



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

RFT: PBS-2023-001
File: AP 2/43 and AP_2/15/1
Date: 28 February 2023
To: Interested consultants
From: Karen Baird, Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser

Subject: Request for tenders (RFT):Service-Based Consultancy) Develop best practice guidelines/code of conduct and provide training for tourism operators to improve interactions with turtles – Vanuatu, European Union (EU) - African Caribbean & Pacific Programme (ACP) _Pacific BioScapes Programme.

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

2. Specifications: statement of requirement

- 2.1. SPREP wishes to call for tenders from qualified and experienced NGOs/Experts based in Vanuatu (Service-Based Consultancy) who can offer technical capacity to address challenges in turtle conservation in Vanuatu associated with tourism activities, The consultancy will review global and regional best practices for tourism operators and their interactions with turtles and develop a best practice guidelines/code of conduct for Vanuatu and provide training to tourism operators.
- 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://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Corporate_Documents/spreporganisational-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

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- 3.1. To be considered for this tender, interested consultants must meet the following conditions:
- i. Must be a local NGO/Expert who is based in Vanuatu and legally entitled to work
 - ii. Submit a detailed Curriculum vitae detailing qualification and previous relevant experience for each proposed personnel;
 - iii. Provide three referees relevant to this tender submission, including the most recent work completed;
 - iv. Provide examples of past related work outputs;
 - v. 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 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*).
For the Technical and Financial proposals you may attach these separately.
 - vi. Provide a copy of valid business registration/license established/ domiciled in Vanuatu.
- 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*).
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.



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- 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.

- 4.3. Provide three referees relevant to this tender submission, including the most recent work completed.
- 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 09 March 2023. A summary of all questions received complete with an associated response posted on the SPREP website www.sprep.org/tender by 13 March 2023.
- 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.

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I. Technical Score – 90%

Criteria	Detail	Weighting
Experience	a. Strong knowledge of marine turtle biology, ecology and conservation and management.	20%
	b. Proven track record in planning and delivering projects relating to threatened and migratory marine species.	10%
	c. Proven track record of effective communication with government, civil society and community stakeholders, in the Pacific Region.	10%
	d. Established networks in the turtle science, tourism, and conservation.	15%
Technical Proposal / Methodology	Costed workplan setting out the activities to be undertaken and timings of activities.	35%

II. Financial Score – 10%

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.

8. Deadline



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- 8.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is: 24 March 2023, 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: PBS-2023-001': **Service-Based Consultancy) Develop best practice guidelines/code of conduct and provide training for tourism operators to improve interactions with turtles – Vanuatu, European Union (EU) - African Caribbean Programme (ACP) _Pacific BioScapes Programme.**

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

Best practice guidelines/code of conduct for tourism interaction with turtles in Vanuatu

Background

SPREP is implementing a proposed component within the framework of an existing Financing Agreement between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) for the implementation of the Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Support Programme for ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Countries. The programme has been approved for a total of EUR 35 million under the Intra-ACP Cooperation–11th European Development Fund Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme 2014-2020 programming actions for ACP regional organizations/institutions and countries. The programme contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15, as well as the three Rio Conventions - the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It will also promote gender equality and good governance. Its overall goal is to support implementation of SDGs 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) concentrating on climate change, resilience building and the environment and to contribute to addressing the development challenges of ACP SIDS and coastal countries by focusing on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

The programme component for the Pacific ACP region with the title The Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Seascapes (Pacific BioScapes) Programme is being managed and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The programme will contribute to the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. It provides an opportunity to address critical issues concerning coastal and marine biodiversity, and ecosystem-based responses to climate change adaptation. Pacific SIDS continue to face growing environmental challenges with the potential to drastically impact the natural assets upon which the foundation of their national economies and community livelihoods depends. The programme will apply ridge-to-reef and other management approaches to consider both marine and terrestrial environments and to contribute to addressing barriers to effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In total there are 30 activities to be funded by the programme to address Key Result Area (KRA) 1: strengthened capacities of Pacific countries to effectively manage coastal and marine biodiversity and enhance resilience to climate change and KRA 2: support regional, national, and local efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

As well as region-wide and sub-regional actions that comply with decisions of all SPREP Member countries, 11 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands,



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Tonga, and Vanuatu) will implement activities to be funded by the Programme with support ranging from national to community levels. SPREP will work with several nationally based NGO and civil society partners to facilitate effective in-country and sub-regional delivery of the actions.

Implementation and coordination is being undertaken within the SPREP Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme with specific engagement of all sub-programmes: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems; Threatened and Migratory Species; Biodiversity; Invasive Species.

Turtles and Tourism in Vanuatu

There have been issues raised with SPREP around the tourism and turtles in some Pacific countries. Vanuatu seems to have had the most issues raised including poor handling practices with tagging of turtles, pay for turtle tagging and release activities in resorts, turtles held in poor conditions for tag and release by paying customers. Tagging and release of turtles has also questionable conservation benefit and may in fact be harmful, especially if large numbers of eggs are taken from the wild for these activities and survival is reduced.

Under KRA1, Activity 1.2.7 is to “*Produce best practice guidelines/ code of conduct on tourism operators interactions with turtles in Vanuatu. Increasing access to turtle beaches and coastal development is also increasing tourism impacts to turtles*”.

SPREP will engage a national NGO or expert to develop guidelines/code of conduct in consultation with tourism operators and other stakeholders and provide training for tourism operators.

Description of Services

The services to be provided are:

1. Review current best practices for turtles and tourism globally and in the Pacific and provide a summary report for discussion at a consultation workshop. For example the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has produced global guidelines to assist development of national criteria. IT may be worth giving some consideration to best practices associated with other vulnerable marine species such as dugong.
2. Consider the role of tag and release and head start programmes and whether these are appropriate, or not, for Vanuatu (and more generally in the Pacific)
3. In collaboration with SPREP, facilitate a consultation workshop with tourism operators, government and community groups on turtles and issues around appropriate tourism interactions. Introduce ideas around appropriate behaviour and seek general agreement and support.
4. Consider the impact of coastal developments especially for tourism on turtle habitat and well-being including the impacts of lighting.



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5. Develop the best practice guideline/code of conduct for Vanuatu based around the review and results from the consultation workshop. It may be useful to consider turtle tourism issues found in other jurisdictions to help inform the COC.
6. Include best practice for in-water activities with turtles.
7. Provide case studies of good practice in the guide and promote inclusion of cultural knowledge and traditions as part of the tourism experience.
8. Include a handy summary guide for separate production on do's and don'ts for tourism operators and tourists.
9. Provide final guide with photos, supporting material and case studies ready for editing.
10. SPREP will organise editing and translation from English French and Bislama and printing.
11. Arrange follow-up training workshops for tourism operators on implementing best practice guidelines.

Communications

The consultant will follow the Pacific BioScapes Programme Communications and Visibility Strategy in the development and approval of all external documents and media publications. The Pacific BioScapes Programme has a communications and outreach specialist who can provide advice. Costs for editing, translation and printing of the code of conduct will be covered by SPREP.

Remuneration

The budget for services provided is up to USD 25,000 based on submission and acceptance by the Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser a summary report of agreed deliverables and invoices.

All travel costs with-in Vanuatu will be covered in the Consultancy Fee.

Work Arrangements

The consultant will be expected to work in-country in Vanuatu and report to the SPREP, Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser and the SPREP, Turtle Conservation Officer through regular virtual calls or emails.

Duration of Consultancy

This consultancy is expected to run for 12 months.