



MEKONG
INSTITUTE



Mekong-Republic of Korea
Cooperation Fund

Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Management Manual



Website: www.mekongrok.com

Prepared by Mekong Institute
GMS Intergovernmental Organization

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1. INTRODUCTION: HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Manual is to provide general information on operational rules and practices that are applicable to MKCF.

1.2. Target Audience

All actors involved in the MKCF.

This manual serves as a reference guide for Project Proponents and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of the MKCF and as an introduction to the MKCF for new arrivals.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE MKCF

2.1. Background

Following the launch of the Mekong - ROK partnership in 2011, the MKCF was established in 2013 to encourage and support cooperation in six priority areas¹ outlined in the *Han River Declaration* of 2011.

It was agreed among five Mekong countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand) and the ROK that the MKCF will be financed through an annual contribution from the ROK to MI and will be managed by MI in accordance with the *Terms of Reference* (TOR) adopted at the 3rd Mekong – ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Moreover, at the 5th Mekong – ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Ministers recognized the need for a more efficient management of the MKCF and agreed to task MI to act as a Coordinator for the MKCF.

2.2. MKCF Logo

The MKCF logo was created with the view to enhancing the visibility of the MKCF to the wider public. The logo was created by Mekong Institute and represents the cooperation among the constituent states of the Mekong countries and the ROK. The logo should be utilized in the MKCF supported projects such as in project activities, e.g. training, workshop, seminar, conferences, project reports, publications, meeting and training materials, physical assets, facilities and equipment.



¹ 1. Infrastructure, 2. Information Communication Technology (ICT), 3. Green Growth, 4. Water Resource Development, 5. Agriculture and Rural Development, 6. Human Resource Development

3. APPLYING FOR THE MKCF

3.1. General Information

The Fund provides a grant for projects that are of regional in nature². Such project is aligned with the priorities of the country to address national issues that facilitate regional integration process. It can be implemented in a single country. However benefits should be shared among the countries in the Mekong region and the ROK.

In other words, the regional project should address the needs of several Member States in the Mekong region. Such projects can consider national development objectives but are developed per regional development objectives as well.

3.2. The MKCF's Seven Priority Areas

The Fund provides grants to support catalytic and innovative activities in the seven priority sectors: (1) Culture and Tourism, (2) Human Resources Development, (3) Agriculture and Rural Development, (4) Infrastructure, (5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT), (6) Environment, and (7) Non-traditional Security Challenges.

Some examples of the projects for each priority sectors can be:

Sectors	Sub sectors
(1) Culture and Tourism	▪ Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites ▪ Expansion of youth education in culture, arts, sports and creative economy ▪ Cultural tourism development, including creative industries on art, music including cultural exchanges and cultural entrepreneurship. ▪ Promote cultural and creative industries ▪ Empower cultural professionals and enhancing networks, knowledge and exchange among creative agents among Mekong and ROK ▪ Smart tourism - use of digital tools and services to advance sustainable and smart tourism, sustainable investment promotion in Mekong tourism sector
(2) Human Resources Development	▪ Promote education and skill development in digital age ▪ Cooperative alliance among the Mekong countries for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) / Career and Technical Education (CTE) ▪ Capacity building for MSMEs and entrepreneurs to enhance job opportunities and successful trade and investment environment in the Mekong countries ▪ Greening TVET, new skills, upskilling/reskilling on emerging industry needs

² Project designed to address regional issue(s), project interventions designed and benefits more than one country in the Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand)

(3) Agriculture and Rural Development	▪ Development of regional agricultural value chain ▪ Strengthening regional agriculture supply chains ▪ Mekong agricultural productivity improvement ▪ Rural finance and market development ▪ Digital rural transformation for agricultural development in the Mekong region ▪ Promotion of food security and food safety
(4) Infrastructure	▪ Capacity building in regional project management related to infrastructure (road, power communication etc.) ▪ Critical infrastructure development in rural areas for agriculture development
(5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	▪ Application of ICT for regional disaster risk management / climate change adaptation (e.g. early warning system) ▪ Estimation of crop production with ICT ▪ Development of regional agriculture market information system ▪ MSME Digitization and Fintech ▪ E-commerce & paperless trade and customs facilitation ▪ Development of alliance with the Mekong countries on ICT infrastructure / regional connectivity ▪ ICT application and broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas, application of ICT in disaster management, application of ICT in production sectors (industry, agriculture) and transport and logistics ▪ ICT application in public governance ▪ Promote digital transformation and encourage use of internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big data, Block chain technology and digital content
(6) Environment	▪ Promote the use of electric vehicle (EV) ▪ Sustainable management of natural resources ▪ Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures ▪ Sustainable transport and logistics ▪ Promotion of ESG in production sectors ▪ Green infrastructure for climate resilience in the Mekong ▪ Use and application of traditional knowledge in natural resources management, forest conservation and management etc.
(7) Non-traditional Security Challenges	▪ Facilitation of safe labor migration within the Mekong region ▪ Disaster management for natural hazards Clearance of explosive remnants of war, illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking ▪ Prevention of security areas to address transnational crime, terrorism and violent extremism ▪ Cyber security to build an open and secure cyber space ▪ Safe Mekong, combating Illicit Trafficking, surveillance techniques and transboundary coordination etc.

NB - Projects proposals of entirely of research nature or academic research are not encouraged under this fund.

3.3. Eligible Requirements of Proponent

- Government agencies/Autonomous Organization from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand (CLMVT) and organizations from the ROK.
- Non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and training institutes from CLMVT and the ROK.
- International Organizations, including UN Agencies, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK.
- Experience in implementing development projects for at least 5 years.
- Assistance to individuals will not be provided.

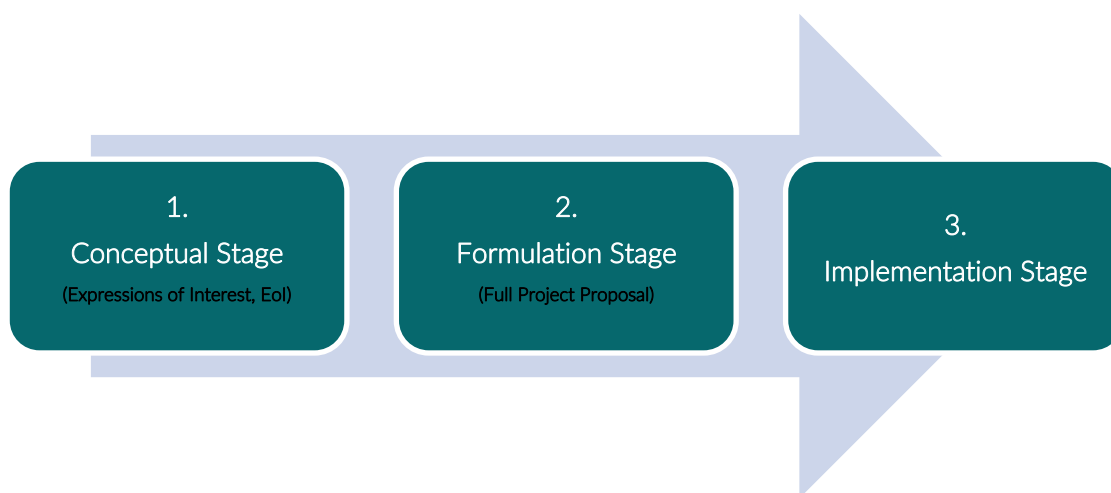
3.4. Budget and Duration

- The contribution of the Fund per project proposal is minimum of 300,000 USD and maximum of 1,000,000 USD.
- The fund encourages projects promoting 3-way (triangular) or 4-way (quadripartite) collaboration with other donors, including but not limited to the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Japan, United States (US), Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada etc. Extra budgetary funds should be leveraged, when needed, to facilitate such projects.
- The fund provides grants for joint activities with a regional or international entity, formalized through a cooperation agreement and is considered as regional.
- Activities which are not eligible for funding include construction of buildings and payment of rent or utilities.
- The time frame of the project should be 2-3 years.

4. PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMULATION

4.1. Overview

After the Call for Expressions of Interest (Eol) is announced, the potential proponents should follow the following procedure. The announcement of the Eol submission will be made on the websites of the Governments of the Mekong countries, Mekong Institute (MI) and through network of MI partners in the Mekong countries.



4.1.1 Steps

(1) Proponents shall need to submit an Eol to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the respective countries. International Organizations, including UN Agencies, and other International Non-Governmental Organizations having operating offices in the Mekong countries and ROK based organizations should submit the Eol to ROK MOFA. The Eol should be submitted to the following focal points in the Mekong countries and ROK within the stipulated date.

