

ANNEX I

Instructions to Bidders

RFP No: CP06_1920

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: *SCOPE EXTENSION EXERCISE TO INCLUDE BIGEYE TUNA SPECIES TO THE FIJI FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL GROUP*

1. Submission of Proposals

- 1.1. All proposals submitted together with all correspondence and related documents shall be in English. If any of the supporting documentation or printed literature is in any other language, a written translation of the document in English should also be provided. In such case the interpreted document will be used for processing and evaluation purposes.
- 1.2. All prices in the proposals must be presented in US Dollars (USD).
- 1.3. The deadline for submission of proposals is 5.00pm (SLB - GMT+11) on Friday, 5 June 2020. Any proposal received after this date will not be considered. FFA may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of proposals by notifying prospective bidders in writing. The extension of the deadline may accompany a modification of the solicitation documents prepared by FFA on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective bidder.
- 1.4. In submitting a proposal, interested parties should demonstrate a clear understanding of the Terms of Reference (TOR) as set out, with appropriate explanatory comments, proposed timelines for implementation and delivery of the required work.
- 1.5. The successful bidder will be required to sign an FFA standard contract for the delivery of services. The FFA Standard Conditions for Contract are not negotiable.
- 1.6. The proposal should also include:
 - i. Documentation outlining the proposed methodology, inputs, personnel and time lines for undertaking the assignment as per the Terms of Reference (Annex II).
 - ii. A maximum of 10 pages of information on the CVs of the personnel proposed to complete the work, the background and relevant experience of the consultants or agency proposed to complete the work as well as a summary of any similar or related experience.
 - iii. A separately enclosed financial proposal providing a detailed cost summary for carrying out the work.

2. Period of validity of proposals

- 2.1. Proposals shall remain valid for forty (40) days after the date of Proposal submission prescribed by FFA, pursuant to the deadline clause. A Proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by FFA on the grounds that it is non-responsive.
- 2.2. In exceptional circumstances, FFA may solicit the bidder's consent to an extension of the period of validity. The request and the responses thereto shall be made in writing. A bidder granting the request will not be required nor permitted to modify its Proposal.

3. Outputs required

The following outputs are required:

- i. A well-managed implementation project with clear milestones to be achieved within a specified timeframe.
- ii. Monthly reports which will detail all activities undertaken, make recommendations on next steps and provide updates on progress of implementation.

4. Evaluation Criteria

A two-stage procedure will be used in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any price proposal being reviewed and compared. The financial proposal will only be reviewed for submissions that have passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the total obtainable score in the evaluation of the technical proposals.

The technical proposal is evaluated on the basis of its responsiveness to the competency requirements as outlined in the following.

Competency Requirements	Score Weight (%)	Total Obtainable Score
Cited examples of relevant similar or relate experience	20	40
The methodology proposed to undertake the required work and timeline proposed for completion	50	100
Qualifications and experience	30	60
Total Score	100%	200
Qualification score	70%	140

In the Second Stage, the financial proposal of all bidders, who have attained a minimum of 70% score in the technical evaluation, will be compared. The contract will be awarded to the bidder(s) offering the best value for money taking in account the cumulative scores of the technical and financial evaluations.

Note: Submissions may include proposing an individual person to undertake this work or a team of personnel.

5. Financial Proposals

The financial proposal should be submitted by separate cover and should not be included as part of the technical proposal. Financial proposals should provide a budget for the project including professional fees, travel and accommodation and any other costs associated with the completion of this work.

6. Requests for further information

Queries or questions are to be emailed to the FFA PEUMP Fisheries Policy Specialist/Team Leader, Anama Solofa: anama.solofa@ffa.int

7. Award of Contract

FFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the grounds for such action.

8. FFA's right to vary requirements at time of award

FFA reserves the right at the time of award of contract to vary the quantity of services and goods specified in the RFP without any change in price or other terms and conditions.

