

REQUEST FOR TENDER

File: AP_2/39
Date: 8 October, 2020
To: Interested suppliers
From: Jamie Davies, Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Manager

Subject: Request for Tender: Consultancy to undertake a national review of the current state of marine turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organization 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. As part of the Pacific-European Union Marine (PEUMP) Programme, funded through the Eleventh Round of the European Development Fund (EDF 11), SPREP is the executing agency for Key Result Area 5, the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to reduce the by-catch of threatened species in Pacific islands' fisheries; to improve the health of coastal waters through an integrated approach to coastal management, including marine spatial planning; ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change; and to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Islands Parties to implement their obligations under the International Convention for Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Further detail is provided in Annex 3.
- 1.4 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 (individuals or teams) to undertake a national review of the current state of marine turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu.
- 2.2 The consultant will be expected to follow where possible IUCN Red List guidelines and liaise and consult extensively with technical experts, including the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), involved Non-Government Organisations and the BIEM Bycatch/CITES Coordinator from TierraMar. They will be expected to work from their home office but with some travel for workshops/meetings and stakeholder consultation



- 2.3 The consultant will follow the PEUMP Programme Communications and Visibility Strategy and BIEM Initiative Communications and Visibility Guidance in the development and approval of all external documents and publications.
- 2.4 The Terms of Reference and the specific duties of the consultant are set out in Annex 1.

3. Conditions: information for applicants

- 3.1. To be considered for this tender, interested suppliers must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Currently reside in Vanuatu;
 - b. Be able to demonstrate that he/she is legally entitled to work in Vanuatu;
 - c. Be able to demonstrate that he/she/they has the technical qualifications to undertake the work;
 - d. A proven track record in working with PICTs or small island developing states governments on the management and conservation of marine species, particularly marine turtles, by-catch reduction, coastal management policy, or related work and production of government policy documents;
 - e. Strong knowledge of the conservation and management of the relevant marine species, particularly marine turtles, and preparation of marine species management plans, or related work;
 - f. Prior delivery of effective community and stakeholder engagement and consultation in the Pacific, including conducting community surveys; and
 - g. Strong track record in communication as well as project management and facilitation.
 - h. 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).
 - i. Sign the Conflict of Interest form

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 and include:
 - a. 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. Completed 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

- 4.4 Tender submission must be in United States Dollars (USD), up to a maximum of USD 20,000.
- 4.5 The Proposal must remain valid for 90 days from date of submission.
- 4.6 Tenderers must insist on an acknowledgement of receipt of tender.

5. Tender Clarification

- 5.1. Any clarification questions from applicants must be submitted by email to Maraea Pogi, maraeap@sprep.org before 19 October 2020. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website <http://www.sprep.org/tender> by 21 October 2020.

6. Evaluation criteria

- 6.1. SPREP will select a preferred supplier 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 tenderer satisfies the following criteria.
 - a. A proven track record in advising PICTs or small island developing states governments on marine species management, by-catch reduction, coastal management policy, or related work and production of government policy documents. (20%)
 - b. Strong knowledge of the conservation and management of relevant marine species, particularly marine turtles (20%)
 - c. Workplan setting out the activities to be undertaken and timings of activities. (20%)
 - d. Strong track record in communication, community consultation as well as project management and facilitation. (20%)
 - e. Detailed Financial proposal in US dollars. (20%)
- 6.2. Assessment of proposals will be based on the evaluation of the Technical Proposal (80%) and Financial Proposal (20%).

7. Deadline

- 7.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is: 29 October 2020, midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**
- 7.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.
- 7.3. Please send all tenders clearly marked 'TENDER: **Consultancy to undertake a national review of the current state of marine turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu**' to one of the following methods:

Mail: SPREP
Attention: Procurement Officer
PO Box 240



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



10th Pacific Islands Conference

**NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PROTECTED AREAS**

Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific

Apia, SAMOA

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

Fax: 685 20231

Person: Submit by hand in the tender's 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 – Undertake a national review of the current state of marine turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu.

