provide the services for which it is responsible (see Chapter 2 Tasks to be performed) (1.1.2).

The tenderer is required to present the actors relevant for the services for which it is responsible and describe the **cooperation (1.2)** with them.

The tenderer is required to present and explain its approach to **steering** the measures with the project partners (1.3.1) and its contribution to the **results-based monitoring system** (1.3.2).

The tenderer is required to describe the key **processes** for the services for which it is responsible and create an **operational plan** or schedule (1.4.1) that describes how the services according to Chapter 2 (Tasks to be performed by the contractor) are to be provided. In particular, the tenderer is required to describe the necessary work steps and, if applicable, take account of the milestones and **contributions** of other actors (partner contributions) in accordance with Chapter 2 (Tasks to be performed) (1.4.2).

The tenderer is required to describe its contribution to knowledge management for the partner (1.5.1) and GIZ and to promote scaling-up effects (1.5.2) under **learning and innovation**.

Project management of the contractor (1.6)

The tenderer is required to explain its approach for coordination with the GIZ project. In particular, the project management requirements specified in Chapter 2 (Tasks to be performed by the contractor) must be explained in detail.

The tenderer is required to draw up a **personnel assignment plan** with explanatory notes that lists all the experts proposed in the tender; the plan includes information on assignment dates (duration and expert days) and locations of the individual members of the team complete with the allocation of work steps as set out in the schedule.

The tenderer is required to describe its backstopping concept. The following services are part of the standard backstopping package, which (like ancillary personnel costs) must be factored into the fee schedules of the staff listed in the tender in accordance with Section 3.3.1 of the GIZ AVB:

- Service-delivery control
- Managing adaptations to changing conditions
- Ensuring the flow of information between the tenderer and GIZ
- Assuming personnel responsibility for the contractor's experts
- Process-oriented steering for implementation of the commission
- Securing the administrative conclusion of the project

4. Personnel concept

The tenderer is required to provide personnel who are suited to filling the positions described, on the basis of their CVs (see Chapter 7), the range of tasks involved and the required qualifications.

The below specified qualifications represent the requirements to reach the maximum number of points in the technical assessment

Tasks of the Team Leader

- Overall responsibility for the assignment including quality and timelines
- Preparation of reports and presentations
- Coordinating and ensuring communication with GIZ team, partners and others involved in the project
- Ensure all activities are performed in time and deliverable are submitted in time.
- Regular reporting in accordance with deadlines

4.1. Team Leader: Climate and Water Expert (Total number of expert days – 40 days)

Qualifications of the Consultant

- Education/training (2.1.1): university degree (Master) in Climate Change, Environmental Science, Environmental engineering, Meteorology, Natural Resources Management, Spatial planning, Finance, Economics, or any other qualification relevant to the assignment
- Language (2.1.2): C1-level language proficiency in English
- General professional experience (2.1.3): 10 years of professional experience in the climate change and water sector.

- Specific professional experience (2.1.4): 10 years experience with nature-based solutions (NbS) and land-use, knowledge of UNFCCC frameworks and Article 6 mechanisms and strong analytical and reporting capabilities
- Desirable (2.1.5.) - Experience with digital MRV tools, climate or water modelling, and familiarity with climate-linked financial instruments
- Regional experience (2.1.6): 10 years of experience in projects in Asian countries
- Development cooperation (DC) experience (2.1.7): 07 years of experience in DC projects
- Other (2.1.8): He/she should have excellent research and analytical skills to accomplish the tasks mentioned above and also proficient in digital tools like MS Office, stat Tool, Financial tools, Digital MRV tools or carbon registries etc

Key expert 1 – Data and remote sensing Expert (Total number of expert days – 55 days)

Tasks of key expert 1

- Data collection for the field
- MRV framework development
- Carbon quantification and baseline development
- Monitoring and verification protocols
- Ecosystem assessment and site screening
- Data management and digital MRV tools
- Verification support and issuance calculations
- Regular coordination with GIZ team