9. Closing date for proposals

Proposals should be emailed to procurement@ffa.int, with copies to the above contacts, with the subject line heading "**CONSULTANCY: SCOPE EXTENSION EXERCISE TO INCLUDE BIGEYE TUNA SPECIES TO THE FIJI FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL GROUP**". The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5.00pm (SLB - GMT+11) on Friday, 5 June 2020.

ANNEX II

Terms of Reference

RFP No: CP06_1920

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SCOPE EXTENSION EXERCISE TO INCLUDE BIGEYE TUNA SPECIES TO THE FIJI FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL GROUP

INTRODUCTION

The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) is seeking a suitably qualified and accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) to conduct an assessment with respect to the Marine Stewardship Council Standards on Bigeye Tuna Species for the Fiji Fishing Industry Association (FFFIA) in Fiji, with a view to extending the Fiji MSC Certification to include Bigeye tuna.

BACKGROUND

Marine resources are the backbone of the region's countries' economy and form the basis of men and women's livelihoods in the Pacific countries. Therefore, conservation and sound management of oceanic and coastal ecosystems to support sustainable oceanic and coastal fisheries are prerequisites for sustainable social and economic development in the region.

Economically, oceanic fisheries are vital to the region as a source of a) economic growth and government revenue; b) decent employment for women and men and small business opportunities. The European Union is the main market for the cooked tuna loins produced in Pacific processing plants.

The overall objective of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme is to *"improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 Pacific ACP States (P-ACPs) arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment."* The programme purpose 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.*

The programme seeks to address six Key Result Areas (KRAs) designed to improve living conditions and human rights in Pacific ACPs:

- **KRA 1:** High quality scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries provided and utilised at regional and national levels.
- **KRA 2:** Inclusive economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing increased through supporting competent authorities and strengthening private sector capacities to create decent employment.
- **KRA 3:** Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems improved through better quality scientific information, legal advice, support, mentoring and empowerment at the community level.

- **KRA 4:** Illegal, unreported and unregulated (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.
- **KRA 5:** Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine biodiversity promoted through improving marine spatial planning; increasing climate change resilience; and enhancing conservation, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.
- **KRA 6:** Capacity building through education, training and research and development for key stakeholder groups in fisheries and marine resources management.

Of the six Key Results Areas outlined above, FFA is responsible for the implementation, management and reporting of activities under KRA 2 (Tuna Fisheries Development) and KRA 4 (Reducing IUU Fishing and enhancing MCS efforts). One of the main activities under KRA 2 is to provide support for industry improvement to secure higher value markets through MSC certification, social accountability audits and improved environment credentials.

In 2012, the Fiji tuna domestic fishing industry obtained its MSC catch certification for Albacore tuna and Fiji was the first in the world's surface long line fishery to receive such an accolade. The unit of certification, Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone and Albacore tuna, continued until its tenure expired in 2017/2018. Re-certification was granted for the 2018-2023 tenure, with Yellowfin tuna and the adjacent high seas added.

However, recent years have seen a decline in catches of Albacore tuna for the Southern longline fleet. This has resulted in concerns around long-term viability of the fleet, which could ultimately have implications on Fiji's Economic issues around sustainability of the fishing industry, employment, and growth. To address the challenges of continued decrease in Albacore catches and to meet or maximise returns, there is a need to have the catches of Fiji's offshore/tuna fishing fleet certified by an accredited international catch certifier to allow the industry to have marketing variety edge on its catch. The intention is to further extend Fiji's MSC certification to include Bigeye tuna.

OBJECTIVE

To carry out an assessment with respect to the Marine Stewardship Council Standards on Bigeye Tuna Species for the Fiji Fishing Industry Association (FFFIA) in Fiji to allow for access to higher value markets.

ACTIVITIES

The selected CAB will work closely with the Government of Fiji through the Ministry of Fisheries and the Fiji Fishing Industry Association on the requirements of the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) with the relevant information to assist with the assessment. The consultant will also continuously update FFA through the PEUMP Team Leader on the progress.

