

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

RFT: 2021/023_ReAd
File: AP_2/39
Date: 6 April, 2021
To: Interested suppliers
From: Jamie Davies – Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Manager
Subject: Request for Tender: Consultant to provide in-country management of the Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative at the Ministry of Environment, Fiji - READVERTISEMENT

1. Background

- 1.1. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting cooperation among Pacific islands countries and territories to protect and improve their environment and ensure sustainable development.
- 1.2. SPREP approaches the environmental challenges faced by the Pacific guided by four simple Values. These values guide all aspects of our work:
 - We value the Environment
 - We value our People
 - We value high quality and targeted Service Delivery
 - We value Integrity
- 1.2. For more information, see: www.sprep.org.

2. Specifications: statement of requirement

- 2.1. SPREP would like to call for tenders from qualified and experienced consultants who can offer their services for a minimum of 250 days per year to work at the Ministry of Environment to assist with the development and implementation of the Annual Activity Plans agreed by the Fiji By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Steering Committee in the following key result areas:
 - Integrated 'ridge to reef' ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning.
 - Development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans.
 - Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated.
 - Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies.
 - Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species.
 - Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES partners.
- 2.2 The consultant will liaise and consult extensively with the Director, Ministry of Environment, SPREP BIEM Initiative team, involved Government Ministries and Departments, community

representatives, Provincial Governments, contractors, NGOs and donors and will be expected to work in both Suva and in the Provinces.

- 2.3 The duration of the contract will be from April 2021 to December 2022, renewable annually subject to the duration and completion of the BIEM Initiative and the PEUMP Programme.
- 2.4 The consultant will adhere to the PEUMP Programme Communications and Visibility Strategy and BIEM Initiative Communications and Visibility Guidance in the development and approval of all external media, documents and publications. The Ministry of Environment Communications Strategy will be taken into account as far as possible.
- 2.5 The consultant will be expected to adopt gender and human rights sensitive approaches in all aspects of their work.
- 2.6 The Terms of Reference and the specific duties of the consultant are set out in Annex A.

3. Conditions: information for applicants

- 3.1. To be considered for this tender, interested suppliers must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Currently reside in Fiji.
 - b. Be able to demonstrate that he/she is legally entitled to work in Fiji.
 - c. Excellent command of spoken and written English and either Fijian and/or Fijian Hindi.
 - d. Record of having successfully worked with Government, civil society stakeholders and local communities in Fiji and establishing effective networks of cooperation.
 - e. Strong track record in project management including work planning, budgeting, organising and managing partner input, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
 - f. A post-graduate qualification from a recognised tertiary institution in a field related to ecosystems, biodiversity or fisheries management, project management and/or climate change adaptation.
 - g. At least 3 years' experience working in community-based natural resource management, ecosystems restoration and/or species conservation.

4. Submission guidelines

- 4.1. Tender documentation should demonstrate that the interested supplier satisfies the conditions stated above and is capable of meeting the specifications and timeframes. Documentation must also include supporting examples to address the evaluation criteria.
- 4.2. Tender documentation should outline the interested supplier's complete proposal: methods, personnel (and their skill sets/curricula vitae), timeframes, costs and include:
 - a. CV to demonstrate that they have the requisite skills and experience to carry out this contract successfully.
 - b. Provide three references relevant to this tender submission, including the most recent work completed;
 - c. Complete **tender application form** provided. *(Please note you are required to complete in full all areas requested in the Form, particularly the Statements to demonstrate you meet the selection criteria – DO NOT refer us to your CV or your Technical Proposal. Failure to do this will mean your application will **not** be considered).*
 - d. Sign the **Conflict of Interest form**.

- 4.3 Tender documentation should stipulate the consultant's daily rate in United States Dollars (USD). Hourly rate will be assumed to be the daily rate divided by 8 hours.
- 4.4 Prospective consultants must commit to 250 days per year to this consultancy and be willing to set aside extra time if needed for particular tasks.
- 4.5 Tender submission must be in USD.
- 4.6 The Proposal must remain valid for 90 days from date of submission.
- 4.7 Tenderers/Bidders must insist on an acknowledgement of receipt of tenders/proposals/bids.

5. Tender Clarification

- 5.1. Any clarification questions from applicants must be submitted by email to procurement@sprep.org before 19 April 2021. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website www.sprep.org/tender by 21 April 2021.