Qualifications of key expert 1

- Education/training (2.2.1): Post-Graduation in Environmental Science, Forestry, GIS, Natural Resource Management, or related field
- Language (2.2.2): C1 level language proficiency in English.
- General professional experience (2.2.3): 07 years of professional experience in data management, MRV systems, ecosystem assessment, or climate project monitoring and experience with nature based solutions, including forest, wetland, mangrove, agroforestry, or land-use carbon projects.
- Specific professional experience (2.2.4): 5 years experience in the design and implementation of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) or water balance systems for climate projects like assessment/biomass - estimation/baseline, water balances, development /carbon sequestration/removal quantification etc.
- Leadership/management experience (2.2.5): NA
- Regional experience (2.2.6): 7 years of experience in projects in Asian countries
- Development Cooperation (DC) experience (2.2.7): 5 years of experience in DC projects
- Other (2.2.8): Familiarity with IPCC methodologies, carbon standards, and environmental monitoring systems and Strong technical reporting and analytical skills

Soft skills of team members

In addition to their specialist qualifications, the following qualifications are required of team members:

- Team skills
- Initiative
- Communication skills
- Socio-cultural skills
- Efficient, partner- and client-focused working methods
- Interdisciplinary thinking

5. Costing requirements

The following basic calculations for the contract for works are a reference value based on the acceptance criteria for each partial work/milestone specified in Chapter 2 (Tasks to be performed by the contractor). Since the contract to be concluded is a contract for works, we would ask you to offer your services at a lump sum price.

In addition, the assessment of the financial bid is also based on the underlying daily rate. Please also provide the underlying daily rate. A breakdown of days is not required.

Milestones/partial works	Estimated expert days for orientation	Deadline/place
Inception Report	5	2 weeks from the issue of contract
MRV Framework Report	15	8 weeks from the issue of contract
Pilot Implementation Report	30	12 weeks from the issue of contract
Governance Simulation Report	10	16 weeks from the issue of contract
Policy & Regulatory Assessment	15	20 weeks from the issue of contract
Final Report and Scale up strategy	15	24 weeks from the issue of contract
Total expert days	95 days	2 weeks from the issue of contract

Assignment of personnel and travel expenses

Per diem allowances are reimbursed as a lump sum up to the maximum amounts permissible under tax law for each country as set out in the country table in the circular from the German Federal Ministry of Finance on travel expense remuneration (downloadable from the [German Federal Ministry of Finance – tax treatment of travel expenses and allowances for international business travel as of 1 January 2024/2025 \(GERMAN ONLY\)](#)).

Accommodation allowances are reimbursed as detailed in the specification of inputs below. With special justification, additional Accommodation costs up to a reasonable amount can be reimbursed against evidence. All business travel must be agreed in advance by the officer responsible for the project

Sustainability aspects for travel

GIZ has undertaken an obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ emissions) caused by travel. When preparing your tender, please incorporate options for reducing emissions, such as selecting the lowest emission booking class (economy) and using means of transport, airlines and flight routes with a higher CO₂ efficiency. For short distances, travel by train (second class) or e-mobility should be the preferred option.

CO₂ emissions caused by air travel must be offset. GIZ specifies a budget for this, through which the carbon offsets can be settled against evidence.

There are many different providers in the market for emissions certificates, and they have different climate impact ambitions. The [Development and Climate Alliance \(German only\)](#) has published a [list of standards \(German only\)](#). GIZ recommends using the standards specified there.

Any travel linked to a contract for works should be included in the following table.

Fee days	Number of experts	Number of days per expert	Total	Comments
Team Leader -Carbon Markets & Climate Finance Expert	1	40	40	
Key expert 1 – MRV & Carbon Accounting Expert	1	55	55	
Travel expenses	Quantity	Number per expert	Total	Comments
Per-diem allowance in country of assignment	2	15	30	lumpsum in connection with the travel assignment and GIZ regulation, to conduct interview or workshop. Per diem allowance for 5 domestic/international trips for Team leader, Expert 1 (5 trips X2 expert X3 days)
Overnight allowance in country of assignment	2	15	30	Overnight stays abroad: Note: Under the BMF travel expense regulations, overnight allowances not exceeding 100% of the lump sum amounts can be submitted for reimbursement against evidence. Up to 75% of the maximum rates specified in the travel expense regulations can be submitted for reimbursement on a lump-sum basis.

