



## CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

RFT: **POLP 2024/007**  
File: AP\_6/19/4  
Date: 25 June 2024  
To: Interested Service Providers  
Contact: Ngaire Ah Ching [ngairec@sprep.org](mailto:ngairec@sprep.org)

**Subject: Request for tenders (RFT): POLP 2024/007 : Coastal Monitoring of Single-Use Plastic Litter.**

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### **Question 1:**

Is there any information available on budget for the 2024/POLP/007, Request for Tenders: Coastal Monitoring of Single-Use Plastic Litter?

### **Response:**

This tender is to be kept competitive, proposals will be assessed based on merit and best value for money in line with the expectations and deliverables of the TOR for this tender.

### **Question 2:**

Is there a budget envelope for the tender, as there is no information regarding this matter that I have been able to identify.

### **Response:**

Similar to response to question 1, this tender is to be kept competitive, proposals will be assessed based on merit and best value for money in line with the expectations and deliverables of the TOR for this tender.

### **Question 3:**

#### **Responses (In Blue)**

- 1) Is there a preference for a face-to-face inception meeting versus virtual? Given the timing highlighted in Table 1 (to be held within one week of contract execution), it would seem challenging to have travel approvals in place for a face-to-face inception meeting.

The Inception meeting between SPREP/ POLP (Project Management Unit) PMU and the selected Consultant will be done virtually. A Face-to-face meeting will not be necessary.

- 2) Will SPREP staff act in a liaison role for the project to ensure the successful applicant can make the anticipated project schedule outlined in Table 1 and to identify/provide introductions to key partners from each of the participating countries?

Yes, POLP PMU will be supporting the consultant to manage deliverables according to the project schedule also with formal introductions required with the participating countries.

- 3) If some specifics of survey design would be best served by engagement with participating countries, is it possible to allow for potential minor modification of survey design based on input from countries? Again, I note this could be difficult if SPREP is not involved in the



support/liason aspects with participating countries, as receiving feedback from countries would be useful to ensure their needs are met.

POLP PMU will be involved and can coordinate with the participating countries. Any potential changes to the design can be discussed with the selected consultant at the inception meeting. However, such proposed allowances or considerations should be explained in the Technical Proposals for consideration by the Evaluation panel.

**Question 4:**

**Responses (In Blue):**

- 1) Can you please provide any guidance on the expected total cost of the consultancy.

Similar to response to question 1, this tender is to be kept competitive, proposals will be assessed based on merit and best value for money in line with the expectations and deliverables of the TOR for this tender.

- 2) Can you please clarify, the following statement in the ToR:  
“ Specifically include single-use plastics including (but not limited to) household litter and tourism waste, such as PET bottles, plastic bags, polystyrene take-way, containers and plastic straws. Other plastics and waste types should be included for completeness.”

What is included in “other plastics and waste types”. The number of categories within any coastal survey will impact on the time spent on doing the survey and as such, will directly impact costs.

The survey will identify the single use plastics collected at monitoring site and for completeness other plastics and waste types that are also collected as part of the survey.

- 3) Can you please clarify, the following statements in the ToR:
- Allows robust assessments of the extent to which the volume and type of single-use plastic litter in Pacific coastal environments changes over time at a national level, and the likely drivers behind any change”.
  - Answer the POLP monitoring question to what extent has the amount or type of single-use plastic in coastal environments changed?
  - Analysis of the likelihood of POLP interventions influenced any reduction of single-use plastic in Pacific coastal environments from 2024-2027.
  - Without intensive monitoring, it is often challenging to observe a statistically significant change in coastal marine litter. Even with intensive monitoring statistically significant change can take up to 5-10 years to be observed ([https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749118350565?ref=pdf\\_download&fr=RR-2&rr=894e91e14e4956e2](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749118350565?ref=pdf_download&fr=RR-2&rr=894e91e14e4956e2) Summary: For most survey sites, the mean length of monitoring periods necessary to achieve a CV < 10% amounts to four to five years with four surveys a year. The mean number of surveys necessary to detect a statistically significant reduction of 30% with 80% power ranges from 14 to



20. Power analyses show that a reduction of 10% is difficult to detect, because more than 24 surveys are needed).

- Is the program able to undertake intensive monitoring which will be expensive or is there an expected maximum amount of surveys expected per beach? What happens if significant results require ongoing monitoring beyond the two-three years? Sometimes the results can be further complicated if the variance within the sample is high, requiring more sampling to reach statistical accuracy. Is the program able to be set up to split the monitoring requirements from development of methodology and sampling framework from the actual monitoring?
- Further, coastal marine litter is subject to change with what's carried with the ocean currents and will therefore be impacted by what's happening in the marine environment (leakage from fishing, maritime transport and tourism vessels) as well as leakage from other countries/islands. Is the monitoring strategy required to take outside influences into account? If not, will a simple monitoring strategy- undertaking coastal litter monitoring over time- be deemed effective for the above research question even without statistical robustness?