6. Evaluation criteria

- 6.1. SPREP and the Ministry of Environment will select a preferred supplier on the basis of the evaluation of the extent to which the documentation demonstrates that the tenderer offers the best value for money, and that the tenderer satisfies the following criteria:
 - i. A post-graduate qualification from a recognised tertiary institution in a field related to ecosystems, biodiversity or fisheries management, project management and/or climate change adaptation. (10%)
 - ii. Strong knowledge of environmental issues and the legal and governance context in Fiji. At least 3 years' experience working in community-based natural resource management, ecosystems restoration and/or species conservation. (15%)
 - iii. Proven track record in planning and delivering complex projects in Fiji, including work planning, budgeting, organising and managing partner input, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. (20%)
 - iv. Prior delivery of effective communication and outreach activities in rural circumstances in English and either Fijian and/or Fijian Hindi. (10%)
 - v. Established networks in the environment management field of practice in Fiji. Record of having successfully worked with Government, civil society stakeholders and local communities in Fiji and establishing effective networks of cooperation (15%)
 - vi. Cost (daily rate in USD) (30%)
- 6.2 Assessment of proposals will be based on the evaluation of the Technical Proposal (70%) and Financial assessment (30%).

7. Deadline

- 7.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is 28 April 2021, midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**
- 7.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.



- 7.3 Please send all tenders clearly marked 'RFT 2021/023_ReAd: **Consultant to provide in-country management for the Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative at the Ministry of Environment, Fiji - READVERTISEMENT**' to one of the following methods:

Mail: SPREP

Attention: Procurement Officer

PO Box 240

Apia, SAMOA

Email: tenders@sprep.org (MOST PREFERRED OPTION)

Fax: 685 20231

Person: Submit by hand in the tenders box at SPREP reception,
Vailima, Samoa.

SPREP reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For any complaints regarding the Secretariat's tenders please refer to the Complaints section on the SPREP website

<http://www.sprep.org/accountability/complaints>



ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT TO PROVIDE IN-COUNTRY MANAGEMENT OF THE BYCATCH AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE AT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FIJI

Background

The scope of the BIEM Initiative in Fiji reflects the Key Result Area 5 of the PEUMP Programme provided in Annex 2. The specific activities to be implemented in Fiji will reflect the Government's national priorities and will be agreed by the Fiji By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Steering Committee. Detailed Annual Activity Plans will be approved and reviewed on an annual basis and will reflect six key result areas of the Initiative being implemented in Fiji:

- Integrated 'ridge to reef' ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning.
- Development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans.
- Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated.
- Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies.
- Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species.
- Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES partners.

Services Required

SPREP and the Ministry of Environment are seeking the services of a consultant to be appointed to work at the Department to manage the development and implementation of the Annual Activity Plans approved by the Fiji By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Steering Committee from April 2021 to December 2022.

Scope of Consultancy

The role of the consultant is to manage the Ministry of Environment's (MoE) engagement in the implementation of the Fiji By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Initiative. This will involve working extensively with the Director, Principle Officer and other MoE staff, involved Government Ministries and Departments, community representatives, Provincial Governments, NGOs, donors, the BIEM Initiative project team.

This role will include, but is not limited to:

1. Managing the MoE's engagement in the organisation and reporting of the secretariat of the Fiji Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Steering Group. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year to approve the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Annual Activity Plan.
2. In line with the approved Annual Activity Plan, managing the MoE's engagement in the implementation of activities required to develop a widely supported gender and human rights sensitive integrated ecosystem management plan for the Navua catchment and Beqa Island area that identifies realistic activities to help promote the natural adaptive capacity of coastal habitats to support sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty.

The expected approach to develop, publish and begin the implementation of the integrated ecosystem management plan for the shortlisted site includes but is not limited to:

- a. Working with and increasing the capacity of men, women and youth in coastal communities, Government authorities and partners.

- b. Putting gender, human rights and poverty alleviation considerations at the heart of the planning and implementation of activities.
- c. Mapping and assessing the ecological health of the selected coastal areas associated watersheds that coastal communities depend upon for their livelihoods.
- d. Assessing the threats to ecosystems and livelihoods as a result of current resource use and the expected impacts of climate change.
- e. Developing widely supported integrated ecosystem management plans for selected coastal area and associated watersheds that identify realistic activities to help promote the natural adaptive capacity of coastal habitats to support sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty.
- f. Beginning the implementation prioritised activities.
- g. Identifying and securing technical and financial support to implement identified activities beyond December 2022.

