

TERMS OF REFERENCE

International Consultant: Pacific Blue Economy Coordinator

Location	Home based
Type of Contract	Individual Contractor
Post Level	International Consultant
Languages required:	English
Duration of Initial Contract:	22 November 2021 - 31 October 2022

BACKGROUND

Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) face a variety of economic challenges, which act as major impediments to their growth and development. The continued reliance on a limited number of major export products with the associated vulnerability to economic shocks, as well as natural disasters, places many countries in the southwest Pacific in a precarious position. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these vulnerabilities, impacting the socio-economic pillars of very dependent societies.

As Small Island Developing States (SIDS) surrounded by the world's largest ocean, many PICs have jurisdiction over extensive maritime areas compared with the size of their land masses. Consequently, PICs are highly dependent on coastal and marine resources, being the most essential provider of food, income, employment, transport and economic development. The significance of these resources and the importance of ocean health is much greater for PICs than for many other countries: the Southwestern Pacific hosts some of the last remaining near pristine coral reefs and associated mangrove and seagrass habitats in the world. The links between ocean health and ocean wealth are, therefore, more significant in the Pacific than in most other parts of the world. Without urgent intervention even the most remote Pacific reefs and associated ecosystems will succumb to human impacts, including rising and warming seas, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification.

For PICs, the emerging concept of the 'blue economy' presents a promising sustainable and resilient development opportunity to support SIDS in transforming their economic sectors. Sustainable blue economy opportunities in PICs range across a broad spectrum of areas including existing sectors such as fisheries and coastal tourism as well as actual or potential new contributors, including aquaculture, ocean-based energy, sustainable maritime transport, desalination, marine genetic resources, etc. The blue economy can also include non-market economic benefits such as carbon storage, coastal protection and resilience, cultural values and biodiversity.

The strategic investment of post-COVID-19 recovery and stimulus funds offers opportunities to accelerate the sustainable and equitable growth of blue economy sectors, thereby securing the long-term health and resilience of the ocean and blue economy. Unlocking the potential of their blue economies can assist PICs in accelerating sustainable development, contributing towards the achievement of not only

Goal 14: Life below water but most other SDGs, notably the following:

Goal 1: No Poverty through sustainable job creation and the promotion of economic opportunities

Goal 2: Zero hunger through the critical role living marine resources play in food security;

Goal 5: Gender Equality through the promotion of gender-sensitive blue economy opportunities;

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation through the implementation of ecosystem based approach to natural resources protection, coastal zone protection, management of soil intrusion, protection of freshwater lens, etc.;

Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy through the contribution marine renewable sources play in energy security;

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth through the diversification and growth of marine-based economic sectors;

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure through the promotion of new and emerging economic activities and industries related to blue economy; and

Goal 13: Climate Action through the implicit link between the oceans and climate change, and the adaptive measures countries can take to maintain ocean integrity and resilience.

Goal 14: Life Below Water through identifying risks to the marine environment, especially to marine living resources, and proposing strategies that mitigate those risks; and

Goal 16: Strong Institutions through establishing robust national marine regulators and incorporating participatory processes in decision-making about marine management issues.

To respond to the urgent development needs of least developed countries, UNDP has committed to upgrading its support to SIDS through strengthened programmatic engagement, greater ability to respond to urgent and emerging challenges and improved organizational agility. This upgraded “SIDS Offer” will focus on three key themes - climate action, developing blue economies, and promoting digital transformation - with access to financing harnessed as a key enabler. The SIDS offer is embedded within UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and is based on national demand and the needs of SIDS.

Within the Pacific region, interest in the blue economy has grown steadily and a number of countries have embarked on large marine protected areas and development of whole-of-EEZ ocean strategies, with support from international and regional donors. Numerous national policy initiatives have been launched leading to the creation of a complex landscape of policy initiatives, strategies and actions plans. While this is to be largely welcomed, the large number of agencies involved in delivering this support has at times led to a lack of coordination across their delivery, resulting in potential duplication of effort or, worse, critical needs not being identified and delivered. Moreover, resources have not necessarily been provided to support implementation of the existing policy frameworks.

