



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



10th Pacific Islands Conference

NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

File: AP2/39
Date: 9 December, 2020
To: Interested suppliers
From: Jamie Davies, Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Manager

Subject: Request for tenders: Cetacean Review in the Western Central Pacific Ocean - An ecological review of species interacting with fisheries

1. Background

- 1.1. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organization charged with promoting cooperation among Pacific island 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 conduct a review and gap analysis of cetacean species that interact with the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) purse seine and long line fishing operations and a qualitative assessment of risks to populations and subpopulations.
- 2.2. The consultant will need to consult with Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) to satisfy this contract.
- 2.3. The Terms of Reference and technical specifications of the task are set out in Annex 1.

3. Conditions: information for applicants

- 3.1. To be considered for this tender, interested consultants must meet the following conditions:



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- a. Be able to demonstrate that they have the technical qualifications in Marine Science or related field from a recognised tertiary institution and extensive experience in relevant cetacean research.
- b. Excellent command of spoken and written English and a strong track record in communicating technical scientific findings in plain English;
- c. Record of having successfully worked with the cetacean research community, Government, civil society stakeholders and regional agencies and have established effective networks of cooperation; and
- d. 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).*
- e. Sign the conflict of interest form provided.

4. Submission guidelines

- 4.1. Tender documentation should demonstrate that the interested consultant 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 consultant's complete proposal: methods, personnel (and their skill sets/curricula vitae), timeframes and costs.
- 4.3. 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 21 December 2020. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website www.sprep.org/tender by 23 December 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. Technical qualifications in Marine Science or related field from a recognised tertiary institution and extensive experience in relevant cetacean research (20%)
 - b. Demonstrated expertise on cetacean biology and ecology and their interactions with fishing operations, including by-catch in longline and purse-seine fisheries (25%)
 - c. Costed workplan setting out the activities to be undertaken and timings of activities. (20%)
 - d. Proven track record of effective communication with regional organisations, government and civil society stakeholders. (10%)
 - e. Established effective networks of cooperation in the cetacean science, conservation sector, Government, civil society stakeholders and regional agencies. (15%)
 - f. Financial proposal in US dollars. (10%)
- 6.2. Assessment of proposals will be based on the evaluation of the Technical Proposal (90%) and Financial Proposal (10%).

7. Deadline

- 7.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is: 11 January 2021 , midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**



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- 7.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.
- 7.3 Please send all tenders clearly marked 'TENDER: **Cetacean Review in the Western Central Pacific Ocean - An ecological review of species interacting with fisheries**'

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 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 – Cetaceans of the Western Central Pacific Ocean - An ecological review of species interacting with fisheries

Background

Interactions and by-catch of cetaceans have received limited attention in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) since the implementation of the only Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in 2011 which addresses interactions with cetaceans in the purse seine fishery. [CMM 2011-03](#) prohibits fishers from setting purse seines on schools of tuna associated with cetaceans, if a cetacean is sighted prior to the commencement of the set. If setting does occur unintentionally, then fishers are required to ensure safe release of all encircled cetaceans, and to report the incident. Under data management rules, observers are also required to collect information on these events under [ROP minimum data standards](#) and as there is nearly 100% observer coverage in the purse seine fishery there has been relatively good data available on the level of interaction with cetaceans in that fishery in recent years.

Observers also collect data on longline interactions but as observer coverage generally falls well short of the 5% target it severely limits an assessment of the rates and impact of those interactions.

Although a summary of data has been included in the yearly Regional Observer Programme Report to the Commission [ROP report 2020](#) there has until recently been no detailed assessment of those data or the likely impact on cetacean populations. In 2018 SPC began assessing bycatch data available and undertaking estimates using models of bycatch for finfish, billfish, sharks and rays, marine mammals and sea turtles in purse seine and longline fisheries [PS bycatch estimates 2018](#); [LL bycatch 2019](#) .

In 2019 Korea brought a proposal to the Commission to update the CMM for cetaceans to expand the scope to longline fisheries [Amendment proposal- Korea](#). Although the proposal was not supported by the Commission, it did task SPC with assessing its data holdings on cetacean interactions and this assessment is now documented in an Information Paper (IP-12) to the Scientific Committee [Available data on cetacean interactions](#). In addition, SPC has updated their estimates of bycatch in longline fisheries in IP-11 [updated longline bycatch estimates in the WCPO](#). Here estimates of bycatch for marine mammals are combined for all species.