The work expected from the contractor on behalf of the MoE in relation to the development, publication and implementation of the integrated ecosystem management plan for the site includes, but is not limited to:

- Collating and reviewing existing research reports and other important information about the focal area.
 - Coordinating with appropriate Government Ministries, academic organisations, NGOs, contractors and SPREP to plan and deliver all field activities, training, meetings and workshops undertaken at the project sites, ensuring that gender, human rights and poverty alleviation considerations are central to the planning and implementation of activities.
 - Managing and facilitating field activities, training and meetings conducted at the project sites, regionally and nationally to ensure they are understood and supported by target communities and achieve their objectives. A central element of this work will be to initiate, develop and finalise the publication of integrated ecosystem management plans for the sites.
 - Managing the identification of capacity building requirements amongst coastal communities, Government authorities and partners.
 - Planning, managing and facilitating the delivery of training activities identified in the Annual Activity Plan and in the integrated ecosystem management plans. Trainings are expected to be run at a national, regional and local level and will involve helping to secure experts from different sectors to lead the training exercises.
 - Leading the development of audience appropriate documents and publications in English, Fijian and Fijian Hindi.
 - Assisting the Ministry and BIEM Initiative Manager to document and report lessons learnt.
 - Assisting with any other responsibilities advised by the Director of the Ministry of Environment and/or the BIEM Initiative Manager from time to time especially those relating to conservation & biodiversity related issues.
3. On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, manage the delivery of activities in collaboration with relevant Government authorities, SPREP and partners relating to by-catch and conservation of threatened, endangered and protected marine species at a national and South West Pacific regional scale in line with the approved Annual Activity Plan. Specifically, these will help deliver the following KRAs:
 - a. Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated.
 - b. Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies.
 - c. Capacity development through research grants to citizens of the Pacific Islands.



- d. Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species.
- e. Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES partners.

The specific details of activities to be implemented in Fiji are yet to be agreed. However, the work the coordinator will be expected to do will include, but not be limited to:

- Supporting the MoE's engagement in the implementation of these KRAs, including coordination with other Government Ministries, Provincial Governments, NGOs and partners to secure their support and active engagement when appropriate.
- Support the identification of capacity building requirements amongst Government authorities and partners.
- Assisting the MoE to evaluate progress and document and report lessons learnt.
- Assisting with any other responsibilities advised by the Director of the Department of Environment and/or the BIEM Initiative Manager from time to time especially those relating to conservation & biodiversity related issues.

Requirements

To be considered for this tender, interested suppliers must meet the following conditions:

- a. Currently reside in Fiji.
- b. Be able to demonstrate that he/she is legally entitled to work in Fiji.
- c. Excellent command of spoken and written English and either Fijian and/or Fijian Hindi.
- d. Record of having successfully worked with Government, civil society stakeholders and local communities in Fiji and establishing effective networks of cooperation.
- e. Strong track record in project management including work planning, budgeting, organising and managing partner input, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
- f. A post-graduate qualification from a recognised tertiary institution in a field related to ecosystems, biodiversity or fisheries management, project management and/or climate change adaptation.
- g. At least 3 years' experience working in community-based natural resource management, ecosystems restoration and/or species conservation.

Remuneration

This is a delivery-based consultancy position and the professional time allocation and professional rate are subject to negotiation. It is expected however that the Consultant will allocate the equivalent of 250 days per year through to December 2022 and work at the equivalent of Principle Officer position. Remuneration will be based on pre-agreed daily consultancy rate and upon approved quarterly work plans and delivery on agreed milestones. There will be an operational budget for agreed disbursements including travel and per diem. Travel throughout the focal area will be required and will be paid for through SPREP's BIEM Initiative travel budget.

The consultant will be expected to provide and cover the costs of their own mobile phone, laptop/computer equipment and associated software and stationery as part of the contract agreement.

Work arrangements



The consultant will be expected to work from the MoE, Toorak, Suva with regular meetings with SPREP's BIEM Initiative Project Team on Thurston Street. The successful applicant will be required to sign a non-disclosure clause in line with MoE requirements.

The consultant will submit quarterly forward plans and monthly reports to the Director MoE and BIEM Initiative Manager.

The successful consultant must supply the services to the extent applicable, in compliance with SPREP's Values and Code of Conduct.

https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Corporate_Documents/sprep-organisational-values-code-of-conduct.pdf

Duration of the Consultancy

This consultancy is expected to run for 20 months from April 2021 to end December 2022 but may be extended subject to a decision by the funders.

