



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

RFT: 2024/051
File: AP_2/46
Date: 30 September, 2024
To: Interested consultants
From: Turang Teuea, Project Coordinator (MACBLUE)

Subject: Request for tenders (RFT): Consultancy services to implement the Local Management Approaches for the MACBLUE project in Efate, Vanuatu

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
- 1.3. For more information, see: www.sprep.org.

2. Specifications: statement of requirement

- 2.1. SPREP wishes to call for tenders from qualified and experienced consultants who can offer their services to implement the local management approaches for the MACBLUE project in Efate, Vanuatu.
- 2.2. The Terms of Reference of the consultancy are set out in Annex A.
- 2.3. The successful consultant must supply the services to the extent applicable, in compliance with SPREP's Values and Code of Conduct: <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/sprep-organisational-values-code-of-conduct.pdf>. Including SPREP's policy on Child Protection, Environmental Social Safeguards, Fraud Prevention & Whistleblower Protection and Gender and Social Inclusion.
- 2.4. SPREP Standard Contract Terms and Conditions are non-negotiable

3. Conditions: information for applicants

- 3.1. To be considered for this tender, interested consultants must meet the following conditions:
 - i. Submit a detailed Curriculum vitae detailing qualification and previous relevant experience for each proposed personnel;
 - ii. Provide three referees relevant to this tender submission, including the most recent work completed;
 - iii. Complete the **tender application form** provided (*Please note you are required to complete in full all areas requested in the Form, particularly the Statements to*



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*demonstrate you meet the selection criteria – DO NOT refer us to your CV. Failure to do this will mean your application will **not** be considered).*

Provide examples of past related work outputs

For the Technical and Financial proposals you may attach these separately.

- iv. Must meet local registration requirements where the consultant is based.
- 3.2 Tenderers must declare any areas that may constitute conflict of interest related to this tender and sign the **conflict of interest form** provided.
- 3.3 **Tenderer is deemed ineligible due to association with exclusion criteria, including** bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up procedures, breach of obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions, fraudulent or negligent practice, violation of intellectual property rights, under a judgment by the court, grave professional misconduct including misrepresentation, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation, money laundering or terrorist financing, child labour and other trafficking in human beings, deficiency in capability in complying main obligations, creating a shell company, and being a shell company.
- 3.4 Tenderer must sign a declaration of **honour form** together with their application, certifying that they do not fall **into** any of the exclusion situations cited in 3.3 above and where applicable, that they have taken adequate measures to remedy the situation.

4. Submission guidelines

- 4.1. Tender documentation should demonstrate that the interested consultant satisfies the conditions stated above and in the Terms of Reference 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 be submitted in English and outline the interested consultant's complete proposal:
 - a) **SPREP Tender Application form and conflict of interest form.** *(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. Failure to do this will mean your application will **not** be considered).*
Provide examples of past related work outputs
For the Technical and Financial proposals you may attach these separately.
 - b) **Honour form**
 - c) **Curriculum Vitae** of the proposed personnel to demonstrate that they have the requisite skills and experience to carry out this contract successfully.
 - d) **Technical Proposal** which contains the details to achieve the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference.
 - e) **Financial Proposal** – provide a detailed outline of the costs involved in successfully delivering this project submitted in United States Dollars (USD) and inclusive of all associated taxes.
 - f) Where relevant provide:
 - i. Business registration/license (For Entities/ Individual consultant's as per relevant national legislations)
 - ii. Tax Identification Number (TIN) Letter (If applicable for Individual consultant's as per relevant national legislations)
- 4.3. Provide three referees relevant to this tender submission, including the most recent work completed.



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- 4.4. Tenderers/bidders shall bear all costs associated with preparing and submitting a proposal, including cost relating to contract award; SPREP will, in no case, be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- 4.5. The tenderer/bidder might be requested to provide additional information relating to their submitted proposal, if the Tender Evaluation Committee requests further information for the purposes of tender evaluation. SPREP may shortlist one or more Tenderers and seek further information from them.
- 4.6. The submitted tender proposal must be for the entirety of the Terms of Reference and not divided into portions which a potential tenderer/bidder can provide services for.
- 4.7. The Proposal must remain valid for 90 days from date of submission.
- 4.8. Tenderers must insist on an acknowledgement of receipt of tender.

