



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 (TOR)

Consultancy Firm to Revise and Review Existing National Framework on The Import and Export of Plants and Plant Products and Develop Comprehensive Prevention, Control and Mitigation Strategies for National Biosecurity

(Procurement Ref: MV-MOFMRA-473538-CS-CQS)

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of Maldives through the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MoFOR) is implementing Maldives –Transforming Fisheries Sector Management in South-West Indian Ocean Region and Maldives Project (TransFORM) financed by the World Bank. The project will be managed by the 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 the following components.

COMPONENT 1: Enhance Evidence-based Management Advice to the Fisheries Sector in the South-West Indian Ocean Region (implemented by the IOC)

- 1.1. Promoting the Development and Coordination of Relevant Innovative Regional Research with a Focus on Capacity Development Programs and Initiatives
- 1.2. Coordinating and Consolidating Regional Cooperation for Evidence-based Advice on Management of Fisheries and Other Uses of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems
- 1.3. Linking and Coordinating the Fisheries Initiatives and Programs in the Region

COMPONENT 2: Supporting Maldives as the Catalyst for Strengthened Regional Capacity for Fisheries Governance and Management

- 2.1. Improved and Innovative Implementation, Enforcement and Monitoring of Fisheries Management Plans and Sharing Results with SWIO Countries
- 2.2. Augmented Comprehensive Quarantine, Disease Surveillance and Management and Experience Sharing with SWIO Countries
- 2.3. Skills and Capacity Building for Supporting Enterprise Development in Fisheries Sector

2.4. Augmentation of Project Management Capacity of MoFMRA including Building Capacities for Enhanced Regional Cooperation

COMPONENT 3: Enhanced Competitiveness and Private Sector Participation for improving Business Climate for Fisheries in Maldives and the South-West Indian Ocean Region

3.1. Decarbonization of the Fisheries Sector

3.2. Diversification/Expansion of Fisheries Sector through Facilitating Small and Medium Enterprise Businesses

2. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources of the Maldives is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to conduct a review, revise and develop the existing Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Laws and Regulations in the context of National Biosecurity, under Component 2 of the Project. Accordingly, this TOR outlines the scope and requirements of the consultancy specifically for Plants, Plants Products and Biopesticides along with associated activities in the Maldives.

Border Biosecurity is of paramount importance in preserving the ecological status of any country. The Maldives, with its delicate environment faces challenges to the conservation and protection of its natural resources and native species. As a net importer of various commodities with an established reputation in the Fisheries export market, Maldives has an obligation to adopt protocols to reduce the risk of pests and other harmful organisms being transported along trade routes to its trade partners as well as prevent the introduction of new pests, pathogens and other potentially harmful organisms into the Maldives. Standards, protocols and certifications set by international bodies like the World Organization on Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Trade Organization serve as benchmarks of assurance of pest free and quality produce. Establishing modern interdisciplinary border biosecurity measures is expected to open new markets, expand existing industry and introducing novel economic activities due to higher confidence and quality assurance in commodities as well as reduced risk of unintended transfer of pests and other harmful organisms. Natural future expansions in the agricultural, aquacultural and fisheries sectors requires the establishment of a holistic Border Biosecurity Legal Framework, based on prudent laws and regulations concerning pest introduction, pest risk mitigation, introduction of invasive alien species and the adoption of protocols and procedure to ensure the import/export of top tier market commodities free of disease and pests.

The objective of this assignment is to assess and review existing laws and regulations relating to Plants, Plant Products, Biocontrol Agents and Biopesticides and the development or amendment of such laws to ensure an all-encompassing multi-disciplinary approach to the establishment of National Biosecurity mechanisms safeguarding the natural environment of the Maldives. The outcome is the adoption of laws relating to establishment of import/exports standards, quarantine procedures and other pest risk mitigation measures, active and passive surveillance of plant and animal disease and emergency preparedness ensuring the protection and conservation of local flora and fauna and assurance of quality in international trade of local commodities.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The scope of this project is to develop a cohesive strategy instrument encompassing the entire pipeline of policy, strategy, certification, surveillance and monitoring with regards to agriculture, horticulture, plant agronomy and secondary plant derived products sector in the Maldives. As such the scope of this project is divided into 3 Components each with tasks and deliverables.

Component 1 is the assessment of current policy, policy instruments and strategies and the provision of recommendations to realign current policy and strategies to reflect regional and international best practice.

Component 2 is the formulation of health certification mechanisms for the expansion of sector markets and support demand creation of commodities from the sector

Component 3 involves the assessment of sector specific pest risk and management as well as surveillance and monitoring of agricultural activity across public and private sectors to ensure the quality of agricultural produce free from disease and enabling the protection of native resources from exotic diseases and pests.