ANNEX 2

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme¹ addresses some of the most serious challenges faced by the region. Among these are the increasing depletion of coastal fisheries resources; the threats to marine biodiversity, including negative impacts of climate change and disasters; the uneven contribution of oceanic fisheries to national economic development; the need for improved education and training in the sector; and the need to mainstream a rights-based approach and to promote greater recognition of gender issues within the sector.

This 5-year programme started in September 2018 and is funded by the European Union (EUR 35 million) with additional targeted support from the government of Sweden (EUR 10 million). The programme provides direct assistance through regional organisations to support regional and national level activities in the Pacific.

The PEUMP Programme combines a regional and national approach, paying specific attention to actions and services delivered at country level to promote and direct positive changes for target groups, in particular women, youth and the most vulnerable groups.

The PEUMP Programme's **overall objective** is to '*Improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 PACPs arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment*'.

The **specific objective (outcome)** is to '*support sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity*'.

To address the main priority areas identified in the formulation phase, a demand-driven approach, recognising the diversity of needs and opportunities across the 15 PACP countries, the Programme adopts an integrated approach, with inter-related components implemented by several agencies, revolving around six KRAs and the Programme Management Unit based in Suva, Fiji. Four main agencies are implementing / or have been implementing the KRAs through a multisectoral approach: 1) The Pacific Community (SPC), which is the lead agency for the programme and will be responsible for its overall management, 2) the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), 3) SPREP and 4) The University of the South Pacific (USP). In addition, the PEUMP is also partnering with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), which include the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA), Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The six KRAs are aligned with the two focal sectors of the regional roadmap – oceanic and coastal fisheries and are as follows:

Oceanic Fisheries

- KRA 1 - High quality scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries provided and utilised at regional and national levels (SPC).
- KRA 2 – Inclusive economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing increased through supporting competent authorities and strengthening private sector capacities to create decent employment (FFA).

Coastal Fisheries

- KRA 3 – Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems improved through better quality scientific information, legal advice, support, mentoring and empowerment at community level (SPC).

Coastal and Oceanic fisheries

¹ Further information is available here: <https://peump.dev/>



- KRA 4 – IUU fishing reduced through enhanced monitoring control and surveillance of both oceanic and coastal fisheries, improved legislation, access to information, and effective marine area management (FFA).
- KRA 5 - Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine biodiversity promoted through improving marine special planning, increasing climate change resilience, enhancing conservation, mitigation and rehabilitation measures (SPREP).

Capacity development

- KRA 6 - Capacity built through education, training and research and development for key stakeholder groups in fisheries and marine resources management (USP).

Key Result Area 5: By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management

SPREP has been awarded 6.2 million Euros to implement the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component² of the PEUMP Programme and the work is due to be completed by December 2022. BIEM activities are designed to ensure they are relevant to all south Pacific countries. However, to maximise the positive impact of the work with the funding and time available, the BIEM team will focus the majority of activities in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

SPREP and its partners are dedicated to working to assist these Pacific countries meet their priorities in the sustainable management of their coastal resources and marine biodiversity, focusing on eight integrated key result areas (KRAs) identified in Table 1.

SPREP has sub-contracted the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TierraMar Consulting Pty Ltd (TierraMar) to lead the delivery of some elements of the work. The organisational responsibilities are identified in Table 1.

² Further information is available here: <https://pacificislands.hubilo.com/community/#/exhibitor/9293>

Table 1: The 8 integrated KRAs of BIEM

| KRA-5 Component | Geographical scope: | Lead Organisation |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| 5.1 Marine Spatial Planning | Solomon Islands, Fiji | IUCN |
| 5.2 Integrated 'ridge to reef' ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning | Fiji, Vanuatu | SPREP |
| 5.3 Development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans | Fiji, Vanuatu | |
| 5.4 Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated | Regional | SPREP |
| 5.5 Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies | Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu | |
| 5.6 Capacity development through research grants to citizens of the Pacific Islands | Regional | |
| 5.7 Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species | Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu | |
| 5.8 Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES partners | Regional - CITES partner countries | |

Management and Operations

The BIEM Management Unit (MU) has been established by SPREP in Suva to provide logistical, financial, and administrative and communication support and coordinate the delivery of the eight BIEM components.

The MU also has responsibility to ensure that BIEM activities are coordinated effectively as part of the wider PEUMP Programme. The MU will work collaboratively with Programme members, Countries and other partners under the guidance of the PEUMP Programme Management Unit to achieve this.