Against this background, UNDP is seeking for a Blue Economy Coordinator to assist in responding to requests for support on developing their blue economy strategies and provide strategic and practical guidance on various innovative tools and instruments available.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to provide specific technical support and practical advice to the Pacific Island States through UNDP Country Offices in the Pacific sub-region on sustainable Blue Economy strategies and their implementation, in close consultation and guidance from the BRH. The targeted technical support will help UNDP COs position itself strongly in the Pacific sub-region to promote sustainable Blue Economy both in the medium and longer term, and the geographically targeted coordination support will help BRH enhance its efforts to provide an integrated support on Blue Economy to the Pacific sub-region, in particular, in collaboration with the NCE team, the SDG Finance team and the Inclusive Growth team.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Scope of Work

Under the guidance and supervision of the Regional Team Leader, Asia and the Pacific, for the Nature, Climate and Energy team in the Bangkok Regional Hub, and guidance provided by the UNDP SIDS Blue Economy Specialist based in Fiji and the Senior Technical Advisor in UNDP Samoa MCO, the coordinator is expected to undertake the following tasks:

- 1) In consultation with the respective countries and relevant development partners, identify critical, short-term needs for blue economy implementation along with the resources needed to address those gaps:
 - Undertaking a “blue economy landscape” analysis of existing blue economy related initiatives and intervention, i.e., mapping of stakeholders, initiatives and plans, at the regional and, in targeted countries, at the national level to better define the current situation and future development needs vis-à-vis the blue economy so that countries receive the best support they can;
 - Support the Samoa and Fiji MCOs with the delivery of targeted [bilateral] meetings aimed at raising the awareness of senior government officials about the blue economy concept and the opportunities it presents for countries’ development;
 - Work with relevant countries (specific countries TBD) to determine their strategic priorities for blue economy development, including but not necessarily limited to: (a) priority sectors for development; (b)

- governance reforms and enablers required to grow the blue economy; (c) capacity and resourcing needs; and (d) knowledge and research needs to support planning and decision making;
 - Identify key development gaps and needs in light of the blue economy landscape analysis.
- 2) Support to identify and mobilise additional resources to enable acceleration of blue economy implementation across the region:
- Identify and engage with potential development partners/donors with an interest in supporting the blue economy such as the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), the UK Government's Blue Planet Fund, the Blue Prosperity Coalition and the Blue Nature Alliance, among others;
 - Conduct a survey on potential sources of funding and other types of support (both conventional and innovative) to facilitate implementation of the blue economy and match them with proposed plans and initiatives;
 - Assistance in identifying partners (both conventional and innovative, public and private) to harness their sustainable blue economy potential in the context of the post COVID-19 recovery;
 - Support with the development of project proposals for new/additional sources of funding.
- 3) Support the implementation of two projects finance by the Joint SDG Fund - in Niue and Tokelau respectively - to develop national strategic blue economy frameworks;
- Liaise and manage the relationship with the Niue and Tokelau Governments and UN partners on the design, development, and communication for sustainable blue economy strategies as part of the Joint SDG Fund for SIDS project;
 - Develop the workplans and schedule of work in close collaboration with Government partners, UN lead agencies and NGO partners over both projects.
 - Lead the discussions and contractual agreements with executing partners in both Niue and Tokelau as identified in the project documents.
 - Coordinate the work of partners, including monitoring and reporting on the various phases of implementation for both Niue and Tokelau.
 - Assist partners in ensuring stakeholder consultations and validation of the planning, stocktake, diagnostic analysis and roadmaps associated with the development of sustainable blue economy strategies.
 - Assist the UN lead agency in regular reporting to the Joint SDG Fund, as required.
 - Organize or facilitate relevant capacity building activities either remotely or in person.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

