



Terms of Reference Regional Project Management Unit

Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reference: VA-2021- 17

Deadline of Application: February 28, 2021

Title: International Consultant for ATS Financing Mechanism

Category: Senior Specialist

Project Name: GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2

Reports to: Regional Project Manager

Duty Station: Home Based

Expected Places of Travel (if applicable/feasible): Travel to regional office in Bali and ATS countries

Duration of Assignment: 50 working days within March - November 2021

BACKGROUND

ATSEA-2 is the 2nd phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA program, and is designed to enhance regional collaboration and coordination in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, which is composed of Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste. Overall, the project focuses on supporting the implementation of the 10-year ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) endorsed through a Ministerial Declaration in 2014.

In particular, this 5-year project supports the implementation of the following governance and environmental objectives of the SAP: (i) Strengthening of ATS regional governance; (ii) Recovering and sustaining fisheries; (iii) Restoring degraded habitats for sustainable provision of ecosystem services; (iv) Reducing land-based and marine sources of pollution; (v) Protecting key marine species; and (vi) Adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Focusing on the project's governance objective, it is envisioned that a sustainable regional mechanism will be established and will be supported through (a) strengthened and more representative stakeholder participation, (b) improved intersectoral collaborative structures on the national level, and (c) development of alternative financing plans for sustaining the implementation of the updated SAPs and National Action Programmes (NAPs).

Currently, an interim ATS regional governance mechanism and Secretariat are already operational through the Regional Project Steering Committee (RSC) and the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU). An analysis of political and legal frameworks is also in process to help assess viable options for the establishment of a sustainable ATS regional governance mechanism. In terms of funding, the project is mainly supported by GEF grant, with co-financing (in-cash and in-kind) commitments from member countries to facilitate the implementation of project activities.

Hand in hand with the ongoing political and legal assessments on governance mechanisms, the 2nd RSC Meeting held in November 2020 recommended the project to proceed with the initial



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activities or processes related to the establishment of financing mechanisms for the sustainable implementation of the ATS SAP and NAPs. Recognizing that in order to enhance the likelihood of sustainability of the regional governance structures, financing will need to shift away from project-based mechanisms to a multiplicity of sources, including national and local governance, from the private sector, multilateral and bilateral donors, NGOs and foundations, as well as from various market-based mechanisms.

In support of this and to initiate the process, the 2nd RSC requested that an assessment of existing financial mechanisms, gaps, and new opportunities in the region for a 5-year SAP implementation be conducted, including a review of international best practices or other existing investment and financing strategies that support operations of regional mechanisms. The results of these assessments will provide basis for the subsequent development of a 5-year cost estimate and financing plan for the updated ATS SAP and NAPs. The result of the financial assessment is targeted for review and presentation at the 3rd RSC Meeting tentatively scheduled on the fourth quarter of 2021.

SCOPE OF WORK, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Scope of Work:

Under the guidance of the Regional Project Manager (RPM) and in close cooperation with the Policy and Result-based Management Specialist, the consultant will be responsible for developing a Financial Assessment and Guidance Report that will serve as basis for the development of a 5-year cost estimate and financing plan for the ATS region's implementation of the updated SAP and NAPs.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- (1) Gather and establish baseline information to understand the ATS region's current position with regard to marine and coastal management and financing, and learn from similar or related regional organizations or mechanisms.

Activities:

- Assemble and review relevant reference materials and data from within the region (e.g., completed, ongoing and planned marine, coastal and fisheries-related programs in the region, national financing mechanisms and plans in ATS countries in support of these programs and the ATS SAP/NAPs, results of ongoing regional and national assessments on governance mechanisms and thematic issues under the ATSEA-2 Project and other related studies/assessments identifying priority and emerging issues in the region, etc.) through desktop reviews and by securing additional reference materials or information from RSC members.
- Analyze and secure reference/ information/lessons from other relevant regional mechanisms with the following attributes:
 - Organizations that started out as projects of GEF/UNDP or other international agencies
 - Organizations servicing similar clientele
 - Organizations with analogous mandates and/or services

- Organizations with similar governance or organizational structures
- Organizations with effective financing models
- Gain additional information from GEF and UNDP's studies and guidance documents related to sustainable financing and their applications to marine, coastal and fisheries programs.
- Compile and synthesize key information on existing financial mechanisms, portfolio of funding sources, sustainability strategies, and emerging financing opportunities from within the region and other related regional mechanisms.

Deliverables:

- Initial draft of Financial Assessment and Guidance Report providing a baseline view of the ATS region's current position and core strategic issues and advantages with regard to marine, coastal and fisheries management and financing; potentially important gaps that may need to be addressed with the support of a regional governance mechanism, and possible future services/offerings of the regional mechanism; and emerging opportunities from the financing perspective.

(2) Gain in-depth insights from ATS member countries, partners and relevant stakeholders on financing mechanisms for the ATSEA Program

Activities:

- Building on the baseline information generated under #1 and the available results arising from the separate ongoing assessments on regional governance mechanism and thematic issues, conduct interviews with relevant members and stakeholders in the region to gather additional perspectives about the ATSEA program, progress and challenges/needs in implementing the current (and future updated) SAP/NAPs, understand country's political, planning and budgetary allocations and processes in ATS partner countries in allocating contributions to regional/international commitments, and other initiatives toward building a more formal regional governance mechanism/structure, its current and future roles and offerings/value propositions/services, viable options for sustainable financing mechanisms, and potential strategy moving forward.
- Synthesize interview feedback and findings.
- Identify possible gaps, concerns, as well as areas of opportunities, in support of establishing a sustainable financing mechanism for ATS SAP and NAPs implementation.

