

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

RFT: 2021/050
File: AP_2/39
Date: 28 June, 2021
To: Interested suppliers
From: Jamie Davies – Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative
Manager

Subject: Request for Tender: Consultancy for the production and implementation of community turtle management plans for two turtle nesting sites on Malekula Island, 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
- 1.2. 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 organise and lead the development of community management plans for turtles nesting at Bamboo Bay and Wiawi on Malekula Island, Malampaya Province, Vanuatu. The plans should include turtle monitoring activities and support the sites listing as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) through the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC).
- 2.2 The consultant will be expected to work jointly with Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD) and DEPC, liaise and consult with the communities at each site, technical experts, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), Vanuatai Risos monitors, local NGOs, SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser and the BIEM Bycatch/CITES Coordinator from TierraMar. Travel to the communities on Malekula will be required to complete the project.
- 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.



- 2.5. 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.

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 they are legally entitled to work in Vanuatu.
 - c. Excellent command of spoken and written English and spoken Bislama.
 - d. Be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary technical qualifications.
 - e. Have a proven track record in advising Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) or small island developing states on the management and conservation of marine species, particularly marine turtles, by-catch reduction, and / or related work.
 - f. Demonstrate a record of having successfully worked with Governments, and regional agencies (such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific), the marine turtle research and conservation community and civil society stakeholders.
 - g. Have a strong track record in gender sensitive and human-rights based approaches to community consultation and communication, as well as project management and facilitation.

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: methods, personnel (and their skill sets/curricula vitae), timeframes, costs and include:
- 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. 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).*
 - d. Sign the **Conflict of Interest form**.
- 4.3. Tender submission must be in United States Dollars (USD), to include all domestic travel and out of pocket expenses for the consultant, up to a maximum of USD 22,000.
- 4.5. The Proposal must remain valid for 90 days from date of submission.
- 4.7. 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 07 July 2021. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website www.sprep.org/tender_by 09 July 2021.

6. Evaluation criteria

- 6.1. SPREP will select a preferred supplier on the basis of the 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:
- i. Expert knowledge of the conservation and management of the relevant protected marine species, particularly marine turtles. (20%)
 - ii. Have a proven track record in advising Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) or small island developing state governments and working with local communities on protected marine species, or related work. (20%)
 - iii. Prior delivery of effective gender sensitive and human rights-based approach community and stakeholder engagement and consultation in the Pacific. (15%)
 - iv. Proven track record in communication as well as project management and facilitation. Have an excellent command of spoken and written English and spoken Bislama. (15%)
 - v. Be deemed to be independent and impartial, with no conflict of interest. (10%)
 - vi. 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 assessment (20%).

7. Deadline

- 7.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is 19 July 2021, midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**
- 7.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.
- 7.3. Please send all tenders clearly marked 'RFT 2021/050: Consultancy for the production and implementation of community turtle management plans for two turtle nesting sites on Malekula Island, Vanuatu' to one of the following methods:

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.

**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

REQUEST FOR TENDER: CONSULTANCY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY TURTLE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR TWO TURTLE NESTING SITES ON MALEKULA ISLAND, VANUATU

Background

SPREP is leading the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative which is Key Result Area 5 of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden¹.

Through the BIEM Initiative SPREP is supporting the governments of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in the sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity. Key Result Area 5.7 is focused on support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species and the Vanuatu BIEM Initiative Steering Committee have identified the production and implementation of community turtle management plans for three turtle nesting sites on Malekula island, Malampa Province as a priority activity.

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 ecosystems by maintaining healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs, providing key habitat for other marine life, helping to balance marine food webs and facilitating nutrient cycling from water to land. They play an important role in ocean ecosystems. 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 eggs²³⁴.

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 to the food security of 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

¹ See Annex 2 for further details regarding the PEUMP Programme.

² 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

³ Limpus CJ (2009) A Biological Review of Australian Marine Turtles. Brisbane, Queensland. Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency. pp 324

⁴ 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

information on populations. However, in many cases no formal management plans have been developed for these turtle nesting beaches, including two prominent sites on Malekula island, Malampaya Province:

1. Bamboo Bay (the northern part of South West Bay) – which has an active community with monitoring activities already taking place, Green and Hawksbill turtle nesting site.
2. Wiawi – which has an active community with monitoring activities already taking place with nests being moved up to a fenced off area for protection.

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) have identified that these turtle nesting sites require management plans with the intention of listing them as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). Improved turtle management at these locations will also contribute to the integrated ridge to reef management plan that will be developed through KRA 5.2 and 5.3 of the BEIM Initiative, which promotes integrated ecosystem-based management, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, and the sustainable use and restoration of coastal ecosystems.

Project concept

Scope and objectives

This project seeks to organise and lead the production and implementation of community management plans for turtles at Bamboo Bay and Wiawi on Malekula island that include turtle monitoring activities and preparation for listing as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) with DEPC. The consultant will be expected to work jointly with Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), DEPC and communities at each site, liaise and consult with technical experts, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), Vanuatai Risos Monitors, local NGOs, SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser and the BIEM Bycatch/CITES Coordinator from TierraMar. Travel to Malekula will be required to complete the project.