Background and rationale

Marine turtles have played a significant role in the customs and traditions of Pacific island communities for thousands of years, featuring in many myths, legends, songs and traditions. They are integral in the functioning of marine habitats. They are highly migratory, capable of traveling thousands of miles, and readily cross jurisdictional boundaries. Few survive to adulthood, with estimates ranging from one in 1,000 to one in 10,000. Their natural lifespan is estimated to be 50 - 100 years, spending most of their life at sea, except when ashore to lay their eggs¹²³.

They are recognised globally as at risk of extinction and a species of conservation concern. The 2017 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists the five marine turtle species found in Vanuatu as follows:

- **Leatherback** (*Dermochelys coriacea*): Oceania subpopulation Critically endangered (2018)
- **Hawksbill** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*): Critically endangered
- **Loggerhead** (*Caretta caretta*): Vulnerable
- **Green** (*Chelonia mydas*): Endangered
- **Olive Ridley** (*Lepidochelys olivacea*): Vulnerable

In Vanuatu, marine turtles have been a traditional source of protein and contribute food security of the coastal communities, both through fishing activities and harvesting of nest sites. However, consumption of marine turtle is regulated under Sec. 59(2) of the Fisheries Regulation Order No. 28 of 2009 and directed take is thought to be limited. Despite this, population growth, fishing by-catch and increased tourism activity etc. have led to increased pressure on local turtle populations. In Vanuatu, community turtle monitors as well as NGOs undertake monitoring of turtle nesting beaches to collect information on populations. The information is generally held with NGOs as well as government agencies and some institutions such as the University of the South Pacific. In addition, SPREP maintains a Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) that is used to collate data from strandings, tagging, nesting, emergence and beach surveys as well as other biological data on marine turtles in the Pacific. TREDS also provides information on marine turtle populations as well as their nesting and foraging sites. Of note, there is no single repository of data and a systematic archiving system for information on sea turtles that could be used for status assessments.

SPREP is currently working with our partners to undertake turtle use studies across other Pacific Island nations to gain a greater understanding of the marine turtle direct harvest by communities, with a view to understand the extent and scope of harvest and trade of marine turtles across a range of Pacific Islands communities. In Vanuatu in particular, as a part of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Project, a number of surveys were completed in the field that addressed sea turtle bycatch, direct

¹ Avens L and Snover ML (2013) Age and age estimation in sea turtles. In *The Biology of Sea Turtles*. Volume III, Wyneken J, Lohmann KJ and Musick JA, Eds. CRC Press, Boca Raton. pp 97-133

² Limpus CJ (2009) *A Biological Review of Australian Marine Turtles*. Brisbane, Queensland. Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency. pp 324

³ Miller JD (1997) Reproduction in sea turtles. In *The Biology of Sea Turtles*. Volume I, Lutz PL and Musick JA, Eds. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. pp 51-83

take, and fishery effort. As a part of this consultancy, these surveys require analysis to determine if the data broadly meet the needs of the regional SPREP / WWF AU Take questionnaire being rolled out in other countries as a part of the regional turtle extinction risk project. In particular, whether it provides information on the drivers aspects of direct take, or retention of bycatch. From this, any gaps can be identified, and a method developed to interview certain communities to ask the remaining questions so that the data can then be extrapolated to the whole country. Many other government, industry and stakeholder groups are important sources of data and knowledge.

Project concept

Scope and objectives

This project seeks to review the current state of turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu. This includes engaging with involved groups and government departments to seek and review available data regarding marine turtle population status, turtle-human interactions from consumption, by-catch/incidental catch both in-shore and off-shore within EEZ waters (including from Vanuatu flagged vessels in international waters) and potential tourism impacts. Community knowledge, nest harvesting and/or protection, and other customary practices are also within the scope of the project to enhance our understanding of the level of turtle use. The project includes identification of gaps in available data and knowledge and to make recommendations to remedy these gaps and expand the total knowledge base.