DELIVERABLES		Estimated Number of Working Days	Expected Due Date
1	Inception report and work plan describing the consultants understanding of the assignment and describing how each of the deliverables (below) will be completed.	5	15/12/21
2	Blue Economy Landscape Mapping analysis of existing blue economy related initiatives and intervention at the regional and, in targeted countries, at the national level to better define the current situation and future blue economy development needs.	35	30/03/22
3	Meetings minutes of at least 3 meetings aimed at raising the awareness of senior government officials about the blue economy	5	30/04/22
4	At least three high level national (countries to be agreed) Blue Economy Needs Assessments.	35	30/06/22
5	Report summarizing the findings of the analysis of potential development partners/donors and potential sources of funding including a draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Action Plan.	35	30/08/22

6	Initiate the development of at least two new funding proposals to support blue economy pilot projects in the Pacific region - evidenced by the submission of Project Concept Notes to relevant donor organisations/funding agencies	20	30/09/22
7	Project Implementation Plan for the Joint SDG-funded blue economy project in Tokelau, to provide the basis of the work plan for that project.	5	28/02/22
8	Project Implementation Plan for the Joint SDG-funded blue economy project in Niue, to provide the basis of the work plan for that project.	5	28/02/22
9	Project completion report including all outputs and lessons learned.	5	31/10/22
		150 working days	

Institutional Arrangement

The Consultant will report the Regional Team Leader, Asia and the Pacific, for the Nature, Climate and Energy team in the Bangkok Regional Hub. Through this assignment, the consultant will closely coordinate with key UNDP team members and experts. The Consultant is to provide their own IT (computer).

Duration of the Work

The consultant will be required to work for a period of up to 150 days between 22 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.

Duty Station

This consultancy is home-based. (Based in the Pacific time zones is highly preferred.)

COMPETENCIES

Technical work competencies

- Strong expertise on environmental-related areas in the Pacific;
- Demonstrated experience in developing national-level strategic planning documents relating to *inter alia* marine resource management, national economic development and blue economy;
- Experience in designing and facilitating capacity building/awareness raising processes, consultations and coordination processes in PICs;
- Experience in project design and delivery.
- Experience in resource mobilization and familiarity with major donors and financing mechanisms available for the PICs

Partnerships competencies

- Maturity and confidence in dealing with senior members of national institutions;
- Displays and understands cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Excellent written communication skills, with analytic capacity and ability to synthesize relevant collected data and findings for the preparation of quality analysis for the project proposal;
- Excellent coordination skills and result oriented collaboration with colleagues.

Results competencies

- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP and governments in the region;
- Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback;
- Good team player who has ability to maintain good relationships.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Educational Qualifications:

- Minimum Masters level in marine science, marine resource management, international environmental policy, environmental economics, sustainable development or similar.

Experience

- Minimum of 10 years of experience in working on the marine resource management area including: development of policy, blue economy, fisheries management or similar field;
- In-depth and proven knowledge as well as the minimum of 7 years of experience in the area implementation of development initiatives, policies and programmes relating to marine resource management, including impacts on environment related to human development and poverty reduction;
- Minimum 3 years of work experience in project development, implementation and management;
- Proven experience in providing policy advisory support in related field at a strategic level;
- Proven and successful experience in resource mobilization (e.g. proposal writing, project document development, concept note development) is highly desirable.
- Previous work in PIC, with a good understanding of integrating gender and similar cross-cutting priorities, is essential;
- Previous practical application experience with marine resource management, conservation or blue economy development in PIC is essential;
- Experience in working with communities, government and NGOs;
- Experience in delivering online training/capacity building is an advantage;
- Experience working with UNDP or other UN agencies is an asset.

Language requirements

- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English language.

Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

Consultant must send a financial proposal based on **Lump Sum Amount**. The total amount quoted shall be all-inclusive and include all costs components required to perform the deliverables identified in the TOR, including professional fee, and any other applicable cost to be incurred by the individual consultant in completing the assignment. The contract price will be fixed output-based price regardless of extension of the herein specified duration.

