

## CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

RFT: 2026/009  
File: AP\_3/1/13  
Date: 18 March 2026  
To: Interested Service Providers  
Contact: Procurement Unit ([procurement@sprep.org](mailto:procurement@sprep.org))

**Subject: Request for tenders (RFT): Ground truthing of mangrove areas in Samoa for carbon stock management and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) improvements for the Samoa Climate Adaptation, Resilience and Enhancement of Samoa (CARES) website.**

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### **Question 1:**

Is whether soil carbon stocks are within scope? It's not currently expressly included within the description for 'Output 3 Mangrove Carbon Stock Assessment' as detailed in Annex A, but is vitally important to quantify (most carbon in mangrove ecosystems is stored in the soil).

### **Response:**

Confirms that soil carbon stocks are to be included within the scope of the Mangrove Carbon Stock Assessment.

### **Question 2:**

Is there cost associated with laboratory analysis, as well as collecting and transporting samples.

### **Response:**

The specific assessment/selected sites will be determined at a later stage in consultation with and provided by the Government of Samoa.

### **Question 3:**

Could I include an estimate of lab costs with two options?

### **Response:**

Please include propose costing options that reflect different laboratory analysis pathways (e.g. loss-on-ignition vs multispectral analysis) along with any training or capacity building components you consider appropriate.

### **Question 4:**

With regard to the implementation of field work—particularly the collection of information and data in the selected mangrove sites—could you please confirm whether the consultant will be able to mobilise technical staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)?

### **Response:**

Confirming that the Technical Staff from MNRE will participate in the field data collection activities. Their involvement is intended to support and provide local knowledge and ensure alignment with national protocols.

**Question 5:**

Should the consultant plan to establish and deploy their own dedicated team to conduct all field data collection activities?

Response:

It is expected that the Consultant will lead the fieldwork and will therefore need their own dedicated team to undertake the data collection.

**Question 6:**

How many mangroves areas to be covered under this assessment in Samoa and where are locations of the mangroves areas?

Response:

The Government of Samoa has yet to provide the exact locations of the mangrove areas, however it is anticipated that there will be mangrove areas in rural areas of both Upolu and Savaii.

**Question 7:**

Can SPREP provide clarification on the expected scale / geographic extent of the desktop review?

Response:

The desktop review will be site-specific, focusing on the mangrove areas selected for ground truthing. The Government of Samoa through MNRE will identify any updated mangrove extent mapping layers or data from previous projects that could inform the desktop review.

**Question 8:**

What existing spatial datasets and remote sensing products (e.g., mangrove extent mapping, imagery, GIS layers) will be provided to the consultant for the desktop review?

Response:

SPREP can provide the following datasets for analysis:

- Global datasets (Mangrove Watch, etc.)
- Administrative boundaries, waterways, roads, and villages
- Protected areas designations

Any updated mangrove extent mapping layers available from MNRE

**Question 9:**

Are there previous carbon stock or biomass assessments that must be incorporated into the review?

Response:

The Government of Samoa will share this information if it is available.

**Question 10:**

Can SPREP confirm the number and geographic extent of mangrove sites expected to be included in the ground truthing exercise?

Response:

Kindly note, the Government of Samoa will decide on the selected sites for this assignment. It is expected that there will be sites from both islands of Upolu and Savaii.

**Question 11:**

Are there access constraints or protected areas where special permits or community approvals may be required?

Response:

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will provide support during this assignment for field work.

**Question 12:**

What format and schema are required for spatial outputs to integrate with the Samoa CARES platform?

Response:

Technical specifications:

- GIS format requirements (shapefile, GeoJSON, GeoTIFF, or other formats)
- Coordinate reference system (WGS84 assumed)
- Required attribute schema for spatial features.
- Technical specifications for platform integration.

**Question 13:**

Are there existing MRV templates or carbon reporting formats that must be followed?

Response:

There are currently no standardized MRV templates or formal carbon-reporting formats mandated for use. Samoa, through the MNRE, has developed sector-specific tabular templates (datasheets) for GHG data collection, which can be shared at the inception of the assignment to support the work. However, these templates are not part of an operational MRV system, as such a system has not yet been fully established.

**Question 14:**

Is there a requirement to undertake the validation workshop onsite in Samoa, or can it be delivered online?

Response:

It ultimately depends on Samoa's preference; however, it is likely that Samoa would prefer onsite validation.

**Question 15:**

Do bidders need to have established business operations in one of the 14 member countries to qualify for this project?

**Response:**

Bidders do not need to have established business operations in a Pacific Island country to qualify. However, familiarity, knowledge and good understanding of sectoral issues in Samoa and/or other similar Pacific countries is preferred.