

RFQ 22-4283

# **REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)**

## **FOR SERVICES**

Project Title:	International consulting service to develop the Environmental & Social Safeguards and Gender Assessment and Action Plan annexes for the Adaptation Fund Funding Proposal "Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nauru"
Nature of the services	Consulting services
Location:	Remotely
Date of issue:	20/07/2022
Closing Date:	29/07/2022
SPC Reference:	RFQ22-4283

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#### **Part 1: INTRODUCTION**

## 1.1 About the Pacific Community (SPC)

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation of the Pacific region, established by treaty in 1947 with the signing of the *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission* (the Canberra Agreement).

Our unique organisation covers more than 20 sectors and is renowned for knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security.

For more information about SPC and the work that we do, please visit our website: <a href="https://www.spc.int/">https://www.spc.int/</a>.

## 1.2 SPC's procurement activities

SPC's procurement activities are guided by the principles of high ethical standards, value for money, open competition and social and environmental responsibility and are carried out under our Procurement Policy.

For further information or enquiries about SPC's procurement activities, please visit the procurement pages on our website: <a href="https://www.spc.int/procurement">https://www.spc.int/procurement</a> or email: <a href="mailto:procurement@spc.int">procurement@spc.int</a>

## 1.3 SPC's Request for Quotation (RFQ) Process

At SPC, procurement valued at more than EUR 2,000 and less than or equal to EUR 45,000 requires an evaluation of at least three quotations to determine the offer that provides the best value for money through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process.

This RFQ sets out SPC's requirements for a project and it asks you, as a bidder, to respond in writing in a prescribed format with pricing and other required information.

Your participation confirms your acceptance of SPC's conditions of participation in the RFQ process.

## **Part 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS**

## 2.1 Background

SPC invites you to submit a quotation to deliver the services as specified in Part 3.

SPC has compiled these instructions to guide prospective bidders and to ensure that all bidders are given equal and fair consideration. Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your bid. For your quotation to be considered, it is important that you provide all the prescribed information by the closing date and in the format specified.

#### 2.2 Submission Instructions

You must **submit your quotation and all supporting documents** in English and as an attachment to an email sent to climatefinanceunit@spc.int and with the subject line of your email as follows: **Submission RFQ22-4283**. The email should also be copied to **rfq@spc.int**.

The supporting documents expected in this RFQ are:

- The Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form completed

- A technical and financial proposal (including all costs i.e. professional fees, management and operating costs, and any other administrative costs in the contract price) as per templates provided in section 5.

Your submission must be clear, concise and complete and should only include a quotation and information that is necessary to respond effectively to this RFQ. Please note that you may be marked down or excluded from the procurement exercise if your submission contains any ambiguities or lacks clarity.

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of information received by 8:00 NOUMEA TIME on 29/07/2022.

#### 2.3 Evaluation & Contract Award

Each quotation validly received will be assessed against the evaluation criteria matrix set out in <u>Part 4</u>. Any changes in the evaluation criteria will result in the RFQ process being re-issued.

SPC may award the contract once it has determined that a bidder has met the prescribed requirements and the bidder's proposal has been determined to be substantially responsive to the RFQ documents, provide the best value for money (highest cumulative score) and best serve the interests of SPC.

In the event of a bid being accepted, procurement will take place under SPC's <u>General Terms and Conditions</u> <u>of Contract</u> and depending on the value or nature of the procurement, the award will be made by issuing a purchase order or a signed and dated contract, or both.

## 2.4 Key Contacts

Please contact SPC should you have any doubt as to what is required or if we can help answer any questions that you may have.

Pauline SIRET will be your primary point of contact for this RFQ and can be contacted at paulines@spc.int. You should copy any communications into <a href="mailto:rfq@spc.int">rfq@spc.int</a>.

Details will be kept of any communications between SPC and bidders. This assists SPC to ensure transparency of the procurement process. While SPC prefers written communication in the RFQ process, at any point where there is phone call or other conversation, SPC expects to keep a file note of the exchange, with all forms of communication with prospective bidders to be retained as source documents for the procurement of the services.

### 2.5 Key Dates

Please see the proposed procurement timetable in the table below. This timetable is intended as a guide only and while SPC does not intend to depart from the timetable, it reserves the right to do so at any stage.