5. Tender Clarification

- 5.1. a. Any clarification questions from applicants must be submitted by email to procurement@sprep.org before 15 October 2024. A summary of all questions received complete with an associated response posted on the SPREP website www.sprep.org/tender by 17 October 2024.
- b. The only point of contact for all matters relating to the RFT and the RFT process is the SPREP Procurement Officer.
- c. SPREP will determine what, if any, response should be given to a Tenderer question. SPREP will circulate Tenderer questions and SPREP's response to those questions to all other Tenderers using the SPREP Tenders page (<https://www.sprep.org/tenders>) without disclosing the source of the questions or revealing any confidential information of a Tenderer.
- d. Tenderers should identify in their question what, if any, information in the question the Tenderer considers is confidential.
- e. If a Tenderer believes they have found a discrepancy, error, ambiguity, inconsistency or omission in this RFT or any other information given or made available by SPREP, the Tenderer should promptly notify the Procurement Officer setting out the error in sufficient detail so that SPREP may take the corrective action, if any, it considers appropriate.

6. Evaluation criteria

- 6.1. SPREP will select a preferred consultant on the basis of SPREP's evaluation of the extent to which the documentation demonstrates that the tenderer offers the best value for money, and that the tender satisfies the following criteria:
- 6.2. A proposal will be rejected if it fails to achieve 70% or more in the technical criteria and its accompanying financial proposal shall not be evaluated.

I. Technical Score – 80%

Criteria	Detail	Weighting
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holds a Master level with extensive experience in field relevant to the successful execution of the tender (environment, ecology and other related fields)	15



Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive knowledge in mangrove/seagrass management, ecological restoration, environmental protection or related fields • Strong understanding in working with national governments, NGOs and local communities in biodiversity management and conservation programmes • Demonstrated knowledge in development of local management plans for species/ ecosystem conservation in the Pacific • Established partnerships in Vanuatu to build local capacity and to implement the work at the local scales 	20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 years-experience working in the Pacific Islands region on local management approaches or biodiversity conservation • Demonstrated experience in implementation of community-based management approaches for mangrove or seagrass ecosystems in Vanuatu 	20
Technical Proposal / Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed methodology and suggested timeline for the delivery of the tasks for the selection of a community-based local management site, stakeholder engagement and implementation strategy • Preference will be given to consultants who have a Vanuatu-based team and provide details of their preferred structure and specific information on how they will deliver and manage the requested tasks 	25

II. Financial Score – 20%

The following formula shall be used to calculate the financial score for ONLY the proposals which score 70% or more in the technical criteria:

$$\text{Financial Score} = a \times \frac{b}{c}$$

Where:

a = maximum number of points allocated for the Financial Score

b = Lowest bid amount

c = Total bidding amount of the proposal

7. Variation or Termination of the Request for Tender

- 7.1 a. SPREP may amend, suspend or terminate the RFT process at any time.
- b. In the event that SPREP amends the RFT or the conditions of tender, it will inform potential Tenderers using the SPREP Tenders page (<https://www.sprep.org/tenders>).
- c. Tenderers are responsible to regularly check the SPREP website Tenders page for any updates and downloading the relevant RFT documentation and addendum for the RFT if it is interested in providing a Tender Response.
- d. If SPREP determines that none of the Tenders submitted represents value for money, that it is otherwise in the public interest or SPREP's interest to do so, SPREP may terminate this RFT process at any time. In such cases SPREP will cancel the tender, issue a cancellation notice and inform unsuccessful bidders accordingly.



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8. Deadline

- 8.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is: 29 October 2024, midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**
- 8.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.
- 8.3. Please send all tenders clearly marked 'RFT 2024/051: **'Consultancy services to implement the Local Management Approaches for the MACBLUE project in Efate, Vanuatu'**

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.