The majority of this project will take place via desktop review in consultation with relevant persons, with some community/stakeholder consultation where required, for example to address gaps in knowledge relating to tourism use. The focus is on green, hawksbill, leatherback, olive ridley and loggerhead turtle species.

Approach

To undertake the review of marine turtle conservation and management in Vanuatu, the following approach will be used.

- Liaise and consult with regional organisations including SPC and SPREP, government departments including Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD) and Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), marine turtle conservation experts, and relevant government, industry and stakeholder groups including the National Facilitating Committee which was set up under the GEF dugong and seagrass project.
- Review and analyse currently available data and data that can be made available on request and knowledge regarding;
 - Marine turtle population status in Vanuatu (including current and historic counts to detect trends);
 - Community use of turtles and reasons for their use, analysing the existing data collected under the GEF funded Dugong and Seagrass project;
 - By-catch/incidental catch of turtles in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Vanuatu, and by Vanuatu flagged vessels in international waters;
 - Potential tourism activity impacts;
 - Community knowledge and customary practices;
 - Nest harvesting and/or protection practices, including a review of capacity needs of existing beach monitoring programs; and
 - Other relevant activities or issues.

- Identify gaps in available data and knowledge. Organise and undertake limited community use surveys in the field, as required to fill identified gaps in data (in consultation with SPREP). Conduct other information gathering activities as required, for example community/stakeholder consultation, interviews or workshops.
- Complete a final report based on the findings of the review.

Services Required

SPREP is seeking the services of a consultant (individual or team) to review the current state of turtle management and conservation in Vanuatu, to:

- Identify gaps in available data and knowledge;
- Undertake fieldwork and consultation activities to compensate for data/knowledge gaps; and
- Complete a final report with recommendations based on findings of the review.

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

Requirements

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

- Currently reside in Vanuatu;
- Be able to demonstrate that he/she is legally entitled to work in Vanuatu;
- Be able to demonstrate that he/she/they has the technical qualifications to undertake the work;
- A proven track record in working with PICT or small island developing states Governments on the management and conservation of marine species, particularly marine turtles, by-catch reduction, coastal management policy, or related work and production of government policy documents;
- Strong knowledge of the conservation and management of the relevant marine species, particularly marine turtles, and preparation of marine species management plans, or related work;
- Prior delivery of effective community and stakeholder engagement and consultation in the Pacific, including conducting community surveys; and
- Strong track record in communication as well as project management and facilitation.
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Remuneration

The budget of up to USD 20,000 is available and is to include all local travel and out of pocket expenses incurred by the consultant.

Duration of the Consultancy

This consultancy will run over a 6-month period commencing in November 2020 and completed by May 2021.

Work arrangements

Following consultation with representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Fisheries Department the final workplan will be approved by SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor and Anissa Lawrence of TierraMar who is contracted by SPREP to deliver the turtle extinction risk component of the BIEM Initiative. The work plan will include the provision of progress reports through a teleconference each month and a mid-term report three months after the contract is signed.

ANNEX 2

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme 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

- 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 6.3 million Euros to implement the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component 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.

Table 1: The 8 integrated KRAs of BIEM

KRA-5 Component	Geographical scope:	Budget (Euros) 2018-22	KRA Coordinator
5.1 Marine Spatial Planning	Solomon Islands, Fiji	952,000	IUCN
5.2 Integrated 'ridge to reef' ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning	Fiji, Vanuatu	1,138,000	SPREP
5.3 Development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans	Fiji, Vanuatu	240,000	
5.4 Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated	Regional	225,000	TierraMar
5.5 Development and implementation of by-catch mitigation strategies	Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu	726,307	
5.6 Capacity development through research grants to citizens of the Pacific Islands	Regional	80,000	



5.7 Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species	Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu	327,000	
5.8 Capacity development on Non-Detrimental Findings process for CITES partners	Regional - CITES partner countries	219,000	

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.