				Please indicate in the price schedule whether your offer is on a lump-sum basis or against evidence. Overnight stays in Germany (deviation from the travel expense regulations): Note: Overnight allowances of up to EUR 130 can be submitted for reimbursement against evidence. Up to EUR 80 can be submitted for reimbursement on a lump-sum basis. Please indicate in the price schedule whether your offer is on a lump-sum basis or against evidence.
Transport	Quantity	Number per expert	Total	Comments
International flights	2	2	4	Travel to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) Travel to the place of service delivery Cambodia. One trip includes one to and from flights
Domestic flights	0	0	0	
CO₂ compensation for air travel (domestic) Link to working aid and table for determining the budget and Guidance for GIZ service providers on avoiding, reducing and offsetting GHG emissions on setting the budget.	2	2	EUR 256	- A fixed budget of EUR 64 per flight is earmarked for settling carbon offsets against evidence. - Flight within ASEAN countries (If contractor is based in ASEAN countries)
Travel expenses (train, car) Taxi	15	2	30	Travel within the country of assignment, transfer to/from airport etc.
Other travel expenses	5		5	visa costs
Other costs	Number	Price	Total	Comments
Flexible Remuneration	1	5,000	5,000	A budget of EUR 5,000 is foreseen for flexible remuneration. Please incorporate this budget into the price schedule.

				Use of the flexible remuneration item requires prior written approval from GIZ.
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Workshops, events and trainings

The contractor supports the following workshops/:

- Workshop or consultation relevant stakeholder and with ADB, The Consultant will develop a training module based on the case study and Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for the Carbon Voucher system. A half-day or one-day training will be conducted for officials and relevant stakeholders. The cost for organizing the workshop will be borne by GIZ.

6. Inputs of GIZ or other actors

GIZ and/or other actors are expected to make the following available: Logistics for workshops. The logistics for the workshops and meetings must be excluded in the offer as GIZ will be responsible for the organization of any events. The contractor must inform and coordinate with GIZ for the logistics of any meetings/workshops required for the assignment.

GIZ will arrange all logistics and organization aspects of workshops and meetings with partners in one of ASEAN Countries. Hence, the contractor must liaise closely and coordinate the logistical and organizational details of any workshops/meetings/training, activities, etc. with GIZ team. All logistic and organizational aspects: venue, material requested, daily allowance, transport, catering expenses for the planned events and the participants will be in accordance with GIZ regulations.

The contractor is responsible for the **preparation and delivering the technical content** including TOR of the event and budget calculations.

7. Requirements on the format of the tender

The structure of the tender must correspond to the structure of the ToR. In particular, the detailed structure of the concept (Chapter 3) should be organised in accordance with the positively weighted criteria in the assessment grid (not with zero). The tender must be legible (font size 11 or larger) and clearly formulated. It must be drawn up in English.

The complete tender must not exceed 15 pages (excluding CVs). If one of the maximum page lengths is exceeded, the content appearing after the cut-off point will not be included in the assessment. External content (e.g. links to websites) will also not be considered.

The CVs of the personnel proposed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the ToRs must be submitted using the format specified in the terms and conditions for application. The CVs shall not exceed 4 pages each. They must clearly show the position and job the proposed person held in the reference project and for how long. The CVs can also be submitted in English.

As the contract to be concluded is a contract for works, please offer a fixed lump sum fee based on the specified milestones. All other relevant cost (e.g. travel expenses, equipment, etc.) will be reimbursed at cost. The price bid will be evaluated based on the specified lump

sum price. In addition, please also provide the underlying daily rate. A breakdown of days is not required.