Note: Submissions made to the incorrect portal will not be considered by SPREP. If SPREP is made aware of the error in submission prior to the deadline, the applicant will be advised to resubmit their application to the correct portal. However, if SPREP is not made aware of the error in submission until after the deadline, then the application is considered late and will be returned unopened to the sender.

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

SPREP reserves the right to enter into negotiation with respect to one or more proposals prior to the award of a contract, split an award/awards and to consider localised award/awards between any proposers in any combination, as it may deem appropriate without prior written acceptance of the proposers.

A binding contract is in effect, once signed by both SPREP and the successful tenderer. Any contractual discussion/work carried out/goods supplied prior to a contract being signed does not constitute a binding contract.

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 A: Terms of Reference

Consultancy services to implement the Local Management Approaches for the MACBLUE project in Efate, Vanuatu

Background

1. Blue Carbon Ecosystems (BCEs) such as seagrass, mangroves and salt marshes sequester carbon significantly faster than terrestrial forests and store up to 5 times more carbon dioxide equivalent Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions per hectare. A number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) possess important BCE resources, provide ecosystem services related to shoreline protection, habitats, marine species nurseries, food security, tourism revenue and water quality. Despite their diverse social, environmental and economic values, these ecosystems are rapidly decreasing, and human activities are the major causes for this decline.
2. Local management and restoration of these ecosystem by the local people or communities is now a widely advocated approach based on the principle that suggests local people make effective stewards. In Vanuatu, many coastal communities rely on these ecosystems for their livelihood.
3. The “Strengthening coastal biodiversity conservation and management through protection and rehabilitation incentives for coastal carbon sinks in Pacific Island Countries” (MACBLUE) is an agreement between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).
4. The MACBLUE Project aims to develop government or community plans for the management, protection and rehabilitation approaches for mangroves and seagrass habitats at selected sites in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The proven management approaches will be implemented and priority sites and demonstrated as a model for national replication.

Scope of Work

1. SPREP is seeking a suitably qualified Consultant (qualified consortia and organisations with a Vanuatu-based office or team can apply) to undertake a gap and needs assessment and develop and support the implementation of a site/community management plan for the protection and rehabilitation of mangroves and/or seagrass in Paunangisu and Siviri on Efate in Vanuatu.
2. The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:



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<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead a meeting with the MACBLUE Project Implementing Partners (SPREP/GIZ/SPC), the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), Departments for Forestry and Fisheries, the MACBLUE National Coordinator, and other relevant government (national and provincial) NGO and academia in Vanuatu to discuss and agree on the pilot sites, activities, approach and workplan for the local management approach (LMA) activities • The Consultant shall create and submit a workplan that will ensure a timely and effective execution and delivery of the services under this contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting report which should document the outcomes of the meeting and include an Implementation plan (including the FPIC process) for the LMA activities • Final and approved workplan (A draft to be submitted to SPREP for review and consideration before finalization and approval)
<p>FPIC Process and Consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant, in close consultation with the MACBLUE Vanuatu National Coordinator, will meet with the representatives from the Community Council of Chiefs(s) for Paunangisu and Siviri to present the project activities and work schedule. The consultant will also conduct community consultations at selected sites in Paunangisu and Siviri to introduce the project activities and plans. • The FPIC approval has been obtained by the MACBLUE project and the Consultant will obtain any other approvals necessary to implement the work under this contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting minute detailing the meeting outcomes • A mission report detailing the FPIC process • Approval letters from all the communities/landowners for the site