STAGE	DATE
RFQ sent to potential vendors	20/07/2022
RFQ Closing Date	29/07/2022
Award of Contract	1/08/2022
Commencement of Contract	15/08/2022
Conclusion of Contract	16/03/2023

### 2.6 Legal and compliance

**Confidentiality:** Unless otherwise agreed by SPC in advance or where the contents of the RFQ are already in the public domain when shared with the bidder, bidders shall at all times treat the contents of the RFQ and any related documents as confidential. SPC will also treat the information it receives from the bidders as confidential.

Conflict of interest: Bidders must take all necessary measures to prevent any situation of conflict of interest. You must notify SPC in writing as soon as possible of any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest during the RFQ process. If you have any familial connection with SPC staff, this must be declared, and approval will then be sought for you to engage in the RFQ process. In support of your response to this RFQ, you must submit to SPC the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form available on our procurement page website: https://spc.int/procurement.

Breach of this requirement can result in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder.

**Currency, validity, duties, taxes:** Unless specifically otherwise requested, all proposals should be in USD and must be net of any direct or indirect taxes and duties, and shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. The successful bidder is bound by their proposal for a further 60 days following notification they are the preferred bidder so that the contract may be awarded. No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted at any time during this period.

**No offer of contract or invitation to contract:** This RFQ is not an offer to contract or an invitation by SPC to enter into a contract with you.

**Privacy:** The bidder is to comply with the requirements of applicable legislation and regulatory requirements in force for the use of personal data that is disclosed for the purposes of this RFQ. SPC will handle any personal information it receives under the RFQ in line with its <a href="Privacy Policy">Privacy Policy</a>, and the <a href="Guidelines for handling personal information of bidders and grantees.

**Warranty, representation, assurance, undertaking:** The bidder acknowledges and agrees that no person has any authority to give any warranty, representation, assurance or undertaking on behalf of SPC in connection with any contract which may (or may not) follow on from this RFQ process.

#### 2.7 Complaints process

Bidders that consider they were not treated fairly during any SPC procurement process may lodge a protest. The protest should be addressed to <a href="mailto:complaints@spc.int">complaints@spc.int</a>. The bidder must provide the following information: (1) full contact details; (2) details of the relevant procurement; (3) reasons for the protest, including how the alleged behaviour negatively impacted the bidder; (4) copies of any documents supporting grounds for protest; (5) the relief that is sought.

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#### Part 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. Background/context

The proposed project "Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nauru" builds on the pre-feasibility study conducted in early 2022, which will be shared with the successful candidate. The project aims to provide strong incentives to Government of Nauru (GoV) stakeholders to actively engage in marine resource management in the context of adapting to climate change by supporting the development of a clear roadmap for the Coastal Fisheries Act (CFA) and providing technical assistance for its implementation. It will engage communities to divert fishing pressure away from the reef that is currently also suffering from the impacts of climate change (bleaching, increased wave impact and acidification) to more sustainable fishing practices, and sustainable aquaculture production. The objective is to diversify food production systems and income-generating activities to enhance the climate resilience of the country's population and its markets.

To do so, the project will utilize a combination of capacity strengthening, training, awareness-raising and financial support activities to create a paradigm shift for more climate-resilient marine resource management and planning to boost the domestic food supply. Learnings and data gathered as part of the project will continue to inform policy and regulatory developments by constituting a robust baseline in terms of community-based fisheries and marine resource management, climate change adaptation solutions, coastal and reef restoration, and sustainable aquaculture production.

The project has three components:

- Component 1: Enhanced policy, regulatory and legislative environment for resilient coastal fisheries and aquaculture to enable the sectors' long-term climate, environmental and economic resilience.
- Component 2: Financing climate resilience for coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors to improve food security and nutrition through increased farmed fish supply, increased adaptive capacity and income of aquaculture operators and reduced pressure on climate-vulnerable coastal and reef ecosystems.
- Component 3: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning to increase compliance with environmental recommendations and provisions under policy frameworks through enhanced capacity of local communities and Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) officers to collect and interpret data.

The proposed project will target the Adaptation Fund (AF) and will target the one-step process of the Fund, without going through the Concept Note submission. The consultant will be recruited to support the development of the Funding Proposal package through the development of relevant technical annexes for the AF Board approval. Details of the consultancy are provided below.

## 2. Purpose, objectives, scope of services

## Purpose and objectives of the consultancy:

An integral part of the project development process is the undertaking of comprehensive gender analysis to better understand gender roles across Nauru and more specifically within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The project must provide women and men with an equal opportunity to build resilience, address their respective vulnerabilities, and increase their capacity to adapt to

climate change impacts. It must address and mitigate against assessed potential project risks for women and men in relation to concrete adaptation actions financed by the Fund. It will contribute to addressing the knowledge and data gaps on gender-related vulnerabilities and accelerate learning about effective gender-equal adaptation measures and strategies.