Approach

The following approach will be taken:

- Secure guidance on the scope and establishment of community turtle management plans through consultation with technical experts, including the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), Vanuatai Risos Monitors, SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, VFD, DEPC, involved Non-Government Organisations and the BIEM Bycatch/CITES Coordinator from TierraMar.
- Ensure effective gender sensitive and human rights-based approaches to community and stakeholder engagement and consultation are implemented throughout the contract.
- Ensure the development of the management plans align with the broader NPOA-Marine turtles that is currently being updated in Vanuatu as well as the BIEM Initiative ridge to reef integrated ecosystem management plans for Bamboo Bay and Wiawi, Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) principles, climate change adaptation plans and government priorities.
- Consult extensively with community and key stakeholders at each site, assess the current conservation activities and priorities of the community for future turtle management activities and consider where feasible how an integrated turtle management system with these communities might be possible, given the migratory nature of the turtles.
- Draft management plans in English, Bislama and French (as appropriate) based on consultation with community and stakeholders listed above.



- Consult with and secure feedback on the draft management plans from DEPC, VFD, the communities at each site and SPREP, and finalise.
- Submit the final management plans to SPREP for publication.
- Present the management plans to the communities and support DEPC prepare the sites for listing as CCAs.
- If possible, set up a training site/programme in Bamboo Bay for the benefit of other turtle conservation groups.

Management Plan Requirements:

The management plan for each site should align with the requirements set out under the NPOA - Marine Turtles. It should be gender sensitive and human rights-based approach compliant and should reflect the importance of the traditions and culture of community members. It should be written in an accessible, non-technical language that is easily understood by community members. Appropriate management actions for incorporation into the plan should be discussed with the MTSG but should include:

- Training and updating of guidelines where required for the local Vanuatai turtle monitors and community, outlining how to keep ongoing records that will be used for management decisions to inform management in future years.
- Training and guidelines outlining how to undertake a turtle nesting beach monitoring programme.
- Predator control and protection of nests, including monitoring of the proportion of nests protection with a target of at least 70% of nests protected (subject to expert advice and community feedback). Consultations should cover current predator control, what has been trialed in the past and what proportion of nests are currently protected, as well as other threats such as sea level rise and impacts from outside communities.
- Data collection on turtle mortality using the WWF Australia survey sheets with an aim to collect data on every turtle mortality.
- Guidance on tagging to increase recapture data and develop a better understanding of adult survivorship.
- A hatchling success program should be included in the plans, where a subset of nests are chosen after hatching, and full and empty eggs are counted for a clutch count.
- A requirement that data collected through the year should be reintegrated into and inform activities for the following year.
- Data storage, management, analysis and reporting.
- Coverage area of the nesting areas (mapping) or the spatial jurisdiction of the plan.
- Community management entity responsible for implementing the plan.
- Community governance for the sites – ownership of the areas.
- Partnership and cooperative management should the area be shared by two communities, as in Bamboo Bay.
- Responsibility of different stakeholders DEPC, VFD, Malampa Province, SWB Area Council, WSB Turtle Monitors and SPREP in implementing the Management plan.
- Legislation governing the protection and conservation of turtles and their nesting habitats.



Services Required

SPREP is seeking the services of qualified and experienced consultants (individuals or teams) to organise and lead the development of community management plans for turtles nesting at Bamboo Bay and Wiawi on Malekula Island, Malampaya Province, Vanuatu. The plans should include turtle monitoring activities and support the sites listing as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) through the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC).

Scope of Consultancy

The role of the consultant is to undertake all activities required in accordance with the Project Approach described above.

Requirements

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. Excellent command of spoken and written English and Bislama.
- d. Be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary technical qualifications.
- e. Have a proven track record in advising Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) or small island developing states on the management and conservation of marine species, particularly marine turtles, by-catch reduction, coastal management policy, and / or related work.
- f. Demonstrate a record of having successfully worked with Governments, and regional agencies (such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific), marine turtle (and other marine species) research community and civil society stakeholders.
- g. Have a strong track record in community consultation and communication as well as project management and facilitation.
- h. Be deemed to be independent and impartial, with no conflicts of interest.
- i. 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).*

Remuneration

The budget submitted is to include all travel and out of pocket expenses incurred by the consultant. The maximum budget available is US\$22,000.

Duration of the Consultancy

SPREP, the Vanuatu Fisheries Department and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation would like this contract to be completed as soon as possible after it is awarded.

Work arrangements

Following consultation with representatives from VFD and the DEPC, the final work plan will be agreed by SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor and TierraMar who is contracted by SPREP to manage the by-catch and marine species conservation components of the BIEM Initiative. The work plan will include the provision of progress reports through a teleconference each month.

The consultant will be expected to work from their own premises with regular engagement with VFD, DEPC and project partners, and to travel to Malekula for project activities.



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

Communications

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 media publications.

ANNEX 2

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme⁵ 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

⁵ Further information is available here: <https://peump.dev/>



- 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 6.2 million Euros to implement the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component⁶ 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.

⁶ Further information is available here: <https://pacificislands.hubilo.com/community/#/exhibitor/9293>

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	
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.