



Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources

Malé, Republic of Maldives

Transforming Fisheries Sector Management in South-West Indian Ocean Region and Maldives
Project (Transform, Swiofish5) - P179242

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Individual Consultant to Guide the Procurement of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (Individual Consultant)

(Procurement Ref: MV-MOFMRA-504035-CS-INDV)

A. BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of Maldives through the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources is implementing Maldives –Transforming Fisheries Sector Management in South-West Indian Ocean Region and Maldives Project financed by the World Bank. The project will be managed by the Corporate Department / Project Management Unit (PMU) set up within the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources. The project will be implemented in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan (PIP), Project's Procurement Manual, and the Project's Financial Management Manual all of which are consistent with the World Bank's guidelines and procedures on procurement and financial management.

The aim of the Project to strengthen regional, evidence-based fisheries management in the South-West Indian Ocean Region and to improve competitiveness in the fisheries sector in the Maldives. The project comprises of three components, of which component 1 will be implemented by Indian Ocean Commission and component 2 and 3 implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources of Maldives.

B. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources of the Maldives is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to support the procurement and effective use of a scientifically capable Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) system to enable the collection of fishery-independent data for improved fisheries management in the Maldives. Specifically, the ROV will be used to survey and establish population



Velaanaage, 7th Floor, Ameeru Ahmed Magu, Male, Republic of Maldives

+960 3322625

admin@fisheries.gov.mv

@mformv

www.fisheries.gov.mv

baselines for reef-based invertebrate species such as sea cucumbers across large spatial areas and varying depths. The Consultant will provide technical expertise to guide the selection, acquisition, and operational readiness of the ROV system.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant will undertake the following tasks in close coordination with the TransFORM Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI).

1. Conduct needs assessment through consultations with MMRI and the TransFORM Project to identify the specific data sets and parameters required to estimate abundance and biomass of species or species groups of interest.
 - 1.1. Assess how identified data and parameters can be collected, including their level of details possible, using an ROV for estimating the abundance and biomass of species or species groups of interest.
 - 1.2. Evaluate the expected field conditions for ROV deployment, conceptual field work and resource mobilization plan envisaged for conducting scientific data collection using the ROV.
 - 1.3. For effective utilization of ROV deployments, identify additional data that can be collected when ROV is deployed, to improve species abundance/biomass estimation and support additional scientific studies.
2. Define detailed technical specifications for the ROV system capable of collecting the identified parameters with consideration to expected field conditions, field work plan and effective resource mobilization.
3. Conduct a market assessment of available ROV systems, including analysis of reputable brands, technical performance, supplier profiles, and cost comparisons.
4. Recommend appropriate accessories and add-on technologies such as sensors, cameras, lighting systems, manipulators, to support scientific data collection.
5. Assess logistical and operational considerations of the ROVs, including deployment conditions, power and vessel requirements, maintenance, servicing, and availability of spare parts.
6. Provide recommendations on after-sales service, warranty terms, and vendor support.
7. Provide technical specifications, tender evaluation criterion and other advice for the procurement process.
8. Provide a detailed timeline of work outlining the key activities and deliverables in relation to the overall duration of the consultancy.



D. DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Details	Due date
D1: Needs Assessment Report	A comprehensive report identifying requirements for ROV technology to conduct fishery-independent data collection for selected species or species groups, for supporting resource assessments and effective resource management, highlighting operational constraints and applications with particular focus on the Maldivian context.	Within 30 days from the contract date
D2: Recommended ROV Technical Specifications and options analysis	Options and recommendations of the ROV system based on the comparison of various systems available in the market with technical specifications and costs, tailored to meet the technical and operational needs identified in D1.	Within 45 days from approval of the Needs Assessment Report
D3: Supplier market assessment and Cost Benefit analysis	A list of potential suppliers/manufacturers for ROV systems, including a comparative analysis of costs, benefits and sustainability of the systems	Within 15 days from approval of D2
D4: Final Report	A comprehensive document summarizing the consultant's findings, methodologies, analyses, and recommendations, incorporating feedback from the Client	Within 30 days from approval of D3

E. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

1. Masters Degree in Marine Engineering, Marine Technology, Mechatronics, Marine Biology, Marine Science or a relevant field.
2. Proven experience in ROV-related projects, demonstrating practical involvement in the use of ROV systems for benthic surveys, marine mapping, and scientific or environmental researches.
3. Demonstrated experience in benthic survey methods and the application of relevant technologies.
4. Strong understanding of operating conditions specific to the Maldives environment, and/or similar environments and small island states.
5. Excellent communication skills, with the ability to produce clear and concise technical reports and documentation.



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F. REPORTING

The Consultant will be expected to report to the Project Manager and Research and Science Specialist and to work closely with other members of the PMU, technical staff of MMRI and MoFOR.

All communications shall be conducted via email, supplemented by periodic meetings or discussions as necessary to ensure alignment and progress.

G. DURATION OF THE CONSULTANCY

The duration of the consultancy shall be **4 (four) calendar months**, during which the Consultant is expected to deliver all identified outputs identified in Section D.

The successful candidate for this consultancy is expected to commence the service in Q4 of 2025.

H. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment will be made in accordance with the schedule specified below, upon approval of each deliverable.

Deliverable	Payment
D1: Needs Assessment Report	20%
D2: Recommended ROV Technical Specifications and options analysis	30%
D3: Supplier market assessment and Cost Benefit analysis	30%
D4: Final Report	20%

I. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selection of the Consultant shall be based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proven experience in ROV projects involving benthic surveys, marine mapping, and scientific research. – 10 Points per project	[40]
Qualifications of the Individual Consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none">Masters Degree in Marine Engineering, Marine Technology, Mechatronics, Marine Biology, Marine Science or a relevant field.	[20]
Financial Proposal	[40]



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J. APPLICATION

Interested consultants may submit the expressions of interest indicating the following.

- a) Expression of Interest
- b) Proven experience in ROV projects involving benthic surveys, marine mapping, and scientific research
- c) Detailed CV and copies of educational certificate and past work experience letters
- d) Financial proposal

K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a) All project-related data, reports, and findings shall remain the property of the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources and may not be shared, published, or used for any other purpose without prior written consent from the Ministry. All outputs and materials produced as part of this ToR shall be handed over to Project Office at the end of the contract and will become the sole property of MoFOR.



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