

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Technical Support to the FAO Asia Pacific Water Scarcity Programme

The Australian Water Partnership (AWP) is seeking to appoint a team of Australian and local experts to support the Asia Pacific Water Scarcity Program, jointly funded by AWP and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The initial program of activities is in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Activity Background

The Water Scarcity Program (WSP) aims to prepare the region for a productive and climate resilient future. Water managers across the region will need to adapt to an increasingly variable water future due to climate change. The WSP will establish National Multi-disciplinary Teams (NMTs) within government to develop Water Scarcity Action Plans (WSAPs), and roadmaps for the implementation of water accounting and allocation. It will facilitate regional cooperation, work to improve governance, and support innovation in the water sector.

The WSP draws on the successful implementation of the FAO [Water Scarcity Initiative](#) in the Near East and North Africa where a network of partners, which currently include over thirty regional and international organisations, is working to provide member countries with a wealth of opportunities to learn and share practices in the sustainable use and management of water. It recognises that successful implementation at the national level is dependent upon strong partnerships with government departments and local agencies.

Partnerships, accounting, allocation, and implementation are all fundamental to the inclusive management of water scarcity and adaptation to future changes in climate. The WSP aims to embed these in government to ensure successes last beyond the life of the program.

Activity Description

The WSP will support countries across the region to address the challenges associated with increasing water scarcity. AWP is collaborating with FAO in jointly funding an initial program of activities in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. This program will be split into two phases.

Phase I will focus on understanding national water tenure arrangements (water tenure analysis), fostering multidisciplinary approaches to water scarcity management (establishing national multi-disciplinary teams), identifying key areas for national action (water scarcity action plans), developing practical capacity in conducting routine water accounting (water accounting training), developing a pilot water account through a series of 'learning by doing' workshops with NMTs (water accounting roadmaps) and supporting the establishment of a

regional cooperative platform, via regional engagement on water scarcity at the 'Regional Technical Workshop on Water Scarcity'.

Phase II will then focus on linking new water accounting to potential water allocation frameworks and processes in the individual countries and creating regional momentum for change at the 'Regional Water Scarcity Symposium' where countries from across the Asia-Pacific region with leading expertise in water scarcity management will be invited to participate in key discussion on water scarcity. Further, key project findings, outputs, and outcomes from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam will be presented (pending outcomes and lessons learned from Phase I).

FAO has requested technical support from Australia to develop key aspects of the WSP across both phases. AWP will fund an Australian Partner/s to provide practical expertise in water accounting and allocation for more effective water scarcity management. It will also fund FAO and an Australian Expert (Dr Hugh Turrall, also an Australian partner) under separate contracts to support overall coordination and delivery of the WSP in the three countries. A Project Steering Committee comprising representatives from FAO and AWP will provide overall activity coordination and oversight.

Phase I of the WSP will be implemented across a 14-month period from January 2023 until March 2024. Phase II will be designed in detail throughout 2023 and launched immediately following Phase I (funding permitting). This call for proposals is for Phase I only.

The successful Australian Partner/s will need to engage local experts including National Technical Water Experts in Thailand and Vietnam, Junior National Water Experts in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam, and an International GEDSI Expert. The Team will work closely with the NMTs established in collaboration with the FAO, as well as with the FAO Project Manager, FAO-appointed staff and Australian Expert Hugh Turrall.

The main tasks of the Australian Partner are to:

- Co-develop a Workplan with FAO including a Monitoring and Evaluation framework
- Provide support to FAO in GEDSI mainstreaming the Water Tenure Analysis and conducting a final technical review
- Work with FAO to prepare a list of potential members for the NMT and prioritise NMT nominees
- Support FAO in preparing for NMT meetings, and provide technical backstopping and final review of Water Scarcity Action Plans
- Contribute to the National Water Accounting and Allocation Training content
- Develop National Water Accounting Roadmaps with the NMTs for Thailand and Vietnam and implement 4 water accounting workshops
- Support the development of and provide technical review of the Regional Water Accounting Practitioner Guide final draft
- Attend and provide input to the High-Level Technical Meeting on Water Scarcity