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<p>Gap and Needs Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant, in consultation with SPREP and DEPC, will conduct a gap and needs assessment for seagrass and mangroves (SaM) management at the LMA pilot sites, taking into account the uses, values, present threats and challenges whilst also documenting any relevant projects (past, present, planned) for the pilot sites and related to mangrove managements. The consultant will develop a drafting instruction for a mangrove/seagrass management plan and provide recommendations for local management approaches to be implemented by MACBLUE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report detailing the findings of the Gap and Needs assessment A drafting instruction for a management plan/guideline
<p>Develop a mangrove management plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising the findings from the Gap and Needs Assessment, government reports, community consultations and feedback and the drafting instructions, the consultant will develop a seagrass/mangrove management plan/guideline for the LMA pilot sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft seagrass/mangroves management plan to be submitted to SPREP and stakeholders for review A final draft management
<p>Support Implementation, awareness raising and capacity building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with the local communities, the landowners, the provincial council of chiefs and other relevant national stakeholders, the consultant will engage in the implementation of at least 2 of the management approaches identified under Deliverable 3 for SaM at the LMA pilot sites Design and implement awareness and capacity building programmes with selected communities for mangroves/seagrass management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity report for the management actions which should include at the minimum, the description of the management action(s), activity site(s), methods, participants, and recommendations. An awareness and capacity building programme Activity report to describe in detail the awareness and capacity building programmes, including the sites, and participants involved.

Institutional Arrangements

1. The Consultant will be based in Port Vila and will report to SPREP Project Coordinator, MAC-BLUE, based in SPREP Office in Suva, Fiji, and work closely with the Director of Island and Ocean Ecosystems and the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser at SPREP.
2. The Consultant will work closely with the MACBLUE implementing partners GIZ and SPC.
3. In Vanuatu, the Consultant will work closely the MACBLUE Vanuatu National Coordinator, the Department for Environmental Protection and Conservation, and the members of the MAC-BLUE National Steering Committee.

Deliverables and timelines

1. The total expected duration of the engagement is 9 months. All activities should be completed by 31st August 2025
2. The Consultant will be responsible for the following deliverables:

Deliverable	Description	Indicative timeline
D1 Planning meeting report and workplan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Planning meeting report with the MACBLUE implementing partners, the government, provincial and NGO partners which should include meeting outcomes and implementation plan for the local management approach (LMA) activities 2) A detailed workplan outlining schedules, engagement with stakeholders and field activities 	By 30 November 2024
D2 FPIC Process and Consultation Report	Meeting reports for the FPIC and community consultations including the signed approval letters from the Community Council of Chiefs, community leaders and landowners	By 10 January 2025
D3 Gap and Needs Assessment Report	Assessment report detailing the findings and recommendations and a drafting instruction for a mangrove or seagrass management plan	By 10 February 2025
D4 Final draft management plan for the protection and rehabilitation of mangroves/seagrass ecosystems	A final draft mangrove/seagrass management plan for the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of mangroves and/or seagrass ecosystems	By 10 June 2025
D5 Local management approaches, awareness and capacity building report	Activity report which should outline the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the implementation of local management approaches outlining best practices, challenges and recommendations for replication 2) the awareness raising and capacity building programmes 	By 10 August 2025

3. The Consultant should explain in the Technical Proposal how the timeline will be met.

Requirements

1. The successful applicant should meet the following requirements:

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds a Master level with extensive experience in field relevant to the successful execution of the tender (environment, ecology and other related fields)
Expertise and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive knowledge in mangrove/seagrass management, ecological restoration, environmental protection or related fields



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong understanding in working with national governments, NGOs and local communities in biodiversity management and conservation programmes• Demonstrated knowledge in development of local management plans for species/ ecosystem conservation in the Pacific• Established partnerships in Vanuatu to build local capacity and to implement the work at the local scales
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 10 years-experience working in the Pacific Islands region on local management approaches or biodiversity conservation• Demonstrated experience in implementation of local management approaches for mangrove or seagrass ecosystems in Vanuatu

Evaluation criteria and submission guidelines

1. Bidders should outline in their Technical Proposal:
 - Relevant qualifications and experience of the team,
 - Suggested timeline for the delivery of the tasks
 - Methodology for the selection of a community-based local management site, stakeholder engagement and implementation strategy
2. The Financial proposal should provide a costed breakdown of all costs, including travel costs, and to be inclusive of applicable taxes in Vanuatu.
3. Offers above USD 140,000 will not be considered.