Moreover, as per the Fund's <u>Environmental and Social Policy</u>, the project must promote positive environmental and social benefits and mitigate or avoid adverse environmental and social risks and impacts, showing evidence of appropriate due diligence in this regard.

As part of the funding proposal package, the consultant is required to develop:

- The Gender Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP)
- The E&S Safeguard documentation, including an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

The funding proposal package will be presented to the AF Board in March 2023. This will conform with the AF's and the Pacific Community's (SPC) policies and guidelines and be developed in close collaboration and consultation with SPC's Climate Finance Unit (CFU), Nauru's Designated Authority (DA), Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) and other relevant stakeholders.

The consultant is required to gather all necessary data and information, provide ad-hoc technical assistance, organize, plan, and facilitate all in-country consultations with the aid of a Local Consultant for logistical aspects and information-sharing, and support the Lead Design Consultant in the development of the full documentation for the project. The Consultant is also required to respond to AF comments on the relevant documents after submission of the proposal.

#### Scope of work of the consultant:

#### **GAAP**:

A gender assessment will be conducted to ensure that the project is implemented in a gender-responsive manner and full compliance with the gender policies and regulations of the AF, SPC and the respective government. This will include preparing a full GAAP for the project. These documents will be utilised to provide an appropriate risk assessment of the project from a gender perspective, allowing for the identification of suitable recommendations and mitigation measures to ensure the project is gender equitable and strives to ensure sustained empowerment of all genders in national operations. Through implementation, the GAAP will ensure activities are carried out to mainstream equality in project actions and that these activities are monitored against a set plan.

#### **ESIA** and **ESMF**:

Environmental and social assessment studies will be developed to ensure that the project is implemented in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner and in full compliance with the environmental and social policies and regulations of the AF, SPC and the respective government. This will include preparing the ESIA for the project and establishing an overall ESMF for the project. These documents will be utilised to provide an appropriate risk assessment of the project from an environmental and social perspective, allowing for the identification of suitable recommendations and mitigation measures to ensure the project does no harm. Through implementation, the ESMF will ensure appropriate monitoring of ESS risks and actions are in place to adapt to any changes in risk level. This will ensure beneficiaries duly benefit from the implementation of this project both in the short and long term. These activities are needed to determine the project strategy, priorities, key partners, and key barriers to success.

More specifically the consultant will be responsible for:

- Development of a full gender assessment in alignment with the AF Gender Policy and any
  guidance materials or templates. Documentation will ensure the development of gendersensitive outcomes by addressing gender issues in design through in-depth gender
  assessments of the target country. This will identify needs and contextual factors affecting
  male and female stakeholders in the target country within the relevant sectors.
  Assessments will include economic and social challenges and opportunities faced by
  women, assessed through stakeholder and beneficiary consultation.
- Development of a gender action plan to ensure equity for men and women in access to project benefits, in compliance with the AF gender policy and any relevant templates. This will ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into each project component/outcome. The purpose of the gender action plan for the Adaptation Fund is to provide a framework and accountability tool for the full operationalization of the new Gender Policy of the Fund by setting clear time-bound goals and priorities. The use of "gender-responsive" language as opposed to "gender-sensitive" is expected. The action plan will also include an indicative budget to cover the cost of mainstreaming activities. It will include requisite funds to ensure implementation and M&E, whether through a permanent Project Management Unit position or ad hoc support, to be confirmed in collaboration with the lead project design specialist.
- Together, the assessment and action plan will be combined into one document, the GAAP.
   In the formulation of the GAAP, the consultant will coordinate and engage in relevant national and sub-national consultations to ensure all stakeholder and target beneficiary contexts have been accounted for. This includes SPC and project partners, national government staff, Civil Society Organisations, and beneficiaries. The Lead Design Consultant and Local Consultant will support this process as needed.
- 1. Development of an in-depth **ESIA** to identify possible environmental and social impacts and better assess the risk level of the project, based on the country's environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) policies and guidelines, SPC Social and Environmental Responsibility policy, and the AF ESS policy and guidelines. The project has been preliminarily assessed as Category B and will exclude Category A activities during implementation. Studies will i) gather secondary data through the review of data sources for laws and regulations, national reports, documents, and websites; ii) review documents and lessons learnt on existing and completed projects implemented in these countries and iii) in liaison with the Lead Design Consultant and Local Consultant, consult stakeholders as necessary to validate findings of the studies. It will include risks and impacts related to the project's proposed interventions.
- Development of an ESMF to monitor and mitigate the identified relevant risks and impacts that project activities could cause over implementation. It will also identify actions to enhance the positive environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project. The ESMF will ensure that each sub-project will develop an ESIA and environmental and social management plan when deemed appropriate. The ESMF will also include an indicative budget to cover the cost of mainstreaming activities into the main project budget. In the formulation of the ESIA and ESMF, the consultant will coordinate and engage in relevant national and sub-national consultations to ensure all stakeholder and target beneficiary contexts have been accounted for.