IP 12 provides a very useful profile of the large range of cetacean species interacting with fisheries in the WCPO (33 species) and highlights some potential concerns especially for species that are frequently interacting with fisheries such as Pseudorca, where interactions occur in both longline and purse seine, as well as for other threatened species. Pseudorca are listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN; however, we know there are populations which are genetically distinct such as the Hawaiian subpopulations. There are also other pantropical dolphin species with frequent/regular interactions such as rough-toothed dolphin and possibly others where genetic differentiation into separate population units could have a significant effect on risk from fisheries interactions.

Interactions with fisheries do not necessarily result in mortality as animals may escape or be released alive. However, there is no indication in most of the observer data of the extent of their injuries or the likelihood that they will die later as a result of the interaction. There are also some issues around identification of species and there is no system in place for verifying correct species ID by observers, or collection of genetic material.

In 2009 the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society provided a revision of the Current State of Knowledge of Cetacean Threats, Diversity and Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region to the Convention on Migratory Species at the second meeting of the signatories to the MoU on Pacific Island Cetaceans and their Habitats convened in July 2009 in Auckland, New Zealand. This document was intended as a technical contribution to support the implementation of the Pacific Islands Cetaceans MOU by providing a baseline of current knowledge, including the state of knowledge of cetacean threats, diversity and habitats in the Pacific Islands Region at that time. However, there was, a lack of detailed understanding



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about the majority of species at this time and an updated review, particularly in the context of fisheries bycatch in the region, is now required.

Project Concept

There are a wide range of species interacting with the tuna fishery in the WCPO. Although there is now some information on the level of those interactions in the purse seine fishery and some models around longline interactions, the impact of the level of interactions observed or estimated on the cetacean species concerned is unknown. The Commission itself has had little or no information provided to it on cetacean species in the WCPO – their life history, geographic ranges, habitat use, populations sizes and trends, distribution and conservation status. This information is needed as a minimum, to assist the Commission in meeting its obligations under the Convention, especially under Article 5 (d)(e) and (f). <https://www.wcpfc.int/convention-text> This type of information is also needed to inform risk assessments which the Commission could consider supporting as an outcome of this work. It could also require immediate improvements to the current CMM for example to include mitigation for longline interactions and improvements in the nature of data being collected.

Services Required

SPREP (and our CROP partners) are seeking the services of a consultant to undertake a thorough review of all available information on cetacean species and their subpopulations in the region, including what is known about their life history, geographic ranges, habitat use, population differentiation, population trends, conservation status and other risks to their survival, including fisheries by-catch. In addition, the review should include an assessment of the gaps in knowledge and the research needed to adequately inform fisheries managers of the risk from fisheries interactions with cetaceans.

Scope of Consultancy

The role of the consultant is to undertake all activities required to provide a comprehensive review of the current state of knowledge of cetaceans in the Western Central Pacific Ocean that interact with tuna fisheries through:

- An extensive literature review of all available information on the species and their subpopulations in the region, including what is known about their life history, geographic ranges, habitat use, population differentiation, population trends, conservation status and risks to their survival
- An assessment of current state of knowledge on threats to cetaceans in the region and significance including from fisheries bycatch.
- Liaison and consultation with other cetacean experts in the region.
- Liaison and consultation with SPC and FFA to incorporate an understanding of the level of cetacean bycatch that is known for the WCPO.
- Consideration of other fisheries where cetaceans also interact in the WCPO.
- An assessment of gaps in knowledge and research needed to fill those gaps, in particular to adequately inform fisheries managers of the risk from fisheries interactions to cetaceans in the region.

Requirements

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

- a. Be able to demonstrate that they have the technical qualifications in Marine Science or related field from a recognised tertiary institution and extensive experience in relevant cetacean research.



- b. Excellent command of spoken and written English and a strong track record in communicating technical scientific findings in plain English; and
- c. Record of having successfully worked with the cetacean research community, Government, civil society stakeholders and regional agencies and have established effective networks of cooperation.

Remuneration

The budget allocated for these activities is up to USD 12,000. This is to include all travel and out of pocket expenses incurred by the consultant.

Duration of the Consultancy

This consultancy will run over an 7-month period from January 2021 to July 2021.

Work arrangements

The final work plan will be agreed by SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor and the Managing Director of TierraMar who is contracted by SPREP to coordinate the species extinction risk component of the BIEM Initiative.

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



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).



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- 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 for by-catch species. (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 6.1 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 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:	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 and TierraMar
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.