The statements in the TOR are clear . The onus is on the tenderer to outline a monitoring regime that address the statements in the TOR and to present that in their bid. If 24 surveys per year are needed over 5 years for statistical robustness, then that will be reflected in the bid. The consultant could suggest that monitoring strategy take outside influences into account as Part of their tender.

- 4) Can you please clarify:
- Distinguishes the effect, if any, of the POLP intervention.
  - Are you requiring the coastal-monitoring results to be able to determine if a POLP intervention like a ban has had an effect (quality or type) on coastal marine litter?

Yes, that a ban could have an effect on the volume of coastal marine litter of a single use plastic that was banned.

- 5) If monitoring strategy requires the coastal litter audits to be conducted monthly or quarterly, would the requirement be to produce 9xreports every time the monitoring event happens? Or is the consultant able to nominate points at which reporting will be undertaken?

Coastal litter audits should generate a report with audits conducted according to timelines nominated by the Consultant.

**Question 5:**

**Responses (In Blue):**

- 1) We plan on using local populations to conduct some surveys. Do we need to include salary and expenses for the local people doing the surveys, or are there existing agreements in place between SPREP and local organizations?



SPREP do not have any existing agreements with countries regarding this type of work. Therefore, these costs should be included in total costs by the consultant.

- 2) In the same vein, should we consider providing locals with basic equipment to conduct surveys, or are these already available? We are thinking about GPS, cameras, smartphones, etc.

It is on the consultant to identify what kind of equipment available to the locals to undertake the survey.

**Question 6:**

**Responses (In Blue):**

- 1) In the documents it states that the program needs to be implemented into up to 9 countries, would this mean we could price for fewer than nine countries on the selected list?

Yes, you can identify which countries you are able to conduct activity in and at what cost.

- 2) Will SPREP support the implementation of the program, especially in terms of the capacity building stage (i.e. support identify key local leaders)?

Yes, SPREP can assist in formally introducing consultant to local counterparts identified.

**Question 7:**

**Responses (In Blue):**

- 1) Does SPREP have an indicative budget for this work? Particularly the implementation defined in task 2 table 1.

Similar to response to question 1, this tender is to be kept competitive, proposals will be assessed based on merit and best value for money in line with the expectations and deliverables of the TOR for this tender.

- 2) Can you confirm the question to be answered through this piece of work please?
  - Is it: "To what extent has the amount of single-use plastic in coastal environments reduced?"
  - Noting that the RfT refers to reduced and also changed.

Confirm that the question is "...To what extent has the amount of single-use plastic in coastal environments reduced...?"

- 3) Single use plastics – are these defined as per Appendix N in the linked audit methodology please? [APWC Vanuatu Waste Data Report \(sprep.org\)](#) .

Otherwise, can you define what single use plastics please?

**Single-use plastics** are those that are used only once before being discarded.



The POLP will target:

Single-use macro-plastics from land-based sources occurring in the near-shore environment of Pacific Island Countries.

Specifically, the POLP will tackle:

Takeaway food and beverage containers, single-use plastics employed in tourism enterprises, and single-use plastics found in general household refuse (including plastic bags, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, polystyrene containers, plastic straws).

[From the POLP Project Design Document]

- 4) What is SPREPs expectation/preference of in-country delivery with regards to the delivery of training and ongoing support of teams delivering the litter monitoring in-country through the period of the project?

This is for the consultant to suggest as part of their bid.

- 5) Has there been any previous data collected to date to support and/ or be considered as part of this work?

Yes, data has been collected from POLP, SWAP surveys as part of International Coastal Clean Up Day in community clean up locations in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna and Vanuatu.

- 6) What do the mentioned Focal points look like in terms of their role, experience, capacity in this space?

Focal point is a person who can carry out the assigned task and doesn't necessarily have to be senior, very experienced or extremely capable.

**Question 8:**

What is the timeline of decision-making? When would the contract begin?

Is there an indicative budget?

**Response:**

The Tender process will be about 5 – 6 weeks. A decision could be made after 7 weeks from due date. Contract should start a week after decision is made and a contract is signed between SPREP and the successful bidder.

Similar to response to question 1, this tender is to be kept competitive, proposals will be assessed based on merit and best value for money in line with the expectations and deliverables of the TOR for this tender.