COMPONENT 1: STRATEGIC REVIEW -TASKS

- a) Review current landscape of Agriculture development and policy in the Maldives including current Plant Protection Act, Plant Protection Regulation and other relevant legislative instruments and the alignment of current instruments with regional and international standards and best practices.
- b) Assess the future scope of Agriculture, Horticulture, Plant and Plant Based Import.
- c) Assess current biosecurity and environmental risk landscape for Agriculture sector development
- d) Develop Action Plan for the sector's future development in alignment with current development policies.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Deliverable	Timeline
Inception report (Initial Assessment Report)	Within 21 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Assessment Report for current guidelines and regulations and recommendations for comprehensive import and export control.	Within 21 calendar days after finalization of inception report
Recommendations for Development of Comprehensive National Legal Framework addressing environmental and biosecurity risks associated with Plant Import and the Agriculture sector.	Within 30 calendar days, following approval of the inception report.

COMPONENT 2: CERTIFICATION - TASKS

- a) Identify key export commodities and target destinations.
- b) Develop procedure for basic elements of the phytosanitary certification process (including ascertaining the relevant phytosanitary requirements of the major importing countries)
- c) Develop framework for a certification system and procedures.
- d) Develop framework for keeping records concerning all activities of certification system.
- e) Develop procedure for gathering technical information concerning commodity specific quarantine pests and non-quarantine pests for the importing countries.
- f) Prepare list of adequate equipment and facilities required to carry out inspection and testing, consignment verification and certification procedure.
- g) Develop procedures for sampling, inspection, verification, consignment identification, traceability, security and record keeping of Plants and Plant products.
- h) Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on certification systems and procedures.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Deliverable	Timeline
Draft of the certification system framework and procedures with recommendations	Within 30 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Finalized endorsed Certification Mechanism for Plants and Plant Products	Within 10 calendar days from approval of draft certification mechanism.
Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on Certification procedures.	Within 90 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Summary of training sessions, including participants, feedback and improvements made based on feedback.	Within 90 calendar days from the signing date of the contract

COMPONENT 3: PEST RISK ASSESSMENT AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME - TASKS

- Identify, review and assess list of quarantine pests and non-quarantine regulated pest lists associated with the import of Plants and Plant Products into the Maldives.
- Review current Pest Risk Management and Assessment practices, Assessment of institutional capacity for Implementation in terms of technical and human capital constraints including recommendations for bridging identified gaps for capacity development.
- Develop comprehensive framework for Pest Risk assessment and analysis of quarantine pests, regulated non-quarantine pests. The framework should include detailed stages of PRA procedures (initiation, pest risk assessment, pest risk management) and risk communication
- Produce a comprehensive pest risk assessment manual with standardized forms and templates.
- Produce essential PRA for current import commodities of high volume as identified by MOFOR/MOAAW (Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources/Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare)
- Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on pest risk assessment procedures. This includes reviewing the pest risk assessment procedures and making improvements based on feedback and new information.
- Develop procedures, protocols and formats for data collection, data registers, and documentation related to Pest Risk Assessment.
- Identify key pests and priority diseases to be monitored, review and revise existing disease surveillance and monitoring mechanisms for enhanced coverage and screening.
- Design and establish a surveillance and disease reporting network, including data collection points and reporting mechanisms and develop and implement protocols for sample collection, handling, and testing.
- Train para-veterinary professionals, quarantine staff, veterinarians, and laboratory technicians on surveillance and screening techniques.
- Develop requirements for a centralized database for recording surveillance data and create standardized reporting formats and procedures.
- Establish protocols for responding to detected outbreaks and implement control measures to contain and eradicate pests and diseases.
- Develop communication strategies to inform stakeholders and the public on the surveillance program and to promote biosecurity in economic activities of the sector.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Deliverable	Timeline
Production of a national pathogen list for Plants and Plant Products.	Within 30 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Institutional Capacity Assessment Report, Finalized PRA Framework and Pest Risk Assessments for Identified Key High Import Commodities.	Within 50 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Comprehensive consolidated documentation for disease surveillance and screening, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Methodology and protocols for data collection, handling, testing, reporting, early detection and intervention. (b) resource requirements for disease surveillance and screening (c) key pests and priority diseases Identification (d) standardized formats for data collection and reporting (e) recommendations for pest control and control within agriculture establishments. 	Within 70 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Development of training materials for para-veterinary professionals, relevant staff, veterinarians, and laboratory technicians. (For both Pest Risk Assessment and Disease Surveillance Program)	Within 90 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on Disease Surveillance and Pest Risk Assessment framework.	Within 90 calendar days from the signing date of the contract
Summary of training sessions, including participants, feedback and improvements made based on feedback.	Within 90 calendar days from the signing date of the contract

4. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deliverable	Payment
Inception report (Initial Assessment Report)	25 %
Assessment Report for current guidelines and regulations and recommendations for comprehensive import and export control. Recommendations for Development of Comprehensive National Legal Framework addressing environmental and biosecurity risks associated with Plant and Plant based Produce Import and Export sector.	
Draft of the certification system framework and procedures with recommendations	
Finalized endorsed Certification Mechanism for Import and Export of Plants and Plant Products to Identified Countries according to IPPC/SBS-TBT/FAO standards	20 %
Production of a national pathogen list for Plant and Plant Products.	30 %
Institutional Capacity Assessment Report, Finalized PRA Framework and Pest Risk Assessments for Identified Key High Import Commodities. Comprehensive consolidated documentation for disease surveillance and screening, including.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (f) Methodology and protocols for data collection, handling, testing, reporting, early detection and intervention. (g) resource requirements for disease surveillance and screening 	

Deliverable	Payment
(h) key pests and priority diseases Identification (i) standardized formats for data collection and reporting (j) recommendations for pest control and disease control within agricultural establishments.	
Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on Certification procedures and summary of training sessions, including participants, feedback and improvements made based on feedback.	25 %
Development of training materials for para-veterinary professionals, relevant staff, veterinarians, and laboratory technicians. Conduct training sessions for relevant personnel on Disease Surveillance and Pest Risk Assessment framework and summary of training sessions, including participants, feedback and improvements made based on feedback.	

5. REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRM

5.1 The Consultancy Firm shall be an entity with a demonstrated history of managing and structuring similar output-based assignments in countries of similar status. The entity should have successfully executed at least 2 comparable assignments. Preference will be given to firms with experience in projects that are similar in scope, complexity, technology, operational environment, and socio-economic settings to the Maldives.

5.2 The Consultancy Firm must form a dedicated team of experienced professionals capable of completing the range of tasks outlined in these terms of reference. The team should be led by a Team Leader, who will ensure the timely delivery of outputs and oversee the team's performance and professional conduct. This Team Leader will also act as the primary point of liaison between the Consultant and the Project.

5.3 Demonstrated experience in assisting Horticulture/Agriculture public and private sectors in countries with emerging aquaculture sectors.

5.4 Demonstrated experience of similar assignments working within IPPC/WOAH/SPS-TBT standards

5.5 Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to facilitate multisectoral stakeholder engagement sessions in both public and private sectors.

5.6 Experience in similar consultancy assignments will be advantageous/preferred.

The Consultant's team must include, at a minimum, the following key experts, each possessing the required qualifications as specified

Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key Personnel

Key personnel	Description	Qualification & Experience
Team leader	Lead and manage input from consultant team and ensure timely delivery of services.	Undergraduate Degree or Postgraduate Degree in Botany, Agriculture, Soil Sciences, Horticultural Sciences, Plant Protection, Administration, Plant

		Sciences, Project Management or Environmental Sciences with a minimum of 5 years' experience.
Technical Expert 1	Provide technical expertise and lead oversight of Component 1.	Undergraduate or Postgraduate Degree in Botany, Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Conservation or related field with a minimum of 3 years' experience
Technical Expert 2	Provide technical expertise and lead oversight of Component 2 and 3.	Undergraduate or Postgraduate Degree in Plant Pathology, Epidemiology, Entomology or related field with a minimum of 3 years' experience.
Certification Expert	Design, produce and contextualize Certification Mechanism	Undergraduate or Postgraduate Degree in Botany, Plant Protection, Integrated Pest Management, Agricultural Sciences, Horticultural Sciences, or a related field with minimum experience of 3 years in Plant Health Certification and/or international/regional health certification standards.
Pest Risk Assessment and Disease Surveillance Expert	Design, produce and contextualize Disease Surveillance Program and Pest Risk Assessment Framework	Undergraduate or Postgraduate Degree in Plant Sciences, Plant Protection, Integrated Pest Management, Epidemiology or Veterinary Sciences with minimum experience of 3 years in designing and/or implementing Plant Disease Surveillance programs in similar settings.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Letter of Expression of Interest.
- Company Registration Certificate.
- Company profile.
- CVs of the proposed team members.
- Evidence of firm/person capacity to meet the requirements stipulated in section 5.
 - A detailed list of similar assignments conducted as proof of evidence. Evidence may be reference letters/ work completion letters as well as contracts successfully concluded as a firm.
- Methodology/Implementation Plan, Sampling, Data collecting and analyzing methods
- Work Schedule and Cost estimate (Total Cost Inclusive of Reimbursables)

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

EOIs submitted will be evaluated against pre-determined technical criteria. The selection criteria are as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	
Experience of the Firm	30 Points
Implementation Plan/Methodology, Sampling, Data Collection and Analysis	30 Points
Qualifications and experiences of Personnel	40 Points
Total Points	100 Points

Note: Firm should score minimum 70 points to pass from technical evaluation.

Selection will be made based on Consultant's Qualification-Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers' Procurement in Investment Project Financing- Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 Revised November 2017, August 2018 November 2020.

8. SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

- The Client will provide the consultant with a counterpart staff to facilitate administrative arrangements as required. The counterpart staff will also endeavor to assist the Consultant in locating and accessing materials available within Government for the purpose of the assignment.