The Australian Partner/s leads on:

- Developing a Workplan with FAO
- Supporting the NMTs to develop National Water Accounting Roadmaps in Thailand and Vietnam
- Implementing 4 water accounting workshops in Thailand and Vietnam

The Australian Partner/s will support FAO and the Australian Expert (Hugh Turrall) on:

- Producing a Water Tenure Analysis for Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Establishing NMTs in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Developing Water Scarcity Action Plans for Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam
- NMT meetings in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam
- National Water Accounting and Allocation Training
- Regional Water Accounting Practitioner Guide
- High-Level Technical Meeting on Water Scarcity

This activity will be funded under the Australia-Mekong Water Facility. The upper budget limit for this contract is AU\$543,670. The Australian Partner/s will need to sub-contract a minimum of 2 National Technical Water Experts (1 in Thailand and 1 in Vietnam), Junior National Water Experts (3 – one in each country), and an International GEDSI Expert to complete the milestones outlined in the Terms of Reference. Expenses for this activity include national workshops and water accounting roadmap consultations, and the Regional High-Level Technical Workshop in Thailand which will be attended by the Australian Partner/s, National Water Experts and Junior Water Experts.

End of Activity Outcomes

1. Strengthened cooperation on water scarcity management between the target countries, FAO, AWP, DFAT and all key stakeholders.
2. More equitable, transparent, and evidence-based water allocation policy due to the improved understanding of the relationships with respect to water resources (including GEDSI analysis).
3. New momentum for national governments in the target countries to establish a permanent, multidisciplinary policy space for improved water scarcity management via the establishment of '**NMTs**' and to take action in this space with '**WSAPs**'.
4. Strengthened national and regional capacities in inclusive and progressively accurate water accounting via the '**National Water Accounting and Allocation Trainings**', the development of '**National Water Accounting Roadmaps**' and the '**Regional Water Accounting Practitioner Guide**'.
5. Enhanced regional cooperation on water scarcity coping strategies and via the establishment of a '**Regional Cooperative Platform**'.

Application Procedure

Interested Partner/s should [submit a proposal using the online form](#) by 5.00pm AEST, Thursday 9th February, using the Australia-Mekong Water Facility Proposal Template provided. Late applications will not be accepted.

The proposal should include a description of the relevant experience of the partner/s, as well as proposed daily remuneration rates based on the [AWP Partners Remuneration Framework](#). Partners may wish to also consider annual rate increases using the DFAT [Aid Advisor Remuneration Framework](#). Proposals should be a maximum of 25 pages, plus annexes for Curriculum Vitae (CV) with a two page limit on each CV. Appendices and CVs should be included within your application document (max 1 file upload allowed).

The formation of consortiums of Partners is encouraged, with demonstration of inclusion and diversity.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Meeting the expertise and experience requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference at Annex A, including demonstrated experience in water scarcity and availability, water accounting, water allocation, stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange.
- Including effective approaches for information/knowledge sharing, including engagement of local partners.
- Using robust methods to achieve the objectives and tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference.
- Incorporating Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approaches and outcomes throughout the activity. Please refer to the [Addressing GEDSI in AWP concepts, proposals, and tenders: Guidance for partners](#) for integration of GEDSI approaches into the activity design and implementation.
- Demonstrated Value for Money.

Contact

For any questions, please contact [Lucy Chilver](#), Program Officer. All questions received will be compiled and presented with answers on the [Partner Portal](#).

Note that AWP reserves the right to not proceed with the outlined Activity and is not liable for any costs incurred by Partners in preparing proposals.