Country	Focal point in the MOFA	Contact information
Cambodia	Mr. Sok Sorathvatanak	soksorathvatanak@gmail.com
Lao PDR	Ms. Noy Amphone	mekong.dialoguepartners@gmail.com
Myanmar	Ms. Aye Aye Myo	srcd.myanmar@gmail.com srcd.mfa@gmail.com
Viet Nam	Ms. Ha Kieu Oanh	mekong.mofa@gmail.com
Thailand	Ms. Laksanaree Insrikrail	laksanaree.i@mfa.go.th
ROK	Mr. Junha Hwang	rokmekong2014@mofa.go.kr jhahwang23@mofa.go.kr

(2) The Focal Point of each MOFA in CLMVT and the ROK shall collect the Eols and forward all the Eols to MI. Screening by focal point of MoFA in Mekong countries is not required.

(3) MI shall review the Eols to shortlist according to the evaluation criteria. The evaluation will follow the following criteria.

No	Assessment Area(s)	Weight (%)
1	Relevance of the proposed project with the priority area(s) of Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025	30
2	How the identified issues will be addressed	20
3	Regional nature of the project (Identified regional issues and conceptualized in the project design)	20
4	Relevant project implementing experience of the proponent	15
5	Relevant experience of the proposed project team	15

(4) MI shall review as per the above assessment criteria to shortlist the EOIs and submit to ROK.

(5) The Approval Body at the MOFA-ROK shall make a decision on selection of the Eols that will be developed into a full project proposal. Only shortlisted Eols will be informed for the next steps.

(6) MI shall notify the selected Eols to the 6 Senior Official Meeting (SOM) leaders (5 Mekong Countries and ROK) for their information and support.

(7) Proponents of the selected Eols shall submit the full project proposals to MI within the stipulated date. In the case revisions are requested on the submitted full project proposal, MI will inform the proponent to revise and submit within a specific date.

(8) During the full project proposal preparation phase by the shortlisted proponents, due diligence will be conducted to check the capacity of the proponent to implement the project technically and financially. This will be part of evaluation criteria to select the proposal. Shortlisted proposals may be disqualified if not found to be in compliance with the requirements of the full proposal.

(9) The Eols shortlisted for full proposals do not necessarily guarantee award of final selection of the project. The shortlisted proposals are subject to review and will go through a process of evaluation.

(10) MI shall review the full project proposals as per the selection criteria and results of the organizational assessment (due diligence) to shortlist the full proposals for submission to ROK approval body.

(11) MKCF Deliberation Committee at MOFA-ROK refers to the MI evaluation and conducts its own evaluation to select the final project. In case of countries with shortlisted project budget of less than 600,000 USD, additional project may be considered subject to the availability of funds and quality of the project proposal.

(12) Foreign Ministers of the six countries endorse the full project proposals that will be funded by the MKCF in the form of a Co-Chair's Statement of the Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting. If there is no Co-Chair's Statement, the final shortlisted projects are circulated to Mekong countries and ROK for endorsement that is used in place of Co-Chair's Statement. (the selected projects' mid-term reports and final reports will be uploaded on MKCF website)

(13) Once MI is officially informed of the endorsement of the projects by ROK, MI will inform the proponents about the endorsement. The PIA will be required to prepare for the launch of the project and will conduct the following:

- a) appoint and confirm the full-time project positions.
- b) open a bank account (USD) in the name of the project at a local commercial bank, having experience in management of international / ODA fund.

Upon receipt the project bank account details, the proponent will sign and submit an Agreement on Fund Disbursement to MI.

The above should be completed within 2 months from the date of notification of ROK endorsement from MI.

(14) MI shall request for approval from the ROK to release the 1st installment (50%) and shall disburse the installment upon receipt the approval letter from the ROK. PIA will inform the date of launch of the project within 15 days of receipt of the first installment.

MI team will join the PIA at the project launching meeting where the PIA team is required to introduce the project team with assigned responsibilities, project details including M&E, work plan revisions, budget adjustments and finalization, partnership arrangements with another Mekong countries/ROK etc.

PIA needs to update the programmatic details (activities, outputs, expected outcomes, and work plan) in the M&E system developed by the MKCF Secretariat within one month of the project launch. During the implementation cycle, physical progress must be updated against the plan with adequate supporting documentation.

At the project launching meeting, MI will introduce the project monitoring and reporting guidelines. Any minor budget revisions or activities if deemed necessary may be incorporated at this stage.

(15) In case there is a delay in launching the project after receiving the 1st installment of the project fund in the bank for more than 2 (two) months, MI may implement necessary measures (including termination of project) after consulting with ROK MOFA. Project not initiated within 1 (one) year after MI officially informs PIA of the endorsement of the projects will be terminated.

(16) Once the Mid-term Report (the Project Progress and Financial Reports) are received and reviewed by MI and shared with ROK MOFA, MI shall request for approval from the ROK to release the 2nd installment (40%) and shall disburse the installment upon receipt the approval letter from the ROK after thoroughly reviewing the Mid-term Report.

If the Mid-term Report does not meet the standards (project quality, project progress rate etc), ROK MOFA and MI may request supplementation of the report and improvement plans for projects. Nevertheless, if the PIA does not respond to appropriately to these request, the ROK MOFA may cancel the project with the consensus of Mekong countries' SOM. Any revisions on budget or project activity may be proposed with justification for review and consideration.

(17) Upon completion of the project, the Project Implementing Agency will submit a Final Report (including the Financial Report) to the respective MOFAs and MI within 60 days after completion of the project .

(18) The final installment of 10% will be released on satisfactory completion of all activities of the project with clear exit strategy.

(19) The Project Implementing Agency is required to inform the interest earned (after adjustment of foreign currency) in the project bank account at the closure of the project.

(20) Following the review of the Final Report, if necessary, MI can request correction and revision, and any unspent balance of the fund should be returned to MI's MKCF account within 30 days after the financial report approved by MI (in USD currency).

Bank Name	Bangkok Bank
Bank Address	147 Prachasamosorn Rd. Muang, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
Branch	Prachasamosorn Road
Currency	USD
Account Name	MEKONG-ROK COOPERATION FUND
Bank Account	840-101-0019-118355-501
Receiver address	123 Khon Kaen University Mittraparb Rd. Muang, Khon Kaen 40002
SWIFT	BKKBTHBK

4.2. Preparation of the Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Proponents should submit an Eoi as per the structure below:

A. Cover page (1 page)

- i. Organization information
- ii. Responsible person
- iii. Title of the project
- iv. Main / Sub-priority area
- v. Target Country(ies)
- vi. Total estimated project budget
- vii. Duration of the project
- viii. Signature of the responsible person

B. Technical (7 pages maximum)

- i. **General description of organization:** Describe the legal status, vision, mission, programs, and relevant experience in project implementation, as well as the management structure of the organization.
- ii. **Problem statement:** Provide a clear description of the problem (a regional development issue in the Mekong region) that your project aims to address.
- iii. **Mekong-ROK Cooperation:** Explain how the project promotes the Mekong-ROK cooperation in addressing the problem. Please refer to the Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025 on the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation for the implementation of Mekong-Han River Declaration.
- iv. **Objectives:** State the short- and long-term objectives of the project, relating them to the problem statement (e.g. Provide clean water to rural areas).
- v. **Anticipated results (output, outcome, impact):** Describe the expected outputs, outcomes and impact of the project (e.g. output: Install 100 wells, outcome:

- Improved health of the residents, impact: Better quality of life). Explain how the results will benefit and be shared in the Mekong region.
- vi. **Activities and innovative approaches:** Describe the proposed activities and explain how they will be implemented to achieve the objectives and anticipated results. Indicate the geographical location(s) of the proposed activity, specifying the specific area(s). Describe any innovative approaches that will be utilized.
 - vii. **Theory of change / Link to the Mekong-ROK Logical framework:** Briefly describe the theory of change link to the Mekong-ROK logical framework, clearly outlining its underlying assumptions, and demonstrate how it aligns with one or more of the MKCF priority sectors. Briefly describe how all activities are connected to the outputs, outcomes, and impact. How well the objective of the project aligns with the “Mekong-Rok Cooperation Program Objectives, Outcome and Outputs”.
 - viii. **Project pilot group / pilot area:** MKCF prioritizes funding for development projects through field testing. You can focus on specific communities or groups within designated locations for this purpose. Please provide relevant documents or supporting information for the group and area, if available. Please outline any stakeholder and ultimate beneficiary consultations that were held.
 - ix. **Risk management:** Outline how potential risks will be identified, assessed, and mitigated throughout the project.
 - x. **Project management / implementation arrangements:** Provide the proposed structure for project management, implementation, and coordination, including roles and responsibilities. Provide updated CVs (max 2 pages) of the three full-time project staff as per the sample format in the annexure (It is recommended that at least one member of the project team be from one of the other Mekong countries or the ROK). Provide a list of potential partners in the Mekong countries and the ROK, along with their roles in the project, and explain how you plan to collaborate with these partners on the activities.

