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 TENDER

File: AP_2/39
Date: 25 August, 2020
To: Interested Consultants
From: Jamie Davies, Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Manager

Subject: **Request for Tender: Survey of marine turtle use by communities and turtle nesting habitat monitoring in the Kingdom of Tonga.**

---

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. 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 undertake community turtle harvest, use and trade surveys in communities in the Kingdom of Tonga.

2.2 The consultant will be expected to consult extensively SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDCC), Tonga Ministry of Fisheries (MoF), involved Non-Government Organisations and the BIEM Bycatch/CITES Coordinator from TierraMar. Travel within Tonga for community consultation, and to undertake community surveys will be required.

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.

3. Conditions: information for applicants

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

a. Be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary technical qualifications;

b. Be able to demonstrate that he/she is legally entitled to work in Tonga

c. 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 and working with local communities to promote species conservation;

d. Have an excellent command of spoken and written English;

e. 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;

f. Have a strong track record in communication and community consultation as well as project management and facilitation; and

g. 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).*

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 and include:

a. A CV to demonstrate that they have the requisite skills and experience to carry out this contract successfully.

b. Three references including most recent work relevant to this position

c. 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).*

4.3 Tender documentation should stipulate the consultant's daily rate in USD. Hourly rate will be assumed to be the daily rate divided by 8 hours.

4.4 Tender submission must be in United States Dollars (USD), up to a maximum of USD 20,000.

4.5 The Proposal must remain valid for 90 days from date of submission.

4.6 Tenderers must insist on an acknowledgement of receipt of tender.

5. Clarification

5.1. Any clarification questions from applicants must be submitted by email to Maraea Pogi, maraeap@sprep.org before 07 September 2020. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website http://www.sprep.org/tender by 09 September 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. Excellent knowledge of marine turtle conservation and a proven track record of having successfully worked with Governments, and regional agencies (such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific), marine turtle (and other marine species), the research community and civil society stakeholders. (30%)

b. Costed workplan setting out the activities to be undertaken and timings of activities, including reporting to SPREP. (20%)

c. Prior delivery of effective communication and community consultation as well as project management and facilitation. (20%)

d. Financial proposal in US dollars. (30%)

6.2 Assessment of proposals will be based on the evaluation of the Technical Proposal (70%) and Financial Proposal (30%).

7. Deadline

7.1. **The due date for submission of the tender is: 16 September 2020 midnight (Apia, Samoa local time).**

7.2. Late submissions will be returned unopened to the sender.

7.3 Please send all tenders clearly marked 'TENDER: **Survey of marine turtle use by communities and turtle nesting habitat monitoring in the Kingdom of Tonga'** through one of the following methods:

Mail: SPREP
Attention: Procurement Officer
PO Box 240
Apia, SAMOA
Email: tenders@sprep.org (MOST PREFFERED 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 – Survey of marine turtle use by communities in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Background and rationale

Marine turtles have played a significant role in the customs and traditions of Pacific island communities for thousands of years, featuring in many of our myths, legends, songs and traditions. Marine turtles were traditionally considered as a sacred food item only for those of noble birth. Over time, marine turtles have been subjected to increasing pressure as customary practices have eroded and their popularity in commercial markets has increased[1,2].

Marine turtles are integral in the functioning of marine habitats. 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 coming ashore to lay their eggs[3,4,5].

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 six marine turtle species found in the Pacific 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
- **Flatback** (*Natator depressus*): Data deficient

While some information exists with respect to the bycatch of marine turtles in the Pacific from industrial fisheries such as the tuna purse seine and to a lesser extent long line sectors, less is known in relation to the inshore bycatch or use of marine turtles by coastal communities and small scale fisheries across the Pacific.

---

[1] Opu, J. (2018) An assessment of marine turtle exploitation in Papua New Guinea. Final Report prepared for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, Apia Samoa, May 2018
[2] Refer http://www.wwfpacific.org/what_we_do/species/turtles_cfm/
[3] 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
[4] Limpus CJ (2009) A Biological Review of Australian Marine Turtles . Brisbane, Queensland. Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency. pp 324
[5] 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

The Nature Conservancy recently published the results from a study in Solomon Islands in 2019 on harvest and trade of marine turtles covering 10 representative sites across the country (but excluded three key turtle harvest areas). This study estimated that 9,473 turtles are harvested each year by spearfishers, the major method of harvest in Solomon Islands, with 95% confidence intervals of 5,063 to 22,423 turtles. This represents a significant level of removals, and the current rates of turtle harvest are unlikely to be sustainable. Spearfishers that had used the same method of capturing turtles for their entire life (freediving at night) reported that their average catch per trip had declined up to 95.7% (mean 65.0 ± 21.7 st. dev.), with catches declining by an average 3.4% per year. Turtles harvested were mostly Green and Hawksbill, dominated by immature sizes, as well as some Olive Ridley. The primary reason for harvesting was for subsistence[6].

SPREP funded a study to understand marine turtle exploitation in PNG in 2018[7]. The study estimated that marine turtles landed in markets for domestic consumption were estimated at 4,760 turtles in 2016 and 5,320 turtles in 2017. Provinces that landed most catches were Manus, Milne Bay and Western Provinces. Species with the highest numbers caught were green, hawksbill and leatherback turtles. Out of the 15 Maritime Provinces only the two provinces did not report any turtle catches.

Data from these catch reports for Solomon Islands and PNG will provide an important source for estimating risk to marine turtle species from this direct take to combine with data already available on industrial scale bycatch in the Pacific.