Annex A: Terms of Reference Tier B - APPLY

Activity Title	Technical support to the Asia Pacific Water Scarcity Programme
Activity location	<p>This activity will require work from within Australia, with likely travel to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. The focus will be on knowledge exchange requiring the organisation of both in-person workshops in the target countries, in addition to online workshops.</p> <p><u>Phase I Travel: (16 missions total – some missions may take place consecutively to reduce travel time)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x in-country NMT meetings in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand • 3 x in-country Water Accounting Roadmap Workshops in Vietnam and Thailand • 1 x Regional Technical Meeting on Water Scarcity in Thailand
Activity budget	AU\$543,670
Expected start & end dates	February 2023 – March 2024 (14 months)
Partners (In-Country / International)	<p>International Partner: United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Cambodia Partner: Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) Thailand Partner: Office for the National Water Resources (ONWR) Vietnam Partner: Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)</p>
Activity context	<p>The FAO Asia-Pacific Water Scarcity Program (WSP) will support partner countries bring water use within sustainable limits and prepare the region for a productive future with less water. Water users and managers across the region will also need to adapt to an increasingly variable and uncertain water future due to continuing climate change. The activities of the WSP lay the essential foundations to climate change adaptation and resilience building investments in the water sector.</p> <p>The WSP has assessed water scarcity across the Asia Pacific region and will now evaluate effective management response options, assist partner countries to develop the building blocks of adaptive water management, work to improve policy coherence and governance and facilitate regional cooperation.</p>
Activity description, rationale, and risks	<p>Activity Description & Rationale</p> <p>The WSP will support countries across the region to address the challenges associated with increasing water scarcity. AWP is collaborating with FAO in jointly funding an initial program of activities in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. This program will be split into two phases.</p> <p>Phase I will focus on understanding national water tenure arrangements (water tenure analysis), fostering multidisciplinary approaches to water scarcity management (establishing national multi-disciplinary teams), identifying key areas for national action (water scarcity action plans), developing practical capacity in conducting routine water accounting (water accounting training), developing a pilot water account through a series of ‘learning by doing’ workshops with NMTs (water accounting roadmaps) and supporting the establishment of a regional cooperative platform, via regional engagement on water scarcity at the ‘Regional Technical Workshop on Water Scarcity’.</p>