C. Financial (3 pages maximum)

- i. **Financial Statement:** Provide a brief statement explaining why the proposed activity requires the proposed amount and how it will lead to the expected output. This applies to all proposed activities and their corresponding outputs. List the outputs and provide justification for the proposed budget.
- ii. **Estimated budget:** - Provide an estimated budget (total cost), broken down by year (for multi-year projects), and details on cost sharing. Include details of any contributions, including those from third parties (in USD), as well as in-kind contributions.

D. Attachments

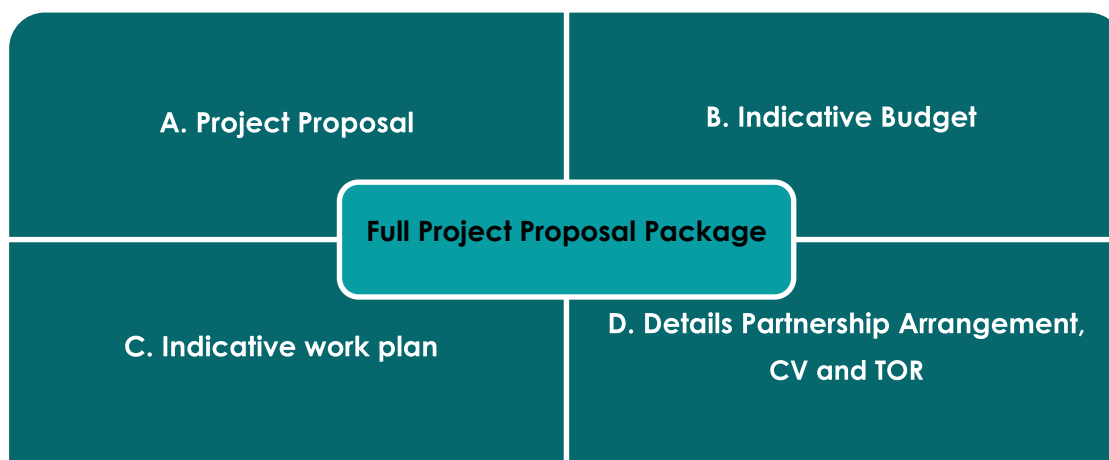
- i. Any additional documents that provide information on Partnership arrangements (pre-bidding agreement, MoU, consent letter, etc.) with organizations in the Mekong countries, International organizations, trilateral/quadrilateral cooperation etc., previous experience in implementing development projects, institutional capabilities, and CV and TOR of the core project team.

The EoI must be written in English, typed, single spaced with 12-sized Times New Roman font. The EoI should not exceed 10 pages. The 10 pages do not include the attachments. The attachments must be concise and in a separate file.

The EoI will be reviewed based on their relevance, feasibility, and sustainability.

4.3. Full Project Proposal

The shortlisted EoIs will be invited to submit a full project proposal.



A. Project Proposal (Appendix 2)

The full proposal will include, but not limited to the following:

- i. Problem to be addressed
- ii. Background, problem analysis, and justification
- iii. Objective and success criteria
- iv. Outputs
- v. Indicative work plan
- vi. Management and implementation arrangements
- vii. Budget and funding arrangements

The proposal must be written in English, typed, single spaced with 12-sized Times New Roman font.

The proposal must be a development cooperation project with a focus on specific developmental problems, be innovative and unique and be independently originated and developed by the proponent. The project should fulfill the regional criteria to benefit more than one Mekong country

B. Indicative Budget (Appendix 3)

Budget Arrangements (in USD)

- Adequate provisions for the cost of all proposed activities and personnel. Cost breakdown by line item specifying clearly for each cost item covers:
 - Unit cost (unit price in USD)
 - Quantity of items and
 - Total cost for each item

- The budget should show the detail for all costs categorized.
- The budget must show:
 - Description of each element of cost
 - Number of units of direct costs, and indirect costs (if approved)
 - Unit cost of each item (unit price in USD)
 - Sub-total for each category of costs and Total cost for each item

A. DIRECT COSTS		B. INDIRECT COSTS
	1. Personnel	1. Management Fee
	2. Consultancy services (Professional)	
	3. Direct Supplies and Services	
	4. Travel	
	5. Equipment	
	6. Other Direct Costs	

Project Category and Cost Norm

Project Category	Cost	Remarks
A. DIRECT COSTS: are related to project activities		
1. Personnel:		
▪ The proponent/PIA recruit full-time staff specifically for the MKCF funded project. ▪ For all personnel, indicate the percentage level of efforts. For the newly recruited staff, the ToR should be included as annexes in the project proposal. ▪ Regular staff of the proponent organization may join the project but on project deputation / secondment basis and such notifications should be provided in the proposal ▪ The total personnel budget cost should not exceed 30% of the total direct cost budget - The project should have at least 2 full-time positions hired for the entire project duration, e.g. Project manager and Project Coordinator/ Project Assistant. Projects exceeding more then USD 500,000 may suggest additional Project Finance Assistant. - The proponent may engage additional staff (part time basis) for limited number of days and submit time sheets charge under the 7% management fee of the project budget.		

Project Category	Cost	Remarks
2. Consultancy services (Professional):		
- Consultants/Experts are identified and charged under the activity budget for specific outputs. - ToRs of the consultants/experts for the identified activities should be submitted as annexes in the project proposal. - All expenses related to acquiring the services of a consultant for a specific activity within the project. (i) design of capacity development program, e.g. curriculum development, training packages, and etc.; (ii) delivery of capacity development program; (iii) reporting and information dissemination; (iv) design of technical and policy study/research; (v) delivery of training and workshop; (vi) field survey and data collection; (vii) project documentation; (xiv) and other activities agreed by the Republic of Korea (ROK) through Mekong Institute (MI) to be performed by a. International Expert: An individual subject expert; or one is from an internationally or regionally recognized organization; b. National Expert: An individual subject expert; or one is from nationally recognized organization, Institute/University etc. - The project staff(s) may not act as the consultant, and the payment for consultant is not allowed for project staff(s) who receive salary from the project. - The costs include (all for consultant only): - Consultant fee/Remuneration - Reports, communication materials, and publications - Airfare - Ground transportation - Accommodation - Other costs related with the payment process		
2.1. International and National Consultant/Remuneration fee	- The lump sum payment by assignment is not allowed - Max: US\$ 300-500/Working Day (the fee may differ depending on the position and ranking of the personnel)	- Procurement Method: Selection of Consultant - Maximum number of working days: 120 days/calendar year or equivalent lump sum amount Note: Proof of university degree or work experience may be requested
2.2. Reports, communication materials, and publications	Equivalent to 2 working days	
2.3. Airfare	- Economy class - Direct flight - Actual costs	

Project Category	Cost	Remarks
2.4. Ground transportation	Base rental price per day subject to the market rate applied in each location in each country	
2.5. Accommodation	For traveling within the Mekong region US\$ 120 and ROK Max: US\$ 150/night/person	
3. Direct Supplies and Services:		
- Includes all direct supplies and services costs that are required to carry out the project. - The costs include: - Venue for the event (meeting, training, etc.) - Coffee breaks - Lunch - Translation services - Training materials - Design and printing of certificates, photo, videos, etc. - Others relevant and allowable		
3.1. Meeting/Training Package (consists of venue, coffee breaks, and lunch)	- For 4-5 star hotel - Full day: US\$ 80/Pax - Half-day: US\$ 40/Pax - If the activities conducted in 3* hotel the cost should be US\$ 50	
3.2. Translation services	- Max: US\$ 15/page (350 words/page) - For Simultaneous Translation Max: US\$ 300/Working Day for half day US\$ 200 - Other relevant and allowable	
3.3. Other expenditures under Category 3	Actual basis applied to each location in each country.	
4. Travel (for the PIA and/or participants of the event):		
- International travel costs must be related to the project activities and incurred by the PIA and/or participants who work/participate on/for the project. - Participants are required to travel on the most direct and economical flights. Moreover, travel costs budgeted in line with planned activities and specified in the detailed budget. - The costs include (all for the PIA and/or participants of the event only):		