At the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species COP in 2019, a number of decisions[8] were made in relation to marine turtle species, including of relevance here:

- 18.212 Parties that are marine turtle range States are urged to… b) where domestic harvest of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, is legal, ensure any domestic harvest quotas are established based on robust science-based methods and the principles of sustainability, including accounting for existing quota or no-take quotas in other States' that share marine turtle stock(s), taking into account national enforcement capacity;
- 18.211 Parties are urged to …g) collect samples of marine turtles for DNA analysis, including from seized specimens, to determine species involved and populations of origin and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin or age of the samples in support of, for example, research, investigations and prosecutions

This project is a part of the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative undertaken by SPREP to deliver Key Result Area of the Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme[9] to understand turtle extinction risk and vulnerability across the Pacific under KRA 5.4. The project seeks to understand the extent and scope of harvest and trade of marine turtles

[6] Vuto S, Hamilton R, Brown C, Waldie P, Pita J, Peterson N, Hof C and Limpus C (2019). A report on turtle harvest and trade in Solomon Islands. The Nature Conservancy, Solomon Islands. 34 p
[7] Opu, J. (2018) An assessment of marine turtle exploitation in Papua New Guinea. Final Report prepared for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, Apia Samoa, May 2018.
[8] Refer https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/dec/valid18/E18-Dec-.pdf
[9] See Annex 2 for further details about the PEUMP Programme

across a range of Pacific Islands communities, building on the work already undertaken recently in PNG and Solomon Islands.

SPREP will be upgrading its Turtle Regional Monitoring and database System (TREDS) concurrently with the BIEM Initiative and employing a Turtle TREDs and Conservation Officer who will assist with the roll out of TREDS and the reinvigoration of the tagging system. This will include setting up a more tightly controlled training, and data capture methodology with an added certification process. This will ensure that animals are cared for, data is recorded and submitted and verified. DNA data will also be captured in this database and able to be shared across other regional and national databases.

Findings for each country will be discussed with the Governance Committees established in each country under BIEM to develop next steps.

Project concept

Scope and objectives

This project seeks to undertake community turtle harvest and trade surveys in Tonga, to contribute to a regional baseline of turtle harvest by Pacific Island communities in the south west Pacific. The objectives of the regional work are:

- To gain an understanding of the scale of marine turtle harvest (legal and illegal) and trade and the primary reasons driving harvest across selected Pacific Island nations;
- To obtain a baseline of the number of turtles being caught, consumed or used and annual harvest rates by species, sex, age class and location, as well as changes over time in selected Pacific Island nations;
- To provide empirical information that can be analysed and included into the broader marine turtle extinction risk work to also be undertaken through KRA 5.4, filling key knowledge gaps around marine turtle use and consumption by coastal communities across the Pacific;
- To use the opportunity to collect DNA samples, using standardised and ethically approved approach of any turtles seen at markets or on nesting beaches; and
- To provide Pacific Island nation governments with the data required to determine whether their current efforts to conserve marine turtle populations are effective and sufficient and to help meet CITES recommendations.

Approach

Community surveys will be undertaken across each country using a standardised methodology and survey template, developed by WWF, SPREP and others based on the CMS dugong and seagrass survey. Surveys will occur for a 6-month period across each country, commencing September 2020

and will be overseen by the governance structures set up in each country for the PEUMP BIEM work being delivered by SPREP.

The following approach will be used:

- Liaise with SPREP and WWF in regard to the survey methodology and site selection.
- Consult with government representatives from MEIDCCC and MoF to determine the number of sites to be included in the survey, the involvement/assistance of government personnel in the survey collection and how the surveys will be undertaken. Ensure government priorities are addressed while retaining the consistent methodology needed for regional comparison.
- Provide training and mentoring to those people identified to undertake the surveys, where they are not conducted by the consultant.
- Coordinate and facilitate the survey process.
- Liaise with SPREP in regard to the collection and sending of data for regional analysis. Send the raw data in an agreed format to each government department and the regional marine turtle extinction risk consultant and submit any relevant data such as turtles tagged and nesting beaches to the TREDS database, through SPREP.
- Analyse and summarise survey findings in a national report for government.
- Collect DNA samples where opportunity allows, using standardised and ethically approved approach of any turtles seen at markets or on nesting beaches and prepare related information and provide all to WWF Australia/SPREP.
- Deploy data loggers as per WWF-AU methodology and a weather station across a key index beach in Tonga to monitor sand temperature and weather and undertake monitoring, providing 12 months of data, in partnership with the government and local community and coordinated through the regional turtle extinction risk consultant, SPREP and WWF Australia. Appropriate training and equipment will be provided.

Services Required

SPREP is seeking the services of a consultant (individual or team) to undertake community turtle harvest and trade surveys in communities and turtle nesting habitat monitoring on a key index turtle nesting beach in the Kingdom of Tonga. The majority of the work required will be undertaken on location in Tonga.

Scope of Consultancy

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

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

Requirements

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

a. Be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary technical qualifications;

b. Have a proven track record in advising Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) or small island developing states on the conservation of marine turtles, or related work and working with local communities to promote species conservation;

c. Have an excellent command of spoken and written English;

d. Demonstrate a record of having successfully worked with Governments, and regional agencies (such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific);

e. Have a strong track record in communication and community consultation, as well as project management and facilitation; and

f. 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

A budget of up to USD 20,000 is available and is to include all travel and out of pocket expenses incurred by the consultant. SPREP will purchase and provide the data loggers.

Duration of the Consultancy

This consultancy will run over a 6-month period commencing in September 2020 to capture the turtle nesting season in 2020 and be completed in March 2021.

Work arrangements

The final work plan will be agreed in September by SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor and Anissa Lawrence of TierraMar who is contracted by SPREP to deliver the turtle extinction risk component of the BIEM Initiative. The work plan will include the provision of progress reports through a teleconference each month and a mid-term report three months after the contract is signed.

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).
- 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 6.3 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 Consulting Pty Ltd (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:	KRA Coordinator
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	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.