	<p>Phase II will then focus on linking new water accounting to potential water allocation frameworks and processes in the individual countries and creating regional momentum for change at the 'Regional Water Scarcity Symposium' where key project findings, outputs, and outcomes from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam will be presented. FAO has requested technical support from Australia to develop key aspects of the WSP across both phases. AWP is funding an Australian Partner/s to provide practical expertise in water accounting and water allocation for more effective water scarcity management. It is also funding FAO and an Australian Expert (Dr Hugh Turrall) under separate contracts to support overall coordination and delivery of the WSP in the three countries.</p> <p>The activity will support policy actions and reform that consider gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) in water resources management. Part of developing the WSAP will be to take the proposed water tenure analysis and ensure that all uses of water, including the often overlooked or invisible water needs of women and other marginalised groups, are considered in the water allocation process. The WSAP will ensure that the technical aspect of using data is not 'gender blind,' but focuses on how good data can uncover barriers to women, men, and people who are from sexual and gender minorities and their participation in water allocation programs and integrated water resource management. The WSAP also seeks to address the needs of women, minorities, and other vulnerable people in all planned actions, including legislation, policies, and programs, and support them to participate in decision-making so that decisions about water resource management and access to safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services promote inclusion.</p> <p>The WSP will have a strong focus on climate resilience, as water managers across the region are forced to adapt to an increasingly variable water future as a result of climate change. The activities of the WSP make up the essential foundation to all climate change adaptation and resilience building investments in the water sector. There is also a natural synergy between many climate-smart agricultural practices and better water management in the face of water scarcity.</p> <p>The WSP will address SDG 2 Zero Hunger and SDG 6 Water and Sanitation which is strongly aligned with AWP's mission to support trusted partnerships and respond to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Risks FAO, Australian Partner/s, and the Australian Expert (Hugh Turrall) will all identify and assess risks and propose mitigation measures. The proposed project is low-risk, with the only immediate and imminent threat to progress being the risks imposed by COVID-19. These are slowly subsiding, but as a precautionary measure, all the work included in the project can be completed as desk-based work if required. Further, if travel is not permitted, stakeholder consultations and face-to-face meetings can be carried out online.</p>
<p>End of Activity Outcomes</p>	<p>The objectives of the WSP Phase I are to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened cooperation on water scarcity management between the target countries, FAO, AWP, DFAT and all key stakeholders.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. More equitable, transparent, and evidence-based water allocation policy due to the improved understanding of the relationships with respect to water resources (including GEDSI analysis). 3. New momentum for national governments in the target countries to establish a permanent, multidisciplinary policy space for improved water scarcity management via the establishment of 'National Multidisciplinary Teams (NMT)' and to take action in this space with the Water Scarcity Action Plans (WSAPs). 4. Strengthened national and regional capacities in inclusive and progressively accurate water accounting via the National Water Accounting and Allocation Trainings', the development of 'National Water Accounting Roadmaps' and the 'Regional Water Accounting Practitioner Guide' 5. Enhanced regional cooperation on water scarcity coping strategies and via the establishment of a 'Regional Cooperative Platform'.
Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milestone 1: Work Plan co-developed by FAO and the Australian Technical Partner (Week 4) 2. Milestone 2: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 1 Report for Thailand (Week 12) 3. Milestone 3: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 1 Report for Vietnam (Week 20) 4. Milestone 4: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 2 Report for Thailand (Week 27) 5. Milestones 5: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 2 Report for Vietnam (Week 35) 6. Milestone 8: Summary of contributions to Regional Technical Meeting on Water Scarcity (Week 44) 7. Milestone 6: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 3 Report for Thailand (Week 53) 8. Milestone 7: Water Accounting Roadmap Workshop 3 Report for Vietnam (Week 57) 9. Milestone 9: Water Accounting Roadmaps Validation Workshop Report for Thailand and Vietnam (Week 60) 10. Milestone 10: Deliver 2 x Final Water Accounting Roadmaps for Thailand and Vietnam (Week 60) 11. Milestone 11: Final Project Report (Week 60)
Partner(s) capability requirements	<p>The Australia Partner/s should have demonstrated practical experience in the following core areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity management across all major economic sectors, including irrigated agriculture. • Practical experience in the implementation and management of water accounting processes in Australia, and supporting skills in hydrology, hydrogeology, simulation modelling and environmental flow estimation. • Practical experience in the implementation and management of water allocation procedures, processes, and systems. • Knowledge exchange with an emphasis on resilience to climate change. • Stakeholder engagement in developing and emerging economies. • GEDSI. <p>The Australian Partner/s will need to have knowledge and experience in managing water scarcity within Australia and the Mekong region.</p>

	<p>The Australian Partner/s will need to engage local partners that include a minimum of 2 National Technical Water Experts, one in each of Thailand and Vietnam, and 3 Junior National Water Experts, one in each of Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam, in addition to an International GEDSI Expert. The team will need appropriate leadership and coordination skills and good knowledge of working institutional arrangements for multi-sectoral water resources management.</p>
<p>Partnership and contracting arrangements</p>	<p>AWP will be funding components of the WSP through three separate contracts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct sourcing to FAO 2. Direct sourcing to Australian Expert (Hugh Turrall) 3. Open tender for Australian Partner <p>All three (FAO, the Australian Expert, and Australian Partner) will report to AWP with respect to contractual components and deliverables.</p> <p>Overall WSP coordination will be undertaken by FAO, overseen by the Project Steering Committee. The FAO Project Manager who is funded under this contract and other FAO appointed staff will work closely with the Australian Partner and Australian Expert. FAO will report to AWP for the AWP-funded components.</p> <p>The Australian Expert will report to AWP and AWP Management on the activity outputs outlined in the Outputs section. The Australian Expert will work closely with the Australian Partner and FAO-appointed staff.</p> <p>The Australian Partner will report to AWP and AWP Management on the activity outputs outlined in the Outputs section. The Australian Partner will work closely with the Australian Expert, FAO Project Manager and other FAO-appointed staff.</p>