ANNEX III

FFA STANDARD CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: *SCOPE EXTENSION EXERCISE TO INCLUDE BIGEYE TUNA SPECIES TO THE FIJI FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL GROUP*

1. Definitions

1.1 In this Contract:

- (a) "Consultancy Services" means the Consultancy Services described in Schedule A;
- (b) "Memorandum of Agreement" means the agreement executed by and between FFA and the Institution in which these Conditions have been incorporated by reference;
- (c) "FFA" means the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, based in Honiara, Solomon Islands;
- (d) "Contract" means the Memorandum of Agreement together with these Conditions and all other schedules and documents, if any, annexed to the Memorandum of Agreement or incorporated therein and intended to form part of the contractual relationship between the parties;
- (e) "Confidential Information" means information that:
 - (i) is by its nature confidential;
 - (ii) is designated by FFA as confidential;
 - (iii) the Institution knows or ought to know is confidential;but does not include information which:
 - is or becomes public knowledge other than by breach of this Contract;
 - is in the possession of the Institution without restriction in relation to disclosure before the date of receipt from FFA;
 - has been independently developed or acquired by the Institution
- (f) "Usual Place of Residence" means the place of residence of the Institutions during the duration of the consultancy, as designated in the Memorandum of Agreement;
- (g) "Term of Engagement" means the entire period during which the Institutions will be expected to perform the Consultancy Services.

1.2 Words importing a gender include any other gender.

1.3 Words in the singular number include the plural and words in the plural number include the singular.

1.4 Clause headings in this Contract are for convenient reference only and have no effect in limiting or extending the language of the provisions to which they refer.

1.5 A reference to a Schedule is a reference to a Schedule to this Contract and includes such Schedule as amended or replaced from time to time by agreement in writing between the parties.

2. Fees

- 2.1 FFA shall pay fees to the Institutions in respect of the Consultancy Services at the rate and in the currency specified in Schedule B to the Memorandum of Agreement on the basis of time spent by the Institutions in performing the Consultancy Services. For the purpose of determining the amount of such fees:
- (a) Where the fees are expressed in terms of a daily rate the time spent in performing the Consultancy Services shall be determined solely on the basis of the number of days actually worked by the Institution in performing the Consultancy Services, including travel time.
- 2.2 Except as otherwise agreed between FFA and the Institution, no fees will be paid in respect of work performed other than during the Term of Engagement.

3. Expenses

- 3.1 In addition to the fees specified in clause 2 and subject to Schedule A and Schedule B, FFA shall pay to or reimburse the Institution for the following:
- (a) A daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at standard FFA rates for every day during the term of engagement during which the Institution shall be absent from the Usual Place of Residence for the purpose of performing the Consultancy Services; provided that DSA will be paid for the day of departure from the Usual Place of Residence but not for the day of return thereto. The DSA covers all accommodation charges, including government taxes (where applicable), meals, laundry and incidental expenses.
 - (b) All transportation costs properly and reasonably incurred by the Institution in travelling for the purposes of the Consultancy Services whether within the Country of Assignment or elsewhere, including the cost of transportation by an appropriate means of public transport between the Usual Place of Residence and the nearest convenient international airport and the cost of economy class air travel.
 - (c) All other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses of the Institution arising directly out of the performance of the Consultancy Services, including communications charges, airport and departure taxes, visa fees, taxi fares, and photocopying charges.

4. Payment of Fees, Costs and Expenses

- 4.1 Consultancy fees payable under the Contract will be paid in accordance with Schedule B and to the satisfaction of the FFA.
- 4.2 Where the Consultancy Services have not been performed to the satisfaction of FFA, FFA may withhold the balance of the fees in whole or in part and may:
- (a) require the Institution to carry out whatever additional work is required to complete the Consultancy Services to the satisfaction of FFA; or
 - (b) terminate the Contract forthwith without prejudice to any right of action or remedy which has accrued or which may accrue in favour of FFA.
- 4.3 Printing and distribution costs and reimbursable costs and expenses referred to in clause 3 shall be paid by FFA upon written application made by the Institution to FFA, supported by such receipts or other evidence as FFA may reasonably require to establish that the expenditure was incurred in the amount and currency and in the manner claimed.

