REQUEST FOR TENDERS

File: AP2/39

Date: 29 January, 2020

To: Interested suppliers

From: Jamie Davies, Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Manager

Subject: **Request for Tender: Consultant to undertake marine turtle extinction risk assessments in the Pacific**

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

1.2 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 and to improve the health of coastal waters through an integrated approach to coastal management, including marine spatial planning, and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. Further detail is provided in Annex 2.

1.3 Through the BIEM Initiative SPREP is working with the Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tonga to deliver their priorities in the sustainable management of their coastal resources and marine biodiversity, focusing on seven integrated key result areas (KRAs) identified in Table 1, Annex 2. The KRAs are managed collectively but can be distinguished by their focus:

- Integrated ecosystem management (IEM) and climate change resilience in 3-4 coastal areas and associated watersheds; and
- Bycatch and conservation of threatened, endangered and protected marine species at a national and South West Pacific regional scale.

1.4 Country based Steering Committees, composed of senior officers from relevant departments are being established to oversee the planning, implementation and reporting of BIEM activities, including financial and contractual arrangements. An expert reference group is being established to oversee the marine turtle extinction risk assessment work.

2. Specifications: statement of requirement

2.1. SPREP is calling for tenders from qualified and experienced consultants who can undertake assessments of extinction risk for marine turtle species in the Pacific to support the strengthening of turtle conservation and management by Pacific Island nations.

2.2 The consultant will liaise and consult extensively with technical experts, involved Government Ministries and Departments, contractors, NGOs, donors, SPREP Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser and the BIEM Bycatch Coordinator from TierraMar Consulting Pty Ltd (TierraMar) and will be expected to work from their home office but with some travel to the region for workshops/meetings.

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 A.

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 he/she has the technical qualifications from a recognised tertiary institution and extensive experience in relevant turtle research.

b. A proven track record in marine turtle extinction risk or related work.

c. Excellent command of spoken and written English.

d. Record of having successfully worked with the marine turtle research community, Government, civil society stakeholders and regional CROP agencies such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific and have established effective networks of cooperation.

e. Strong track record in 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 set out in the Terms of Reference. 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. 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).

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. Tender Clarification

5.1. Any clarification questions from applicants must be submitted by email to Maraea Pogi on maraeap@sprep.org and copy jamied@sprep.org before 10 February 2020. A summary of all questions received with an associated response will be posted on the SPREP website http://www.sprep.org/tender by 12 February 2020.

6. Evaluation criteria

6.1. SPREP will short-list 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. Strong knowledge of marine turtle biology, ecology and conservation and management. (20%)

b. Proven track record in planning and delivering complex extinction risk assessments or related work for marine turtles. (10%)

c. Costed workplan setting out the activities to be undertaken and timings of activities. (15%)

d. Proven track record of effective communication with government, civil society and community stakeholders. (10%)

e. Established networks in the turtle science and conservation. (15%)

f. Cost (daily rate 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: 28 February 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: **Consultant to undertake marine turtle extinction risk**'

by email: tenders@sprep.org

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

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ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT - Marine Turtle Extinction Risk Assessment

Background

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.

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 ashore to lay their eggs[1,2,3].

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

In 2017 the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) commenced an initiative to compile and summarize the most relevant data for conservation of sea turtles in each of the 10 geographic regions and their respective marine turtle Regional Management Units (RMUs). Annual Regional Reports that summarize all known published data and pertinent unpublished data for each country and region in which marine turtles occur are being produced. The purpose of this information is to support updates to the IUCN Red List assessments. A MTSG workshop is planned 22-26 June in Monaco to review data relating to a number of RMUs, including in the Pacific.

Across the Pacific Islands, community turtle monitors and rangers as well as NGOs undertake monitoring of turtle nesting beaches to collect information on populations. The information is generally held with NGOs as well as government agencies and some institutions such as the University of the South Pacific. In addition, SPREP maintains a Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) that is used to collate data from strandings, tagging, nesting, emergence and beach surveys as well as other biological data on marine turtles in the Pacific. TREDS also provides information on marine turtle populations as well as their nesting and foraging sites.

In the Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery between 2003 and 2017, 348,286 marine turtles are estimated to have been caught as incidental catch by longline fleets. There is significant uncertainty around these numbers as the observer coverage is very low - around 2 - 4% across the large number

[1] 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

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

[3] 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

of vessels operating[4]. SPC is currently developing a model to estimate total turtle mortality by fleet from tuna fisheries in the Pacific to update the estimates of morality. 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.

Over time, marine turtles have been subjected to increasing pressure as customary practices have eroded and their popularity in commercial markets has increased[5,6]. 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 removal, 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[7].

SPREP funded a study to understand marine turtle exploitation in PNG in 2018[8]. 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.

In addition, SPREP is currently working with our partners to undertake similar studies across other Pacific Island nations to gain a greater understanding of the marine turtle direct harvest by communities. That project seeks to understand the extent and scope of harvest and trade of marine turtles across a range of Pacific Islands communities, building on the work already undertaken recently in PNG and Solomon Islands. Data from these studies 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.

As a part of a broader Turtle Cooling project being led by WWF Australia, SPREP is also installing a number of sand temperature data loggers and weather stations across key index beaches in some Pacific Island countries to provide much needed data relating to incubation temperature and sex ratio trends for the Pacific.