Project Category	Cost	Remarks
- Airfare (economy class) - Ground transportation - Accommodation - Per Diem - Travel insurance - Other cost related to COVID-19 testing ▪ All flight seating must be economy class. For special cases, seating call can be rearranged if approved by the ROK MOFA beforehand. ▪ Note: Local travel costs should be placed in the 'Other Direct Costs' category.		
4.1. Airfare	- Direct flight - Economy class - Actual costs	- For roundtrip airfare from a Mekong country to the ROK, the Fund will cover up to 1,000 USD for an economy seat. - For roundtrip airfare within the Mekong region, the Fund will cover up to 800 USD.
4.2. Ground transportation	- Base rental price per day subject to the market rate applied in each location in each country.	
4.3. Accommodation		
Accommodation in Mekong countries and ROK	- Max: US\$ 120/night/ person for Mekong countries - Max: US\$ 150/night/ person for ROK	
4.4. Per Diem		
Per Diem in Mekong countries and ROK	Max: US\$ 60/day	
4.5. Travel insurance	Actual costs and cover only during the period of travel	
5. Equipment:	▪ Costs of equipment should not exceed 10% of the total project budget. ▪ Equipment that are deemed necessary for the successful implementation of the project will be permitted. ▪ The proponent is required to send a justification letter(s) along with the project proposal explaining why purchase of equipment is necessary for project implementation. ▪ The car or the building construction for project office are not allowed ▪ ROK MOFA may reject the proposed equipment budget either fully or partly ▪ Asset created via procurement will be reported in the final project report.	
6. Other Direct Costs:		

Project Category	Cost	Remarks
- Includes all other project costs that do not fall under the definition of Personnel, Consultancy services, Direct Supplies and Services, Travel and Equipment. Those costs directly related to performance of the activities described in the grant proposal (application). Such costs must be reasonable, competitive and allowable as specified in expenditure categories. - If the project cost exceeds USD 500,000, the PIA will be required to engage external auditor to audit the fund. For the auditor services, the PIA may include auditor's fee up to a maximum of USD 10,000. Such cost should be included in the other direct cost category.		
B. INDIRECT COSTS: are in support of all project activities of the implementing agency. Indirect costs include overhead and administrative costs which are not directly attributable to the proposed grant activity.		
1. Management fee	- Max: 7% of the total approved budget. The fee is charged based on actual expenditure of direct cost. - Indirect cost budgeted will be considered on a case-by-case basis	This fee includes project overheads, adjustment on any loss of foreign currency exchange, financial audits, meetings, travel and DSA of project staff and support staffs, office rental cost. Staff support cost are required to produce time sheets.

C. Indicative work plan (Appendix 4)

D. Details of Partnership Arrangement, CV, and TOR (Appendix 5)

5. PROCUREMENT

5.1. Principles

Competition	Efficient and Effective Procurement	Impartiality, Transparency, and Accountability	Procurement Ethics	Eligibility
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Competition

Procurement shall be carried out in an open competitive basis to the maximum practical extent. All eligible bidders shall be given equal opportunity to compete in providing goods and/or services to the MKCF recipients.

Efficient and Effective Procurement

Procurement shall be conducted in a manner that maximizes the efficient use of the MKCF's resources and ensures that the goods and/or services procured effectively meet the requirements of the MKCF recipients.

Impartiality, Transparency, and Accountability

Procurement shall be conducted in an impartial, transparent and accountable manner, and all eligible bidders shall be given the same information. Fairness and transparency in the procurement process require that all suppliers and consultants competing for a specific contract do not derive a competitive advantage from having provided services related to the contract in question. Therefore, the procuring entity/project management unit shall, when practicable, make available to prospective bidders all reasonable and material information that would, in that respect, give a supplier or consultant a competitive advantage.

Procurement Ethics

All procurements should not be in violation of the national laws and regulations on procurement, including Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct for Suppliers. Furthermore, the MKCF considers a conflict of interest to be a situation in which a party has interests that could improperly influence that party's performance of official duties or responsibilities, contractual obligations, or compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The MKCF through MI will take appropriate action to manage such conflicts of interest, or rejects a tender or proposal for award in case it determines that a conflict of interest has flawed the integrity of any procurement process.

Eligibility

An eligible supplier or consultant is an organization or an individual that complies with national laws on procurement and is determined by the procuring entity to be a supplier or consultant who is legally and financially capable of providing the goods or services in the country or countries where such goods or services are to be provided.

5.2. Mis-procurement

If procurement is not carried out as agreed or prescribed, the MKCF through MI shall declare mis-procurement and cancel that portion of the MKCF allocated to the goods and/or services that have been misprocured.

5.3. Methods of Procurement

Open tendering and request for proposals

The objective of open tendering is to provide all eligible suppliers or consultants with timely and adequate notification of requirements and an equal opportunity to bid for the required goods or services. In turn, this is expected to lead to competitive pricing, product innovation, and performance improvements. The project implementing agency shall open all tenders at the stipulated time and place, and tenders received after the stipulated deadline may be rejected, as stipulated in the procurement document. Open tendering may be conducted by issuing a request for proposals, especially when it needs to consider the financial aspects of proposals separately, and only after completing the examination and evaluation of the technical, quality and performance characteristics of the proposals.

Restricted tendering

Procurement may be undertaken by means of restricted tendering when:

- The subject matter of the procurement, by reason of its highly complex or specialized nature, is available only from a limited number of suppliers or consultants; or
- The time and cost required to examine and evaluate a large number of tenders would be disproportionate to the value of the subject matter of the procurement.

Request for quotations

Procurement may be undertaken by means of a request for quotations from approximately three suppliers or consultants, to assure competitive prices, for the procurement of readily available goods or services, or standard specification commodities of small value. Requests for quotations shall indicate the description and quantity of the goods or services, as well as the desired delivery (or completion) time and place. The evaluation of quotation shall follow the basic principles provided in these Procurement Regulations. Quotations may be submitted by letter, facsimile or by electronic means. The terms of the accepted offer shall be incorporated in a purchase order or brief contract.

Single-source procurement

Single-source procurement may be undertaken in the following exceptional circumstances:

- The subject matter of the procurement is available only from a particular supplier or consultant, or a particular supplier or consultant has exclusive rights in respect of the subject matter of the procurement, such that no reasonable alternative or substitute exists, and the use of any other procurement method would therefore not be possible;
- In exceptional cases when there is an extremely urgent need for the subject matter of the procurement, such as in response to natural disasters, and engaging in any other method of procurement would be impractical because of the time involved in using those methods;
- The procuring entity, having procured goods, equipment, technology or services from a supplier or consultant, determines that additional supplies or services must be procured from that supplier or consultant for reasons of standardization or because of the need for compatibility with existing goods, equipment, technology or services, taking into account the effectiveness of the original procurement in meeting the needs of the procuring entity/project management unit, the limited size of the proposed procurement in relation to the original procurement, the reasonableness of the price and the unsuitability of alternatives to the goods or services in question;
- The procuring entity determines that the use of any other method of procurement is not appropriate for the protection of essential security interests or confidential information; or
- When the estimated value of the procurement contract is regarded as a low value under the applicable regulation.
- Refer the below mention table for procurement threshold limit for goods and services.

Procurement thresholds for Services and Goods

Type	Purchase volume			1. Open tendering and request for proposals	2. Restricted tendering	3. Request for quotations	4. Single-source procurement
		Request/ Review	Approval				
Goods / Service	USD 0 - USD 500	Project Assistant or Project Officer	Project Officer Project Manager				-Quotation (if any) -Receipt (Invoice)
Goods / Service	USD 501 - USD 5,000	Project Officer	Project Manager			- 3 information quotation - Purchasing selection report - Receipt (Invoice)	*Internal memorandum is required to clarify the reasons chosen for the single-source procurement
Service -Consultant -Sub-contractor	USD 5,001 and above	Project Officer	Project Manager and Committee (If needed)	- Company profile / Consultant's CV - Proposal / TOR - 3 information quotation or more - Announcement - Purchasing selection report - Agreement / Contract - Receipt (Invoice)	- Company profile / Consultant's CV - Proposal / TOR - Purchasing selection report - Quotation - Announce in public channel - Agreement / Contract - Receipt (Invoice) - Committee for selection		
Goods / Equipment	USD 5,000 and above (>=)	Project Officer	Project Manager	- TOR / Specification and properties - Company profile - 3 information quotation or more - Purchasing selection report - Agreement / contract - Receipt (Invoice)	- TOR / Specification and properties- Company profile - 3 information quotation or more - Purchasing selection report - Agreement / contract - Receipt (Invoice) - Committee for selection		

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5.4. Handover of Asset Purchase via Procurement of Project Assets under the MKCF project.

If project is closed earlier due to some unforeseen circumstances, in such situation all the project assets will be returned by PIA to MI

All the assets purchased under the MKCF project, at the end of the project all assets will be assessed and included in the final reported, where following section will be covered by the PIA.

a) Name of asset, b) Original value of the asset c) Current Status of Asset, d) Location of Asset (PIA premises or Community).