Deliverables:

- Stakeholder perspectives on ATS Financing Mechanism in support of updated ATS SAP and NAPs implementation

(3) Assess Demand for ATSEA Regional Mechanism's Value Proposition or Offerings/ Services

Activities:

- Building from the available results of the separate ongoing assessment on regional governance mechanism, thresh out possible or emerging key services, tools or approaches that the ATSEA Regional Mechanism could pursue or build its niche on, and offer to the region. Based on this initial list, conduct surveys to initially gauge

possible demand and support for ATSEA Regional Mechanism’s possible offerings/services, and potential financing requirements and arrangements for delivering these services.

Deliverables:

- Insights into demand and service opportunities and potential financing arrangements that ATSEA Regional Mechanism could pursue in line with the implementation of updated SAP and NAPs

(4) Develop Implications and Recommendations

Activities:

- Based on the results, feedback and inputs from interviews and surveys, determine implications and recommendations, with regard to implementation and sustainable financing of SAP and NAPs, that ATSEA could pursue going forward that appear most viable, including a proposed work plan for the subsequent development of a 5-Year Cost Estimate and Financing Plan for the implementation of updated ATS SAP and NAPs

Deliverables:

- A set of implications and recommendations

(5) Refine the Draft Financial Assessment and Guidance Report

Activities:

- Update the initial draft report by incorporating results, feedback and findings, as well as the set of recommendations arising from Activities #2 to #4.

Deliverables:

- Complete Draft Financial Assessment and Guidance Report

(6) Participate in periodic discussions with the RSC to provide updates on the status of the assessment, as well as to present the draft Financial Assessment and Guidance Report at the 3rd RSC Meeting.

(7) Based on the recommendations from the RSC meeting(s), refine and finalize the draft document.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables:

Deliverables	Expected No. of Working Days	Completion Deadline
1st Payment will be made upon the submission and approval of the following outputs: (1) Detailed work plan and budget for undertaking the financial assessment; (2) Annotated outline of Financial Assessment and Guidance Report.	20%	March 19, 2021



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2nd Payment will be made upon the submission and approval of the initial draft of Financial Assessment and Guidance Report (<i>focusing on baseline information on ATS' current position and core strategic issues and advantages, possible future services/offerings, ways to approach country contributions, potential sources of funding and emerging opportunities from the financing perspective</i>)	<u>50%</u>	<u>June 30, 2021</u>
3 rd Payment will be made upon the submission and approval of the complete draft Financial Assessment and Guidance Report following consultations and surveys, and the final draft incorporating the inputs from the 3 rd RSC Meeting.	<u>30%</u>	<u>November 15, 2021</u>

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Institutional Arrangement

The Consultant will be coordinating regularly with the Policy and Result-based Management Specialist, as well as with the Regional Project Manager in seeking approval and acceptance of the above-mentioned outputs.

Duration of the Work

Expected duration of work is from March – November 2021 spread over 50 working days.

Duty Station

The Consultant will be home based with regular coordination with the Policy and Result-based Management Specialist and the Regional Project Manager.

Travel Plan

Taking into consideration the safety and health protocols in view of COVID-19, travel to countries for consultations will be decided depending on the situation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in economics, sustainable and strategic financing, and/or similar fields.
- Bachelor's degree in combination with a minimum of 10 additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced degree.



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Experience requirement:

- At least 10 years working experience in conducting financial analysis, environmental economics, sustainable financing and/or natural resource management financing, or similar subjects;
- Proven experience in financial planning and management (preferably related to conservation or management of natural resources);
- Knowledge of regional, national and local governance and financial systems and institutions;
- Proven experience in analysis of budget or financial planning;
- Proven experience with preparation and implementation of financial instruments (preferably within the environmental sector);
- Solid overall computer literacy, including proficiency in various MS Office applications (Excel, etc.);
- Good knowledge of circumstances related to key environmental issues and sustainable development.
- Knowledge of and experience working in the ATS region would be an advantage.

Other requirements:

- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- High motivation and ability to work and deliver under tight deadlines;
- Able to work independently with little or no supervision.
- Demonstrates integrity and ethical standards;
- Positive, constructive attitude to work;
- Strong field work experience and strong communication skills in community and other relevant stakeholders;

Language Requirements:

- Fluency in English with excellent written communication skills, and strong experience writing reports is required;
- Ability to speak Bahasa, Tetum, and/or Tok Pisin would be an asset.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Applicants are requested to submit:

- (1) Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability;
- (2) Detailed Curriculum Vitae, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate;
- (3) Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment;
- (4) A description of the methodology, on how they will approach and complete the assignment; and
- (5) Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs.



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Applicants are requested to submit the tender and requirements via email to infoatsea2@pemsea.org with copy to recruitment@pemsea.org

Kindly indicate the vacancy reference number and title of requirement when applying (in the subject line) by email.

Additional Considerations:

Bid applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only those candidates that are shortlisted will be notified. Applicants from the ATSEA region are highly preferred.

As part of GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA2 Project's commitment to gender equality and social inclusion, female candidates are always strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information on ATSEA and ATSEA-2, please visit www.atsea-program.com and www.pemsea.org