

**Answers to questions received with reference to Announcement Number (IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/499 dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Consultancy Service to Develop Baseline Assessment for Environmentally Significant Areas at Laamu.**

8th November 2023

Please find below answers for clarification for the above bid.

1. The coordinates provided for the 5 ESAs are mixed up and two coordinates for Isdhoo Muli are missing.

**Reply: An addendum to TOR has been published addressing the GPS co-ordinates issue.**

2. Could you please specify the reasons for ESA designation for each area?

**Reply: Inquiry is unrelated to the scope and deliverables of the consultancy**

3. Could you please confirm that the ecological surveys required are coral reef and small island vegetation surveys? If any other surveys are required (e.g., seagrass), kindly please elaborate.

**Reply: Ecological baseline is required for any type of ecosystems in the specified locations as per announcement. The scope is not only limited to coral reef and terrestrial ecosystems.**

4. The Lead Surveyor is required to be the Team Leader. As this consultancy requires a variety of additional expertise (ecological monitoring, socio-economical surveys), is there scope for another team member to be the Team Leader? Further, there are very few registered Land Surveyors in Maldives/ those with the required competency.

**Reply: According to the announcement the minimum qualification of Lead Surveyor can be Bachelor's degree in surveying/geomatic engineering and/or related field OR a Licenced Surveyor Registered at Maldives Land and Survey Authority.**

**As per the TOR Lead Surveyor should be the Team Leader of the project.**

1. Coordinates of locations are not correct/ missing. E.g. #3 and #4 coordinates are of Mathigulhi sarahadhu...Mundhoo channel 3 and 5 and 4 are of Reethihaa area coordinates. Please provide proper coordinates or ideally area of interest or areas to be surveyed.

**Reply: An addendum to TOR has been published addressing the GPS co-ordinates issue.**

2. What are the methods (protocols) proposed for ecological surveys and minimum sample size (number of survey locations) to consider a statistically robust sample size?

**Reply: As mentioned in the TOR for ecological baseline please follow IUCN's Guidelines for coral reef and small island vegetation surveys in the Maldives. Your proposal must include methodology to address all the deliverables (environment and socio-economic) and minimum sample size (number of survey locations) to consider a statistically robust sample size.**

3. That is the maximum depth for sampling, keeping in mind the standard protocols for transect surveys are 10m.

**Reply: To be proposed in the submitted proposal.**

4. Specify/suggest stakeholders or focus groups to consult with regard to the socioeconomic survey/reporting.

**Reply: To be proposed in the submitted proposal.**

5. Specify areas for surveying historical changes since only one area (based on area coordinates) apply to this specific output.

**Reply: Refer to TOR and submit accordingly.**

6. Assessment of indicators of stress and threats on the area (natural and human induced stresses), derived/infer sediment movement pattern and its associated impacts. Specify areas for this output.

**Reply: The proposed methodology in the submitted proposal**

7. Produce Ecological Baseline report including significant finding and conclusions to be approved by MoECCT. For this MoECCT has to provide an example methodology to do the surveys to be used in the tender as it has cost implications.

**Reply: As mentioned in the TOR for ecological baseline please follow IUCN's Guidelines for coral reef and small island vegetation surveys in the Maldives. For socio-economic baseline and resource use please submit your preferred methodology.**

8. Produce Socio-Economic baseline and resource use reports including significant finding and conclusions to be approved by MoECCT. For this MoECCT has to provide an example methodology to do the surveys to be used in the tender as it has cost implications.

**Reply: As mentioned in the TOR for ecological baseline please follow IUCN's Guidelines for coral reef and small island vegetation surveys in the Maldives. For socio-economic baseline and resource use please submit your preferred methodology.**

9. Why do you have a surveyor as a requirement of the team? The output requirement for maps does not require physical survey of the area, only orthomosaic drone survey maybe required for mapping (GIS or geo referenced). GIS expert can do it.

**Reply: According to the announcement the minimum qualification of Lead Surveyor can be Bachelor's degree in surveying/geomatic engineering and/or related field OR a Licensed Surveyor Registered at Maldives Land and Survey Authority.**

**As per the TOR Lead Surveyor should be the Team Leader of the project.**