The Consultant will develop the GAAP, ESIA and ESMF annexes that will interlink and inform the overall project design. The successful applicant will also support the Lead Design Consultant and

Local Consultant to ensure consistency of the deliverables with the following documentation of the full design package:

- Funding proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement Report and Plan
- Budget
- Others as required

#### 3. Timelines

The Consultant must complete the work defined in the scope of services within a period three to four months from the contract's signing date. The total level of effort required is estimated at around 25 working days. The table below presents an indicative timeline for each expected deliverable. They will be considered final upon quality assurance and validation by the CFU.

Expected key deliverables	Indicative timeline
Brief inception report (including a work plan)	Early August 2022
Draft GAAP, ESIA and ESMP	Mid-September 2022
Final GAAP, ESIA and ESMP	Mid-November 2022
Response to AF comments and revised version of the documents, as appropriate	Jan-March 2023

## 4. Reporting and contracting arrangements

#### Implementation arrangements:

The implementation of all activities in a coherent manner would be the responsibility of the Consultant, under the supervision of the CFU from SPC and project partners. SPC and the Consultant will sign a performance contract and will ensure coherence with other programme documentation.

#### **Duty station and travel:**

The assignment will be carried out from the Consultant's office.

Travels across countries is limited and unlikely to be open to the target country over the relevant period. As a result, the Consultant is encouraged to collaborate with national focal points and the Local Consultant to collect primary data and conduct consultations with local stakeholders as appropriate.

## 5. Skills and qualifications

The Consultant will have expertise in climate change adaptation, and environmental and social safeguards, with a solid demonstrated experience in AF, Green Climate Fund (GCF) or Global Environment Facility (GEF) project development, and a good knowledge of the institutional context in the Pacific region.

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- 1) At least a master's degree in environmental management, climate change, social sciences or related field.
- 2) At least 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in ESS/gender assessments.
- 3) Demonstrated experience in supporting similar kinds of project preparation exercises with proven experience in providing technical support.
- 4) Solid understanding and knowledge of the AF, GCF or GEF ESS/gender policies and gender issues and impacts on Pacific Small Island Developing States.
- 5) Proven excellent communication and facilitation skills, including in multicultural settings.
- 6) Excellent interpersonal and social skills.
- 7) Excellent written English and presentation skills.

## 6. Scope of Bid Price and Schedule of Payments

The contract payments are based on milestones. The bidder must include all costs including professional fees, management and operating costs, and any other administrative costs in the contract price.

Milestone/deliverables	Deadline	% Payment	Amount in US\$
Sign-off of contract and submission of the	Mid-August	20%	TBD
inception report	2022	20%	
Acceptance by SPC of draft documents	Mid-October	50%	TBD
	2022	30%	ושט
Acceptance by SPC of final documents	Mid-December	20%	TBD
	2022	20%	ושט
Acceptance by SPC of responses to AF	January-March		
comments and revised version of the	2023	10%	TBD
documents, as appropriate			
TOTAL			TBD

The terms of payment shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the SPC General Conditions.

#### 7. Annexes to the Terms of Reference

Annexe 1: Pre-feasibility study: Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture, Nauru

## Part 4: PROPOSAL EVALUATION MATRIX

## 4.1 Competency Requirements & Score Weight

The evaluation matrix bellow reflects the obtainable score specified for each evaluation criterion (technical requirement) which indicates the relative significance or weight of the items in the overall evaluation process.

