



## **CALL FOR PROPOSAL**

**Consultancy to support ISA's participation in the Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT**

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations **Convention on the Law of the Sea** (UNCLOS) and the **1994 Agreement** relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement). ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind. In so doing, ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed related activities. Effective protection and sustainable use of the ocean rely on a thorough understanding of the state of the marine environment and ISA provides a critical platform for knowledge generation on the deep-sea ecosystems.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Regular Process is an ongoing intergovernmental mechanism managed by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). It aims to regularly assess the state of the world's oceans and enhance the scientific basis for policy making through the publication of the World Ocean Assessment (WOA). The ISA has been supporting of the work and efforts of DOALOS to inform the Regular Process. Currently DOALOS is organising the first round of regional workshops that aim to inform the scoping of the next assessment. In parallel with the scoping exercise the preliminary outline for the assessment is established by the group of experts. In September 2022 ISA hosted one of the regional workshops in its premises in Kingston. A second round of regional workshops will be organised in 2023. Hereafter of a pool of experts will conduct the editorial work through the writing teams.

#### **PURPOSE**

ISA is seeking to hire an expert who is familiar with ISA's work and activities to contribute to the workshops and activities of the Regular Process on its behalf. Accordingly, the consultant will contribute to the collective WOA effort and identify opportunities for ISA to help in the implementation of the recommendations identified in the report.

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Interest must be expressed in English. Potential contractors must send their Curriculum Vitae, a cover letter and complete Annex A demonstrating their involvement in ISA and familiarity with the Regular Process. It shall remain

the responsibility of bidders to ensure that proposals reach ISA before the deadline. Potential experts are to send their request for clarification or questions regarding this call for proposal via email to oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm.

ISA requests that every bidder prevent and avoid conflicts of interest, by disclosing clearly to ISA any involvement or possible conflict of interest in the preparation of their proposal.

## **SCOPE OF THE WORK**

Under the supervision of the Programme Coordinator (Marine Scientific Research) and overall guidance from the Director of OEMMR, the consultant shall undertake the following four tasks:

- a. Contribute to the relevant DOALOS workshops and/or meetings to reflect ISA's mandate and on-going work pertaining to the deep-sea environment in the discussions and identify potential further collaboration opportunities with DOALOS
- b. Generate interest of the scientific community and policy makers for the seabed activities and ISA's mandate, identify partnership opportunities for ISA in the activities leading to the WOA, as well as assess how the plans of individual countries relate to scientific research on the deep sea and how they could benefit from existing ISA programmes and activities
- c. Review the draft outcome summary of the workshops and meetings including on the level of interest in deep-seabed activities and provide brief analysis of the evolution of the Regular Process through report-back sessions to the Office of Environmental and Mineral Resources
- d. Identify possible services ISA could provide to the group of experts that will be preparing the WOA, including analysis of the scientific information in DeepData and other ISA resources such as the scientific research and publications sponsored by ISA.
- e. Collect key stakeholder inputs from the DOALOS participants to feed information in key ISA frameworks (e.g. national insights on capacity development, technology development, gender balance)

## **TIMELINE**

The work to be undertaken will start on 1st of December 2022 and it will be based on the anticipated timelines that are synchronised with the evolution of the Regular Process. The consultancy will last until the end of 2023.

## **QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS**

Postgraduate studies in Natural Sciences or Law of the Sea/International Law are recommended jointly with a track record demonstrating the familiarization with the work of ISA through involvement of the applicant in ISA's activities. Knowledge of WOA process is required. The main competencies required include excellent presentation and editorial skills. Fluency in UN official languages is recommended.

## **MODALITY & DURATION OF WORK**

The Consultant will report to and receive guidance from the Programme Coordinator (Marine Scientific Research) who, after close consultation and cooperation with OEMMR Director will review and approve the deliverables/outputs. All deliverables should be submitted in English. The work shall be performed at the consultant's home base; the consultant will be required to meet remotely with ISA Secretariat staff on issues related to the deliverables.

## **REMUNERATION**

The remuneration will be based on a lump-sum basis representing the total value of the services rendered upon certification by the Programme Coordinator (Marine Scientific Research) and the OEMMR Director. Travel expenses will be provided if deemed necessary through a round trip airline ticket (economy) as per prevailing ISA policies on official travel and DSA. The consultant is asked to provide an indicative working budget excluding the travel.

Bellow an indication of the key deliverables and the breakdown of the associated lump-sum payments:

- The first deliverable is a proposition of a workplan to be submitted before 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 (20% payment)
- Mid-term reporting: taking place after each workshop or meeting and include a progress report on the 4 tasks of the scope of this appointment (40% payment)
- A final report with concluding recommendations on the 4 tasks of the scope of this appointment (40% payment)

### **SELECTION**

All proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Coordinator (Marine Scientific Research) and the OEMMR Director and will be based on the knowledge and skills of the applicant and the familiarity with ISA`s work.

### **APPLICATION**

Application should be submitted no later than Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 by sending CV, a cover letter and the filled in Annex A below to [oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm](mailto:oemmr-secretariat@isa.org.jm).

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**ANNEX A**

Full Name
Legal address
E-mail address
Nationality
Provide a general description of your experience related to ISA`s activities and demonstrate your familiarisation with the Regular Process.
Are there any circumstances that the ISA should be made aware about? Please provide details
Indicative working budget (excluding the travel)
Bidder`s signature