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT

6.1. Financial Management and Disbursement Arrangements

Financial management and disbursement arrangements required under this Manual aim to achieve the following objectives:

- To enhance transparency in financial management and use of funds to ensure that project resources are spent in full compliance with the covenants under the Agreement on Fund Disbursement with efficiency and effectiveness;
- To provide clarified requirements and procedures for project management and implementation, including Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tasks.

The funds shall be spent for intended purposes as specified in the Agreements on Fund Disbursement. To this end, all selected organizations (fund recipients) must adopt adequate financial management controls:

- A separate bank account (or sub-account) in United States Dollars (USD) held at financial institutions (commercial banks) for the purpose of depositing and expending the grant fund disbursed must be established.
- The account name must be the official name of the PIA and/or title of the project.
- No other funding shall be deposited into this account, and no expenditures which are not for eligible costs under the approved fund shall be paid from this account.
- No funds disbursed under the approved fund may be transferred to other bank accounts owned by the recipients that contain funds from any other sources.

If deviations from the approved budget are found during the verification process but cannot be duly explained, the PIA shall refund the amounts paid to them with respect to claims which were not accounted for under the approved budget and it cannot participate in the MKCF project in the future. However, certain adjustments during the implementation phase with prior approval from MKCF secretariat will be acceptable, but such changes should not exceed the total approved budget.

A disbursement schedule is prepared for each fund. This schedule details the content of, and due date for each report the PIA is required to submit under the Agreement on Fund Disbursement. In addition, the schedule specifies the amount of payment and the indicative disbursement date for each scheduled funding. The payments schedule is included in the Agreement on Fund Disbursement.

The 1st installment (50%) shall be disbursed upon receipt of the approval letter from the ROK and signed Agreement on Fund Disbursement.

Upon approval of the Mid-term Report (the Progress and Financial Reports) by MI, the 2nd installment (40%) MI will be disbursed to PIA.

The final installment of 10% will be released on satisfactory completion of all activities of the project with clear exit strategy.

All funds will be denominated and funded in United States Dollars (US\$).

It is obliged to make all payments through project bank account including salary payments.

6.2. Financial Documentation

Fund receipts and expenditures are requested to be properly accounted and recorded in the financial management systems of a PIA. The following are the key documents that must be maintained and easily accessible for supervision, M&E, and audit purposes:

- Fund Disbursement Agreements
- Bank statements showing transactions of fund receipts, exchange rate for converting USD to local currency and payments;
- Supporting documents, including procurement contract, invoice, receipt, payment voucher, travel documents, training and workshop-related documents, minutes/ToR for consultancy services, and others evidencing that project activities are in progress or fully completed;
- Financial reports
- Original documents should be maintained by the PIA for at least 5 years

The financial documentation shall be prepared in line with the documents required for the project activities and costs as specified in the following table:

Project Category	Financial Documents	Remarks
A. DIRECT COSTS: are related to project activities		
1. Personnel:		
1.1. Project Manager 1.2. Project Coordinator 1.3. Project Finance Assistant**	- Copy of Agreement or Contract or Special Service Agreement (SSA) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Bank Transfer Slip or Receipt signed - Signed TOR - CV	- Proof of university degree or work experience may be requested
2. Consultancy services (Professional):		
2.1. International and National Consultant/Remuneration fee (Resource Person, Subject expert, Facilitator)	- Copy of Agreement or Contract or Special Service Agreement (SSA) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Bank Transfer Slip or Receipt signed by Consultant/Expert - Detailed session summary - Signed TOR	- Proof of university degree or work experience may be requested

Project Category	Financial Documents	Remarks
	- CV - Time sheet	
2.2. Reports, communication materials, and publications	- Copy of Agreement or Contract or Special Service Agreement (SSA) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Bank Transfer Slip or Receipt signed by Consultant/Expert - Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	- Proof of university degree or work experience may be requested
2.3. Airfare	- Boarding Pass(es) / ticket(s) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
2.4. Ground transportation	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
2.5. Accommodation	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
3. Direct Supplies and Services:		
3.1. Meeting/Training Package (consists of venue, coffee breaks and lunch)	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts - Meeting/training minutes or report	
3.2. Translation services	- Copy of Agreement or Contract or Special Service Agreement (SSA) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Bank Transfer Slip or Receipt signed by the translator	
3.3. Other expenditures under Category 3	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
4. Travel (for the PIA and/or participants of the event):		
4.1. Airfare	- Boarding Pass(es) / ticket(s) - Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
4.2. Ground transportation	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	

Project Category	Financial Documents	Remarks
4.3. Accommodation	- Original Invoice and/or Receipts	
4.4. Per Diem	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
4.5. Travel insurance	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
5. Equipment:	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts	
6. Other Direct Costs:	- Original (or Certified Copy of) Invoice and/or Receipts - Quotation based on the amount of purchase	
B. INDIRECT COSTS		
1. Management fee	Overheads for the projects including Travel (air, bus, train, car) & hotel accommodation receipts of project staff, time sheet for support staff (e.g. finance, project assistant staff), stationaries, internet, telephone and other utilities.	
* All invoice and/or receipt should be attached on the provided Receipt format (Appendix 7-10).		
** for projects more than 500,000 USD		

6.3. Financial Reports

- The **Mid-term Financial Report** must show the amount budgeted for each line item, the amount expended against each budget line as of the date of the report, including the remaining balance in each line. Totals must be shown for each of the three columns with explanations for material and irregular variances. Also, financial reports must also indicate bank account balance against received and disbursed amounts, which are reconciled with the bank statements issued by designated financial institutions.
- The **Final Financial Report** is the consolidation of the Mid-term Financial Report that must accurately present all financial information on grant fund receipt and use of funds for intended purposes. The structure of the final financial report is the same as the mid-term financial report.
- All supporting documents as indicated above shall be submitted to MI as an integral part of the financial reports and attached by (i) Approved Proposal with approved budget; (ii) Copy of agreed work plan, and (iii) Copy of Disbursement Letter.
- If deviations from the approved budget are found during the verification process but cannot be duly explained, the PIA shall refund the amounts paid to them with respect to claims which were not accounted for under the approved budget and it cannot participate in the MKCF project in the future. However, certain adjustments during the implementation phase

with prior approval from MKCF secretariat will be acceptable, but such changes should not exceed the total approved budget.

7. RESULT-BASED MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE

7.1. Reporting

- MI has adopted the model of results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system based on a well-constructed results framework. The system will use guidelines for systematic result-based M&E of progress and performance and outcomes, including reporting formats, field visits data collection, case studies for reporting, organized learning, and sharing input to policy dialogue.
- Result-based M&E of Project Implementing Agency will be undertaken on the basis of their periodic progress/performance and financial reporting as well as regular monitoring visits.
- MI will assist the PIA to efficiently implement the awarded funds through establishing a quality assurance system to assure that implementation is moving in the right direction toward achievement and accomplishment of designed objectives and results in a timely manner.
- Project Implementing Agency will be required to submit a Quarterly Monitoring Report, Mid-term Progress Report, and Final report. The reports should be against the respective results indicators. Reporting deadlines will be specified in the Agreement on the Fund Disbursement. All reports and related documents must be in English and should document the project activities and generated results and outcomes, lessons learnt and the expenditures up to the date of the report.
- All of the reports must be written in English, typed, single spaced with 12-sized Times New Roman font.

7.2. Mid-term Progress Report

- A Mid-term Progress Report shall contain a description of the work accomplished to date, generated results and outcomes, lessons learnt; problems addressed during project implementation, describe strategies designed to overcome the problems, and a brief outline of the activities planned for the remaining project period.
- Any problems, e.g. concerns and issues, arising out of the project implementation that was not anticipated should immediately be brought to the attention of MI. If action is needed or requested, MI will discuss with PIA to determine what actions may be taken within the reporting/project implementation periods.
- If the Mid-term Report does not meet the standards (project quality, project progress rate etc.), ROK MOFA and MI may request supplementation of the report and improvement plans for projects. Nevertheless, if the PIA does not respond to appropriately to these request, the ROK MOFA may cancel the project with the consensus of Mekong countries' SOM.

7.3. Final Report

- The Final Report should cover all of the above for the period covered by the report in which the funded activities were carried out, information with which to evaluate the project achievements and impact, a statement of all the eligible costs, and a full summary statement of the fund's receipts and expenditures and payments received.
- The Final Report should include evidence that the full scope of work set in the indicative work plan has been successfully conducted, including, among other items, (i) a technical narrative summarizing the project's outcomes against the results framework, (ii) practical recommendations resulting from the accomplished work, and (iii) an account of outreach and dissemination activities undertaken. Also, the PIA should submit any training or meeting materials that were circulated to the participants.