- 4.4 Unless otherwise agreed between the Institution and FFA, the fees shall be paid in the currency specified in Schedule B. All out-of-pocket expenses shall be paid either in the currency in which the same were incurred or in Solomon Island dollars or partly in one currency and partly in the other, as FFA shall reasonably determine in consultation with the Institution.
- 4.5 Whenever it shall be necessary to determine the equivalent of an amount in one currency in terms of another, the conversion shall be made at the rate which FFA shall determine was applicable at the time and place when the Institution incurred the expenditure or converted currency into the currency of expenditure, whichever first occurred.

5. Medical and Insurance

All medical and insurance costs shall be borne by the Institutions and FFA shall be under no liability in respect of medical expenses of the Institutions.

6. Indemnity

- 6.1 Subject to the provisions of this Contract, the Institutions shall at all times indemnify and hold harmless FFA, its officers, employees and agents (in this clause referred to as "those indemnified") from and against any loss (including legal costs and expenses on a solicitor/own client basis), or liability, reasonably incurred or suffered by any of those indemnified arising from any claim, suit, demand, action or proceeding by any person against any of those indemnified where such loss or liability was caused by any wilful, unlawful or negligent act or omission of the Institution in connection with this Contract.
- 6.2 The Institutions' liability to indemnify FFA under clause 6.1 shall be reduced proportionately to the extent that any act or omission of FFA or its officers, employees or agents contributed to the loss or liability.
- 6.3 The indemnity referred to in clause 6.1 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Contract.

7. General Covenants

- 7.1 The Institutions covenant and agree that:
- (a) During the Term of Engagement, they shall devote the whole of their time and attention to the performance of the Consultancy Services and shall at all times act with due diligence and efficiency and in accordance with the Terms of Reference. They shall make or assist in making all such reports and recommendations as may be contemplated by the Terms of Reference and shall at all times cooperate with FFA, its employees and agents. After the termination of the engagement they shall continue to cooperate with FFA to such reasonable extent as may be necessary to clarify or explain any reports or recommendations made by them.
 - (b) At all times they shall act with appropriate propriety and in particular, refrain from making any public statement concerning the Consultancy Services without the prior approval of FFA.
 - (c) They shall have no authority to commit FFA in any way whatsoever and shall make this clear as circumstances warrant.

- (d) They shall report immediately to FFA any circumstances or events which might reasonably be expected to hinder or prejudice the performance of the Consultancy Services, including circumstances and events relating to his transportation and accommodation.
- (e) All reports, notes, drawings, specifications, statistics, plans and other documents and data compiled or made by the Institution while performing the Consultancy Services shall be the property of FFA and upon termination of the engagement shall be disposed of as FFA may direct. The Institution may retain copies of such documents and data but shall not use the same for purposes unrelated to the Consultancy Services without the prior approval of FFA.

8. Conflict of Interest

- 8.1 The Institutions warrants that, to the best of their knowledge, at the date of signing this Contract, no conflict of interest exists or is likely to arise in the performance of his obligations under this Contract.
- 8.2 If during the Term of Engagement, a conflict of interest arises, or appears likely to arise, the Institutions undertake to notify FFA immediately in writing and to take such steps as FFA may reasonably require to resolve or otherwise deal with the conflict. If the Institutions fail to notify FFA or are unable or unwilling to resolve or deal with the conflict as required, FFA may terminate this Contract in accordance with the provisions of clause 10.
- 8.3 The Institutions shall not engage in any activity or obtain any interest during the Term of Engagement that is likely to conflict with or restrict the Institution in providing the Consultancy Services to FFA fairly and independently.