Competency Requirements	Score Weight (%)	Points obtainable
Technical and financial proposal	Mandator	y requirements
<b>Technical requirement 1:</b> At least a master's degree in environmental management, climate change, social sciences or related field.	10%	10
<b>Technical requirement 2</b> : At least 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in ESS/gender assessments.	20%	20
<b>Technical requirement 3:</b> Demonstrated experience in supporting similar kinds of project preparation exercises with proven experience in providing technical support.	20%	20
<b>Technical requirement 4:</b> Solid understanding and knowledge of the AF, GCF or GEF gender policies and gender issues and impacts on Pacific Small Island Developing States.	20%	20
<b>Other:</b> Proven excellent communication and facilitation skills, including in multicultural settings. Excellent interpersonal and social skills. Excellent written English and presentation skills.	10%	10
Financial requirement: Sound financial proposal	20%	20
Total Score	100%	100

## PART 5 – 5.1 - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Technical	Requirements			
Evaluation cri	iteria		Response by Bidder	
Experience	and references			
	Dataila fau thuas usfau			
	Details for three refere		client 11	
1. Client's name: [insert name of client 1]  Contact name: [insert name of contact]				
	Contact details:			
	Value contract:	[insert contact details] [insert value of contract]		
	2. Client's name:			
Experience:	Contact name:	[insert name of		
Experience.	Contact details:	[insert contact	-	
	Value contract:	[insert value of	*	
		[insert name of a		
	Contact name:	[insert name of		
	Contact details:	[insert contact	*	
	Value contract:	[insert value of		
Technical Re		[meere rande of		
	master's degree in	environmental		
management, climate change, social sciences or related field.			[Bidder's answer]	
Technical Re	quirement 2			
At least 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in ESS/gender assessments. At least 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in ESS/gender assessments.		ts. At least 5 to		
Technical Red	quirement 3			
Demonstrated experience in supporting similar kinds of project preparation exercises with proven experience in providing technical support. Demonstrated experience in supporting similar kinds of project preparation exercises with proven experience in providing technical support.		with proven ical support. ng similar kinds with proven	[Bidder's answer] [Bidder's answer]	
Technical Re				
Solid understanding and knowledge of the AF, GCF or GEF gender policies and gender issues and impacts on Pacific Small Island Developing States.		er issues and	[Bidder's answer]	
Other Techni	cal Requirement			

Proven excellent communication and facilitation	
skills, including in multicultural settings. Excellent	ſſ
interpersonal and social skills. Excellent written	[ [
English and presentation skills.	

[Bidder's answer]

**For the Bidder:** [insert name of the company]

Signature:

Name of the representative: [insert name of the representative]

Title: [insert Title of the representative]
Date: [Click or tap to enter a date]

#### PART 5 – 5.2 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUMBISSION FORM

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS**

In their financial proposal, bidders should detail as much as possible the price requested in response to the technical specifications.

Wherever possible, this should be stated as a lump sum and then as a total amount (e.g. lump sum can be: daily rate for a consultant, a project manager, a developer, a scientist, lump sum for the organisation of an event, price of a consultation and total amount can be: number of days of drafting required to produce the report, number of meetings required, number of conferences, workshops, etc.).

Good detail in their financial proposal helps bidders to give clarity and transparency to their proposal and makes it easier for SPC to score the proposals received.

The contract to be concluded with the selected bidder must mention all the costs incurred for the execution of the assignment entrusted to him. No additional costs can be claimed from SPC after the contract has been signed. Bidders must mention in their financial proposal all additional costs foreseen for the execution of the contract (material, equipment, travel, etc.). These costs will either be included in their fees, paid or reimbursed by SPC upon presentation of supporting documents. In any case, they must be estimated by the bidder in its financial proposal and will form an integral part of SPC's evaluation of proposals.

Bidders must also mention any special conditions relating to the amount of their proposal or the terms of payment.

#### **BIDDER'S FINANCIAL PROPOSAL**

Costs			
Services description	Lump sum Price USD	Total quantity	Total Amount USD
Professional Fees (Hourly/Daily/Monthly RATE – SPECIFY)	[unit price]	[quantity]	[total amount]
Any other related costs specify (operating, management and any administrative cost – Reimbursable based on actuals	[unit price]	[quantity]	[total amount]
[Item description]	[unit price]	[quantity]	[total amount]
[Item description]	[unit price]	[quantity]	[total amount]
Total			[Total 1]

No payment will be made for items which have not been priced. Such items are deemed to be covered by the financial offer.

Bidders will be deemed to have satisfied themselves, before submitting their proposal and to its correctness and completeness, taking into account of all that is required for the full and proper performance of the contract and to have included all costs in their rates and prices.

For the Bidder: [insert name of the company]
Signature:
Name of the representative: [insert name of the representative]  Title: [insert Title of the representative]  Date: [Click or tap to enter a date]