7.4. Monitoring Visits

- MI will assign focal person(s) to oversight, follow-up with PIA, and visit the PIA during the project implementation. The purpose of these monitoring visits is to discuss the progress based on the information the PIA has provided in the proposal and the indicative work plan. These monitoring visits also provide an opportunity for providing technical assistance, coaching and mentoring the PIA. The visits serve an integral part of the capacity development approach.
- Monitoring visits will allow MI to monitor physical/technical progress, and the administrative, financial and internal control systems of the grantees, and assess the results of technical assistance or capacity development provided to the PIA.
- MI will conduct site visits to the PIA office to help and support the compliance in accounting, financial, procurement, and controls requirements in line with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and International Audit Standards (IAS). This will ensure the effective and efficient use of the fund and proper management of resources while providing technical assistance and capacity development support as needed.

8. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITS

- If the project cost exceeds USD 500,000, the PIA will be required to engage an external auditor to audit the fund. For the auditor services, the PIA may include auditor's fee up to a maximum of USD 10,000. Such cost should be included in the other direct cost category.
- The external financial audit of each grant fund is an integral part of the consolidated audited financial statements of MI.
- An external audit shall review not only the expenditures of the PIA during the project period and audit the schedule of receipts and expenditures of the grant funds, but will also check the existence, adequacy, and effectiveness of internal control system. Receipts for expenditures of grant funds in the audit report should be reconciled with the amounts reported by the PIA. If inconsistencies are found, payments to the PIA may be suspended while MI conducts investigation.
- The audit report on the project financial statements must be supported by a Management Letter. Schedule of required report and external audit report is described in the following table.

REPORT	SUBMISSION
Quarterly Reporting	The quarter will be counted starting from the agreement date
Mid-term report (Progress and financial reports)	As indicated in the Agreement on Fund Disbursement
Final report (Completion and financial reports)	No later than sixty (60) calendar days after the completion of project
Annual External Audit Report with a Management Letter	To be notified by MI
Final External Financial Audit Report with a Management Letter	As describe in section no 8: Internal and External Audit

The reporting requirements can be summarized in the following chronological order by (i) Mid-term Progress Report, (ii) Final Report. The PIA shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence relating to the Fund in accordance with International Accounting Standards, International Reporting Standards and International Standards on Auditing. The PIA shall assume full responsibility for effective and proper administration of funds. The PIA's original accounting, financial and procurement records, as well as all fund documents (including narrative reports, Agreement on Fund Disbursement, and amendments) shall be made available to MI, external auditors, and the ROK.

9. GUIDANCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

1. Purpose

This guidance outlines the principles and procedures for managing intellectual property rights (IPR) in projects where new products, technologies, or innovations are developed. It aims to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with legal and contractual obligations while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders.

2. Definition of Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, designs, trademarks, and copyrights, that result from the project activities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Patents for inventions
- Industrial designs
- Copyright-protected works (e.g., software, documents)
- Trademarks and branding

3. Ownership of Intellectual Property

- **Pre-existing IP:** Any intellectual property brought into the project by participants remains the property of the respective party unless otherwise agreed upon in writing.
- **Newly Created IP:** All intellectual property developed during the project will be owned as defined by the project agreement. Common ownership options include:
 - Ownership by the lead organization.
 - Joint ownership by all contributors, with rights proportionate to their input.
 - Assignment to a designated entity as agreed by stakeholders.

4. IPR Agreements

- All project participants must sign an IPR agreement at the start of the project, specifying the ownership, licensing, and usage rights of any new intellectual property developed.
- The agreement should include terms for:
 - Distribution of ownership.
 - Licensing terms for usage by participants or third parties.
 - Royalties or revenue-sharing arrangements, if applicable.

5. Protection of Intellectual Property

- All project participants are responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of sensitive information and early-stage innovations.
- The project team should consult legal professionals to file for appropriate IP protections (e.g., patents or copyrights) before public disclosure or commercialization.

6. Licensing and Commercialization

- Licensing agreements should clearly outline how the intellectual property will be used, including terms for sublicensing, exclusivity, and territorial rights.
- Revenues generated from commercialization should be distributed as per the agreed terms in the IPR agreement.

7. Dispute Resolution

- Any disputes related to intellectual property ownership or usage will be resolved as per the dispute resolution mechanism defined in the project agreement or by Donor.

8. Acknowledgment and Attribution

- All contributors to the development of new intellectual property must be acknowledged in accordance with their contributions.

9. Compliance with Laws and Policies

- The project must comply with all relevant local, national, and international laws related to intellectual property rights.
- Any third-party intellectual property used in the project must have proper authorization or licensing to avoid infringement.

10. Monitoring and Reporting

- The project manager will be responsible for monitoring IPR-related activities and ensuring compliance with the agreed terms.
- Periodic updates on the status of intellectual property protection, licensing, and commercialization should be provided to stakeholders.

11. Amendments to IPR Policies

- Any changes to IPR policies during the project must be discussed and approved by all stakeholders, with formal documentation of the revised terms.

12. Termination of IPR Agreements

Upon project completion or termination, the ownership and usage rights of intellectual property must be clearly defined and recorded to avoid future disputes.

APPENDIX 1: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) TEMPLATE

A. Cover page (1 page)



Mekong–Republic of Korea
Cooperation Fund

Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

1. Organization	
- Name:	
- Type (Government:/UN/IGO/NGO/Academic/Research/Training Institute etc.)	
- Physical operating/business address	
2. Responsible person	
- Name and position:	
- Contact details (phone number):	
- Email:	
3. Title of the project	
- Project Title:	
- Abbreviation:	
4. Main priority area (Select the most relevant one)	☐ Culture and Tourism ☐ Human Resources Development ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Information and Communication Technology ☐ Environment ☐ Non-traditional Security Challenges
5. Sub-Sector	Please refer to the sub-sectors mentioned in the MKCF Management manual at 3.2
6. Target country(ies)	Please be as specific as possible
7. Total estimated project budget (in USD)	
8. Duration of the project (in months)	
Signature of the responsible person:	
Name/position of the responsible person:	
Date:	

B. Technical

1. General description of organization (maximum 300 words)
- Describe the legal status, vision, mission, programs, and relevant experience in project implementation, as well as the management structure of the organization.
2. Problem statement (maximum to 300 words)
- Provide a clear description of the problem (a regional development issue in the Mekong region) that your project aims to address with reference to the Mekong RoK Plan of action.
3. Mekong-ROK Cooperation (maximum 250 words)
- Explain how the project promotes the Mekong-ROK cooperation in addressing the problem and relate to Mekong RoK Results Framework.
4. Objectives (maximum 250 words)
- State the short- and long-term objectives of the project, relating them to the problem statement (e.g. Provide clean water to the rural areas).
5. Anticipated results (output, outcome, impact) (maximum 300 words)
- Describe the expected outputs, outcomes and impact of the project (e.g. output: Install 100 wells, outcome: Improved health of the residents, impact: Better quality of life). - Explain how the results will benefit and be shared in the Mekong region.
6. Activities and innovative approaches (maximum 300 words)
- Describe the proposed activities and explain how they will be implemented to achieve the objectives. - Indicate the geographical location of the proposed activity, specifying the specific area. - Describe any innovative approaches that will be utilized.
7. Theory of change / Logical framework (maximum 250 words)
- Briefly describe the theory of change, clearly outlining its underlying assumptions, and demonstrate how it aligns with one or more of the MKCF priority sectors. - Briefly describe how all activities are connected to the outputs, outcomes, and impact. - How well the objective of the project aligns with the Logical Framework of the Mekong-ROK.
8. Project pilot group / pilot area (maximum 250 words)
- MKCF prioritizes funding for development projects through field testing. This may focus on specific communities or groups within designated locations for this purpose. Please provide relevant documents or supporting information for the group and area, if available.
9. Risk management (maximum 250 words)
- Outline how potential risks will be identified, assessed, and mitigated throughout the project.

10. Project management / implementation (maximum 250 words)

- Provide the proposed structure for project management, implementation, and coordination, including roles and responsibilities.
- Provide updated CVs (max 2 pages) of the three full-time project staff as per the sample format in the annexure (It is recommended that at least one member of the project team be from one of the other Mekong countries or the ROK). Please refer to MKCF manual for number of staff admissible for project less than 500,000 USD and above 500,000 USD.
- Provide a list of potential partners in the Mekong countries and the ROK, along with their roles in the project, and explain how the project plans to collaborate with these partners for implementing the activities.

C. Financial Narrative (3 pages maximum)

1. Financial statement	- Provide a statement explaining why the proposed activity requires the proposed amount and how it will lead to the expected output. This applies to all proposed activities and their corresponding outputs. - List the outputs and provide justification for the proposed budget.
2. Estimated budget	- Provide an estimated budget (total cost), broken down by year (for multi-year projects), and the cost share (if proposed). - Include details of any contributions, including those from third parties (in USD) (if proposed).