9. Disclosure of Information

- 9.1 The Institutions shall not, without the prior written approval of FFA, disclose to any person other than FFA, any Confidential Information. In giving written approval, FFA may impose such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- 9.2 FFA may at any time require the Institutions to give a written undertaking, in a form required by FFA, relating to the non-disclosure of Confidential Information. The Institutions shall promptly arrange for all such undertakings to be given.
- 9.3 The obligation on the Institutions under this clause shall not be taken to have been breached where the information referred to is legally required to be disclosed.

10. Termination

- 10.1 FFA may, at any time by written notice, terminate this Contract in whole or in part. If this Contract is so terminated, FFA shall be liable only for:
 - (a) payment under the payment provisions of this Contract for Consultancy Services rendered before the effective date of termination; and
 - (b) subject to clauses 10.3 and 10.4, any reasonable costs incurred by the Institutions and directly attributable to the termination or partial termination of this Contract.

- 10.2 Upon receipt of a notice of termination the Institutions shall:
- (a) stop work as specified in the notice;
 - (b) take all available steps to minimize loss resulting from that termination;
 - (c) continue work on any part of the Consultancy Services not affected by the notice.
- 10.3 In the event of partial termination FFA's liability to pay fees under Schedule B shall, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, abate proportionately to the reduction in the Consultancy Services.
- 10.4 FFA shall not be liable to pay compensation in an amount which would, in addition to any amounts paid or due, or becoming due, to the Institutions under this Contract, together exceed the total fees set out in Schedule B.

11. Default

- 11.1 If either party is in default under this Contract on account of the failure to perform or observe any obligation or undertaking to be performed or observed on its part under this Contract, the party not in default may terminate this Contract in whole or in part without prejudice to any right of action or remedy which has accrued or which may accrue in favour of either party.

12. Waiver

- 12.1 A waiver by either party in respect of any breach of a condition or provision of this Contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver in respect of any continuing or subsequent breach of that provision, or breach of any other provision. The failure of either party to enforce at any time any of the provisions of this Contract shall in no way be interpreted as a waiver of such provision.

13. Notices

- 13.1 Any notice, request or other communication to be given or served pursuant to this Contract shall be in writing and dealt with as follows:
- (a) if given by the Institutions to FFA, addressed and forwarded to the Director-General, Forum Fisheries Agency, P.O. Box 629, Honiara, Solomon Islands. Fax: (+677) 23995.
 - (b) if given by FFA to the Institutions, signed by the Director-General or Deputy Director-General and forwarded to the Institution at the Usual Place of Residence.
- 13.2 Any such notice, request or other communication shall be delivered by hand or sent by pre-paid registered post, facsimile or telex to the address of the party to which it is sent.
- 13.3 Any notice, request or other communication will be deemed to be received:
- (a) if delivered personally, on the date of delivery;
 - (b) if sent by pre-paid registered post, on the day that the acknowledgment of delivery is completed by the recipient; and
 - (c) if sent by facsimile, on the business day next following the day of despatch providing that the sender receives an "OK" code in respect of the transmission and is not notified by the recipient by close of business of the next business day following the day of despatch that the transmission was illegible.

14. Entire Agreement and Variation

- 14.1 This Contract contains the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all communications, negotiations, arrangements and agreements, whether oral or written, between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Contract.
- 14.2 No agreement or understanding varying or extending this Contract, including in particular the scope of the Consultancy Services in Schedule A shall be legally binding upon either party unless in writing and signed by both parties.

15. Severability

- 15.1 Each provision of this Contract and each part thereof shall, unless the context otherwise necessarily requires it, be read and construed as a separate and severable provision or part. If any provision or part thereof is void or otherwise unenforceable for any reason then that provision or part (as the case may be) shall be severed and the remainder shall be read and construed as if the severable provision or part had never existed.

16. Applicable Law

- 16.1 This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Solomon Islands and the parties agree, subject to the Contract, that the courts of the Solomon Islands shall have jurisdiction to entertain any action in respect of, or arising out of, this Contract.