Payments will be done upon completion of the deliverables/outputs and as per below percentages:

Payment 1 (5%): Upon the clearance of the following deliverable:

Deliverable 1: Inception Report and Work Plan: 5% of total contract amount

Payment 2 (35%): Upon the clearance of the following deliverables:

Deliverable 7: Project Implementation Plan for Tokelau: 10% of total contract amount

Deliverable 8: Project Implementation Plan for Niue: 10% of total contract amount

Deliverable 2: Blue Economy Landscape Mapping analysis: 15% of total contract amount

Payment 3 (20%): Upon the clearance of the following deliverables:

Deliverable 3: Minutes of three high level meetings: 5% of total contract amount

Deliverable 4: Three (3) high level national Blue Economy Needs Assessments: 15% of total contract amount

Payment 4 (30%): Upon the clearance of the following deliverables:

Deliverable 5: Resource Mobilization Strategy and Action Plan: 20% of total contract amount

Deliverable 6: Evidence of two funding proposals initiated: 10% of total contract amount

Payment 5 (10%): Upon the clearance of the following deliverable:
Deliverable 9: Project completion report: 10% of total contract amount

Evaluation Method and Criteria

Cumulative Analysis: The candidates will be evaluated through Cumulative Analysis method. When using the weighted scoring method, the award of the contract will be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable; and
- Having received the highest score out of set of weighted combine technical evaluation of desk review and interview (70%), and financial criteria (30%). Financial score shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal received by UNDP for the assignment.

Technical Criteria for Evaluation (Maximum 70 points)

- Criteria 1: Minimum Masters level in marine science, marine resource management, international environmental policy, environmental economics, sustainable development or similar **(Max 10 points)**
- Criteria 2: Minimum of 10 years of experience in working on the marine resource management area including: development of policy, blue economy, fisheries management or similar field; conservation **(Max 20 Points)**
- Criteria 3: Experience in delivering online training/capacity building **(Max 5 points)**
- Criteria 4: experience in international development organization **(Max 10 points)**
- Criteria 5: Experience in the Pacific Region **(Max 15 Points)**
- Criteria 6: Proven Experience in resource mobilization **(Max 10 points)**

****Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 70% or above in the Technical evaluation would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.**

Financial Evaluation (30%)

Financial proposals from all technically qualified candidates will be scored out of 30 marks based on the formula provided below. The maximum marks (30) will be assigned to the lowest financial proposal. All other proposals will receive points according to the following formula:

- $p = y (\mu/z)$.

Where:

- p = points for the financial proposal being evaluated;
- y = maximum number of points for the financial proposal;
- μ = price of the lowest priced proposal;
- z = price of the proposal being evaluated.

Note: Successful individual will be required to provide proof of medical insurance coverage before commencement of contract for the duration of the assignment.

Application Procedure / Recommended presentation of offer

Instructions to Applicants: Click on the "Apply now" button. Input your information in the appropriate Sections: personal information, language proficiency, education, resume and motivation. Upon completion of the first page, please hit "submit application" tab at the end of the page then the uploading option for the required document will be available.

Please group all your document into one (1) single PDF document as the application system only allows to upload maximum one document.

Interested candidates must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications. Please group them into one (1) single PDF document:

1. **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability with Financial Proposal** (in USD) using the template provided as **Annex III**

[Financial proposal: Consultant shall quote an all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided for the entire assignment. The term “all-inclusive” implies that all costs (professional fees, communications, consumables, etc.) that could be incurred by the IC in completing the assignment are already factored into the proposed fee submitted in the proposal]

If an Offeror is employed by an organization/ company/ institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

2. **P11 / Personal CV**, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references.

****Failure to submit the above-mentioned documents or Incomplete proposals shall result in disqualification**

****Please group all your document into one (1) single PDF document as the application system only allows to upload maximum one document.**

The short-listed candidates may be contacted, and the successful candidate will be notified