The scope of the marine turtle extinction risk assessment reflects Key Result Area 5.4 of the PEUMP Programme, with further detail provided in Annex 2.

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[4] There is some uncertainty around the estimate, particularly relating to Olive Ridley turtles and the number is likely to be an overestimate, however species caught includes Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead and Leatherback marine turtles. Olive ridley were the most caught of the sea turtle species / groups for both the deep and shallow set fisheries between 2003 and 2017. (Peatman et al 2018, Summary of longline fishery bycatch at a regional scale, 2003-2017 WCPFC-SC14-2018/ST-WP-03, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION Rev 3 (15th April 2019) – corrections to captions (Figure 33 and Tables 32 to 35))

[5] 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

[6] Refer http://www.wwfpacific.org/what_we_do/species/turtles_cfm/

[7] 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

[8] 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.

Services Required

SPREP is seeking the services of a consultant to undertake an assessment of extinction risk for marine turtle species in the Pacific to support the strengthening of marine turtle conservation and management by Pacific Island nations. The focus is on green, hawksbill, leatherback, olive ridley and loggerhead turtle species.

Scope of Consultancy

The role of the consultant is to undertake all activities required to provide extinction risk assessments for key marine turtle species including, but not limited to:

- Using relevant networks and through liaison with key stakeholders such as USP and NGOs, collate all available relevant published and unpublished information relating to marine turtles in the Pacific in terms of abundance, trends and threats that impact on population viability and inform extinction risk estimates in relevant RMUs in the Pacific. (Note this is to include the results of the community surveys and temperature information to be collected as a part of the BIEM Initiative that should be available in Quarter 2, 2021);
- Liaise with the consultant that will be engaged to undertake the analysis of the community turtle use surveys to ensure information will be in a format suitable for input into the assessments. Note these will be commencing in May 2020 and results should be available in Quarter 2, 2021;
- Engage a student to undertake an analysis of the temperature data collected at key index beaches across the Pacific when available. Note the equipment is being deployed commencing May 2020 and 12 months data should be available in May 2021;
- Establish an expert reference group to:
    - develop an appropriate methodology for undertaking the assessments;
    - define a clear scope for each assessment in terms of RMUs/ geographic extent[9] as well as for which species the assessments should be undertaken based on available data;
    - provide additional unpublished data and information;
    - provide ongoing input and support as required; and
    - peer review the findings once completed.

    Note - potentially an initial expert reference group meeting can be held in July 2020 as well as for the peer review towards the end of the project.
- Undertake the extinction risk assessments for each relevant marine turtle species at the RMU as well as country level, with a specific focus on PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga;
- Feed the results of the assessments back to a broader stakeholder group workshop consisting of government, NGO, and other key stakeholder groups, to ground-truth results and inform broader conservation and management discussions at the regional and country level;
- Regularly liaise with the BIEM Bycatch Coordinator from TierraMar and Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser and provide any additional support as required and assist in documenting lessons learned;

[9] The expert group will need to decide the geographic extent of the project, based on RMU areas, but ensuring key countries listed are included.

- Provide written reports in English for each assessment as well as a Summary Report for relevant government marine turtle conservation and management agencies; and
- Provide quarterly forward plans and monthly and quarterly reports to the BIEM Bycatch Coordinator from TierraMar, the BIEM Initiative Manager and Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser at SPREP.

Requirements

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

a. Be able to demonstrate that he/she has the technical qualifications from a recognised tertiary institution and extensive experience in relevant turtle research;

b. A proven track record in marine turtle extinction risk or related work;

c. Excellent command of spoken and written English;

d. Record of having successfully worked with the marine turtle research community, Government, civil society stakeholders and regional CROP agencies such as SPREP and SPC in the Pacific and have established effective networks of cooperation; and

e. Strong track record in communication as well as project management and facilitation.

Remuneration

The budget allocated for these activities is up to US$60k. This is to include all travel and out of pocket expenses incurred by the consultant. All legitimate costs associated with organising and running contract related workshops and meetings signed off by SPREP's BIEM Initiative Manager ahead of the event will be covered by SPREP.

Duration of the Consultancy

This consultancy will run over a 19-month period from March 2020 to end October 2021.

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 6.5 million Euros to implement the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component of the PEUMP Programme and the work is due to be completed by December 2022. BIEM activities are designed to ensure they are relevant to all south Pacific countries. However, to maximise the positive impact of the work with the funding and time available, the BIEM team will focus the majority of activities in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

SPREP and its partners are dedicated to working to assist these Pacific countries meet their priorities in the sustainable management of their coastal resources and marine biodiversity, focusing on eight integrated key result areas (KRAs) identified in Table 1.

SPREP has sub-contracted the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TierraMar to lead the delivery of some elements of the work. The organisational responsibilities are identified in Table 1.

Table 1: The 8 integrated KRAs of BIEM

KRA-5 Component	Geographical scope:	Lead Organisation
5.1 Marine Spatial Planning	Solomon Islands, Fiji	IUCN
5.2 Integrated 'ridge to reef' ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning	Fiji, Vanuatu	SPREP
5.3 Development and integration of climate change adaptation strategies into coastal community plans	Fiji, Vanuatu	
5.4 Assessment of by-catch of endangered species and extinction risk evaluated	Regional	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.