C.1 For submitting budget details, please refer to the budget template in Excel format

C. Attachments

Any additional documents that provide information on partnership arrangements (e.g., pre-bidding agreements, MoUs, consent letters, etc.) with organizations in the Mekong countries, international organizations, etc.; past experience in implementing development projects; institutional capabilities; and the CVs and TORs of the core project team.

APPENDIX 2: FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (ONCE THE EOI IS SHORTLISTED)

(1) Summary

 Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund		Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Project Proposal	
Organization			
- Name: - Type: - Physical operating/business address			
Responsible person			
- Name/position: - Phone number: - Email:			
Title of the project			
- Full name: - Abbreviation:			
Main priority area (Select one)		Sub-priority area (Select one)	
☐ Culture and Tourism ☐ Human Resources Development ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Information and Communication Technology ☐ Environment ☐ Non-traditional Security Challenges		☐ Culture and Tourism ☐ Human Resources Development ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Information and Communication Technology ☐ Environment ☐ Non-traditional Security Challenges	
Summary of the project (up to 300 words)			
[insert text]			
Target country(ies)			
[insert text]			
Total estimated project budget (in USD)			
[insert text]			
Duration of the project (in months)			
[insert text]			
Date of submission		dd/mm/yy	

(2) Technical



Mekong–Republic of Korea
Cooperation Fund

Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF)
Project Proposal

1. Project milestone		
☐ Estimated Implementation Start Date:	dd/mm/yy	
☐ Estimated Implementation End Date:	dd/mm/yy	
☐ Project Duration:	in months	
2. Description of financial elements		
Total project budget (in USD)	From the MKCF (in USD)	Contribution, if any, including from third parties (in USD)
[insert text]	[insert text]	[insert text]
3. General description of organization (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the legal status, vision, mission, programs, and relevant experience related to the proposed project.		
4. Project background and justification (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the reasons behind the selection of the project idea, how it is relevant to the identified priority sector(s) of the MKCF.		
5. Problem statement (to be addressed) (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the problem(s) and how the project intends to address them.		
6. Regional nature of the project (at least 300 words)		
- Describe how the problem or issue affects multiple Mekong countries and requires regional action and explain how it will be addressed in the project. - Explain how the project fosters cooperation between the Mekong countries and the ROK to address the identified regional issue(s).		
7. Objectives (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the short- and long-term objectives the project intends to achieve in contribution to (1) national priorities and (2) regional priorities. - Describe how well the objective of the project aligns with the Logical Framework of the Mekong-ROK .		
8. Anticipated Results (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the expected outputs, outcomes, and impact of the project, and explain how these results will benefit the Mekong region. - Explain how they will be shared across the region.		
9. Activities and innovative approaches (up to 500 words)		
- Describe the main activities (refer to Appendix 4: Indicative Work Plan) and provide information on how these activities are linked to the objectives the project intends to achieve. - Indicate the geographical location of the proposed activity, specifying the specific area. - Describe any innovative approaches that will be utilized.		

10. Theory of change (up to 500 words)				
- Describe the theory of change, clearly outlining its underlying assumptions, and demonstrate how it aligns with one or more of the MKCF priority sectors.				
11. Logical framework (Outcomes, Outputs, Activities and Inputs at the project level)				
Intervention Logic	Indicators	Means of Verification / Source of Verification	Risk / Assumptions	Remarks
Project outcomes				
1. (outputs 1.1. and 1.2. may contribute to outcome # 1)				
2.				
3.				
...				
Project outputs (that contribute to outcomes)				
1.1.				
1.2.				
2.1.				
2.2.				
...				
Activities	Description			
1.				
2.				
3.				
...				
Inputs				
1.				
2.				
3.				
...				
12. Project pilot / pilot area (up to 500 words)				
- MKCF prioritizes funding for development projects through field interventions in specific locations by focusing on specific communities or target groups/villages within designated location (s) for this purpose. Please provide relevant documents or support information for the group and area, if available.				
13. Risk management / Project sustainability (up to 500 words)				
- Outline how potential risks will be identified, assessed, and mitigated throughout the project. - Explain how the project's sustainability will be ensured in the long term after its implementation with support from the MKCF.				
14. Project management / implementation arrangements (up to 500 words)				
- Describe the project management structure and coordination mechanisms with Mekong country partners, relevant stakeholders, the MKCF Secretariat, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).				

- Provide a brief overview of human resource inputs, including full-time and part-time project staff, experts, and consultants, along with their bios, roles, and responsibilities (refer to the ToR and CV formats in Appendices 5 and 6).

15. Partnership with organisation(s) in the Mekong countries and the ROK (at least 300 words)

- Explain how institutional arrangements will be established to collaborate with partner organizations in the Mekong countries and the ROK (if applicable) and describe the implementation arrangements for joint activities with these partners.

16. Value added by the MKCF's involvement (at least 300 words)

- Specify why MKCF's involvement is critical to the project and how the project has the potential to contribute to achieving the Fund's objectives.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) FRAMEWORK

HIERARCHY OF RESULTS	RESULT STATEMENT(S)	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVIs) What information needs to be collected (Description of indicators / progress markers)?	DEFINITION How is this calculated?	BASELINE What is the current value?	TARGET What is the target value?	DATA SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION How will it be collected and measured?	RISK / ASSUMPTIONS A statement outlining factors that may delay the project.
Impacts							
Outcomes							
Outputs							

APPENDIX 3: INDICATIVE BUDGET

The budget should be presented in this section and provided as a separate Excel file.

APPENDIX 4: INDICATIVE WORK PLAN

No	ACTIVITY	OUTPUT	BUDGET	MONTH																					
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	...
1																									
2																									
3																									
4																									
...																									
TOTAL			IN USD																						

APPENDIX 5: TOR

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF KEY PROJECT CONTRACTED PERSONNEL

No.	Name	Organization	Position	e-mail / phone	Remarks
1	Dr./Mr./Ms.				e.g. TOR No. 1
2					
3					
4					

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF FULL TIME PROJECT STAFF

TOR No. xx	
Position	Project Manager
Duty Station	
Responsibilities	
Requirements	
Date	DD/MM/YY

TOR No. xx	
Position	Project Coordinator
Duty Station	
Responsibilities	
Requirements	
Date	DD/MM/YY

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CONSULTANTS/EXPERTS

TOR No. xx	
Position	
Duty Station	
Responsibilities	
Requirements	
Date	DD/MM/YY

APPENDIX 6: CV

CVs of Proposed Project Team with passport size photo

1. Name:
2. Proponent Organization:
3. Proposed Position:
4. Date of Birth: dd/mm/yy, Nationality:
5. Complete personal contact details:
Address:
Mobile:
Email:
6. Education:
7. Membership in Professional Associations:
8. Other Trainings:
9. Countries of Work Experience: [in the last 10 years]
10. Languages: [Mother Tongue/Excellent/Good/Fair/Poor]

Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
----------	----------	---------	---------

11. Employment Record:

Date from - to	Location	Employer organizations and reference persons	Position	Work Undertaken that Best Illustrates Capability to Manage the Project
mm/yy To date	City / Country	Name and position of reference person + email + telephone	Title of position held	Project Title / budget / donor / achievement – include also main project features, activities performed, project coordination activities, etc.
mm/yy – mm/yy	City / Country	Name and position of reference person + email + telephone	Title of position held	Project Title / budget / donor / achievement – include also main project features, activities performed, project coordination activities, etc.

12. Other Relevant Information (e.g., Publications)

Certification:

I, the undersigned, hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief

- | | | Yes | No |
|------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| i) | This CV accurately describes my qualifications and my experience. | ☐ | ☐ |
| ii) | I am employed by the proponent organization. | ☐ | ☐ |
| iii) | I was part of the team that wrote the Expression of Interest (EOI) for this proposed project. | ☐ | ☐ |

I certify that I have been informed by the proponent organization that my CV is included in the EOI/proposal. I confirm that I will be available to carry out the assignment for which my CV has been submitted, in accordance with the implementation arrangements and schedule outlined in the proposal.

I understand that any willful misstatement may lead to disqualification, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action by the MKCF.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

APPENDIX 7: AGREEMENT ON FUND DISBURSEMENT (TO BE SIGNED)



Mekong–Republic of Korea
Cooperation Fund

Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Agreement on Fund Disbursement

Project Implementing Agency (xxx) will be responsible for implementing the project titled xxx supported by the MKCF as follows:

Project Title			
Project Implementing Agency	Name of the agency Address: xxxx	Head of the Organization	full name title email address phone number
Project commencement date	Insert the date for the first activity in the indicative work plan of the approved proposal	Project implemented date	Insert the date for the final activity in the indicative work plan of the approved proposal
Mid-term Progress Report Submission date	DD/MM/YY	Final report Submission date	DD/MM/YY

The total budget approved and endorsed for this project is xxx USD. *(insert name of the PIA)* agrees that MI disburses the 1st, 2nd and final installments to the bank account given as below, and in case of failure to provide the required financial documents, *(insert name of the PIA)* is obligated to return the respective amount to MI's MKCF account. Moreover, the remaining balance allocated for one budget item cannot be used for other disbursements and should be returned back to the MKCF account as well.

Payment	Amount (USD)	% of the total budget	Remarks
1st installment		50%	Once signed 'Agreement of fund disbursement' is received by MI
2nd installment		40%	Once the mid-term report is received and confirmed by MI
3rd installment		10%	Upon satisfactory completion of all activities of the project with clear exit strategy
Total		100%	

Name of the Bank	
Address of the Bank	
Swift Code	
Recipient's account name	<i>The account should not be a personal one.</i>
Recipient's account number	
Recipient's address	

MKCF Management Manual is an integral part of this agreement, and *(insert name of the PIA)* agrees to follow the provisions as prescribed in the Manual. The PIA agrees to provide project related information in the MKCF M&E and Communication platform.

Director General/Executive
Director/CEO

Executive Director
Mekong Institute

Department
Name of Project
Implementing Agency

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Director/Manager,

Department/Division
Name of Project
Implementing Agency

Coordinator MKCF
Mekong Institute

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____

APPENDIX 8: [RECEIPT FORMAT] (1) PURCHASE RECEIPT

Purchase Receipt (Ref. number: _____)				
Project Title / Country :				
Project Manager :				
Project Duration :				
No.	Item (eg. Flight ticket / Computer)	Description (eg. Purpose)	Amount	Date
Purchased as above. Project Manager name: Project Manager signature: Date:				
Receipt				
Please attach the original receipt here. In case of purchasing a flight ticket, the boarding pass should be provided here also. You can use a separate A4 paper if needed.				

--

**APPENDIX 9: [RECEIPT FORMAT] (2) OUTWARD
REMITTANCE RECEIPT**

Outward Remittance Receipt (Ref. number: _____)
Project Title / Country :
Project Manager:
Project Duration :
Bank name of the recipient : Account number of the recipient: Currency : Amount :
Receipt
Please attach the original bank slip here. You can use a separate A4 paper if needed.

APPENDIX 10: [RECEIPT FORMAT] (3) CASH PAYMENT RECEIPT

Cash Payment Receipt (Ref. number: _____)
Project Title / Country :
Project Manager :
Project Duration :
 Name of the recipient: Affiliation of the recipient: Position of the recipient: Nationality: Passport Number: Total amount paid (e.g. honorarium): I hereby verify that I received the amount specified above for _____. Recipient's name: Recipient's signature: Date:

APPENDIX 11: WORKSHOP / MEETING MINUTES

Workshop / Meeting Minutes (Ref. number: _____)				
Project Title / Country:				
Project Manager:				
Project Duration:				
Date	dd / mm / yy time		Venue	
Title of the workshop / meeting	(e.g. Logistics Management and Supply Chain)			
Subjects Discussions				
Remarks				
Participant	Name	Affiliation	e-mail/ contact number	Signature

APPENDIX 12: MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Progress Report

		Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Mid-term Progress Report	
Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund			
A. Brief Project Information			
1.1. Project title			
1.2. Country (s) / region			
1.3. Project area			
☐ Culture and Tourism ☐ Human Resources Development ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ☐ Environment ☐ Non-traditional Security Challenges			
1.4. Implementation start/end date			
Implementation start date		<u>dd/mm/yyyy</u>	
Implementation end date		<u>dd/mm/yyyy</u>	
Project lifespan		_____ years _____ months	
B. Prepared by			
Name:			
Title:		-	
Department:		-	
Name of the Implementing Agency:		-	
Signature:		-	
Date:			
C. Update on progressive implementation of the project			
Provide information on the current status and progress made under the grant in terms of the achievements/milestones reached to-date as compared to the work plan. All activities as per the approved work plan need to be described in this section. It is required to provide photos, videos as part of this reporting. xxx			
D. Problems Encountered/Deviations			
Address problems encountered in the course of the project and suggest reasons, if any and solutions xxx			
E. Work plan for the remaining activities			
Use the format in Appendix 4			

(2) Mid-term Financial report

- excel file will be provided.

 Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund					
Mid-term Financial Report					
Implementing Agency Project Title Grant Start Date Grant End Date Grant Amount (USD)	dd/mm/yy dd/mm/yy				
Budget and Report Summary					
1st installment received on Total expenditure as of dd/mm/yy Balance as of dd/mm/yy					
Reporting Period					
dd/mm/yy - dd/mm/yy					
Budget line	Description	Ref. number	Approved budget (x) USD	Actual expenditure (y) USD	Balance (x- y) USD
Category 1 (e.g. Personnel)					0
1.1. xxx					0
...					0
Category 2 (e.g. Consultancy services)					0
2.1. xxx					0
...					0
Total (USD)			0	0	0

APPENDIX 13: FINAL REPORT

(1) Final report

		Mekong – ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) Final Report	
Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund			
A. Brief Project Information			
1.1. Project title			
1.2. Country (ies) / region			
1.3. Project area			
☐ Culture and Tourism ☐ Human Resources Development ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ☐ Environment ☐ Non-traditional Security Challenges			
1.4. Implementation start/end date			
Implementation start date	<u>dd/mm/yyyy</u>		
Implementation end date	<u>dd/mm/yyyy</u>		
Project lifespan	_____ years _____ months		
1.5. Approved project budget (USD)			
1.6. Date of 1 st and 2 nd installments			
1 st installment			
2 nd installment			
B. Prepared by			
Name:			
Title:		-	
Department:		-	
Name of the Implementing Agency:		-	
Signature:		-	
Date:			
C. Project outputs			
- Describe the project objective(s) and tangible outputs that were achieved. - Attach the output document(s) like Program Agenda, Workshop / Meeting Minutes, Questionnaires, List of Participants, Photos etc. All activities as per the approved work plan need to be described in this section. It is required to provide photos, videos as part of this reporting. - Attach any other assessment report drafted for the project			
xxx			

	Indicator	Achieved	Remarks
Project output 1.		o/x	
Project output 2.			
...			
D. Project outcomes			
<i>- Briefly describe the project outcomes that were achieved.</i>			
	Indicator	Achieved	Remarks
Project outcome 1.		o/x	
Project outcome 2.			
...			
E. Contribution towards developing the Mekong Countries and deepening the Mekong-ROK cooperation			
xxx			
F. Overall Project Assessment			
<i>- Outline two or three key findings or lessons learned arising from the implementation of the project.</i> <i>- If applicable, provide explanation for any adjustments made for project implementation</i> <i>- Provide guidance to the design and implementation of future or related projects.</i>			
xxx			
G. Financial Analysis			
xxx			
H. Project Completion Check List			
xxx			
I. By Mekong Institute			
xxx			

Name xxx
Title xxx
TIF
Mekong Institute
Signature
Date

(2) Financial report

- excel file will be provided.

 Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund					
Final Financial Report					
Implementing Agency Project Title Grant Start Date Grant End Date Grant Amount (USD)		dd/mm/yy dd/mm/yy			
Budget and Report Summary					
2nd installment received on Total expenditure as of dd/mm/yy Balance as of dd/mm/yy					
Reporting Period					
dd/mm/yy - dd/mm/yy					
Budget line	Description	Ref. number	Approved budget (x) USD	Actual expenditure (y) USD	Balance (x-y) USD
Category 1 (e.g. Personnel)					0
1.1. xxx					0
...					0
Category 2 (e.g. Consultancy services)					0
2.1. xxx					0
					0
Total (USD)			0	0	0

APPENDIX 14: QUARTERLY MONITORING FORM

Quarterly Monitoring Form																	
Project title																	
Project Objective																	
Implementing Agency / Country																	
Funded by	Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF)																
Project commencement date					Project completion date												
Mid-term report submission date					Final report submission date												
Approved Budget (US\$)					1st install. (50%) transferred on												
Reporting Period																	
Outputs/Activities	Plan: Year 1												Progress	Remarks	Fund Utilization		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Status	Short Description	Approved Amount	Actual Expenditure	
Output 1. xxxx																	
Activity 1.1. xxxx																	
Activity 1.2. xxxx																	
Activity 1.3. xxxx																	
Activity 1.4. xxxx																	
Activity 1.5. xxxx																	
Output 2. xxxx																	
Activity 2.1. xxxx																	
Activity 2.2. xxxx																	

Progress status: *Output* (Achieved, Partially Achieved, Not Achieved). *Activity* (Completed, Delayed, Ongoing, Postponed, Canceled)