



Call for proposals
Consultancy for the development of an action plan
to increase public deep-sea literacy and general understanding of the legal
framework for activities in the international seabed area

14 September 2020

1. The International Seabed Authority (the Authority) is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Convention) and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the 1994 Agreement). The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the Convention, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.
2. The Authority is seeking a consultant to develop an action plan to increase public deep-sea literacy and general understanding of the legal framework for activities in the international seabed area in line with the scope of work in the Annex. Application should be submitted to cosg@isa.org.jm no later than **25 September 2020**.
3. Proposals should not exceed 1,500 words and should thoroughly and sufficiently demonstrate the competence and expertise of the applicant to meet the requirements contained in the Annex. Proposals should equally reflect a clear methodology on the deliverables for the study as well as proposed costs. The outcome of the selection will be communicated to applicants using the contact details provided in the proposals.

Annex

Consultancy for the development of an action plan to increase public deep-sea literacy and general understanding of the legal framework for activities in the international seabed area

Terms of Reference

1. Organizational context

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Convention) and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the 1994 Agreement). The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the Convention, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.

2. Knowledge in science, technology and innovation is essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly regarding Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14), as well as for promoting social innovation, and ultimately, benefiting society at large. Yet, the deep seabed remains one of the last frontiers where knowledge and understanding of the general public, across virtually all disciplines is lacking.

3. The implications and repercussions of this situation result in an overall misunderstanding by the general public of the mandate and activities of ISA, particularly as it pertains to the organization's role in the protection of the marine environment. In the context of its Strategic Plan¹ and High-Level Action Plan² adopted for the period 2019-2023, ISA is committed to address these challenges including through increased public outreach.

4. In 2017, the UN General Assembly declared the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for 2021-2030 to foster scientific research and technological innovation in support of a healthier, more sustainable ocean. The objectives of the Ocean Decade are at the core of ISA's mandate which is to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the international seabed area, whilst ensuring that the results of the research are disseminated widely.

2. Objectives

5. A dedicated Action Plan for increasing public deep-sea literacy and general understanding of the legal framework for activities undertaken in the Area would help address these challenges and opportunities with a strong focus on developing products and partnerships to advance deep-sea literacy. The approach should focus on raising awareness of the work currently undertaken by the international community, through ISA, to advance understanding of the deep seabed and regulate human activities

¹ See ISBA/24/A/10.

² See ISBA/25/A/15.

to ensure adequate protection of marine environment. The target audience is the general public, young-people, and the media, along with decision-makers and the scientific community.

3. Duties and tasks

6. The work will be undertaken under the guidance and supervision of the Communications Specialist and in close cooperation with the Senior Policy Officer and all relevant offices of the Secretariat in particularly the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources (OEMMR) and the Office of the Legal Affairs (OLA).

7. The consultant main tasks will be to:

- i. Develop an Action Plan (comprised of a list of potential activities and a roadmap for implementation) for deep-sea literacy which, in line with the mandate set out by the Convention for ISA and complemented by the 1994 Agreement, would aim at:
 - a. increasing the awareness and understanding of the general public on the deep-sea (seabed minerals, ecosystems, exploration, activities etc) as well as the legal framework in place to regulate and organize access and management of seabed mineral resources in the Area;
 - b. increasing awareness and understanding of the mandate and work of ISA;
- ii. Identify potential partnerships (existing and new) and necessary resources through which ISA could implement the activities identified in the Action Plan at short, medium and long-term.

8. Specific outputs and timeframe of submission

Output 1 (Extended outline of the Action Plan):

- a. Submission and approval of the first draft, by 12 October 2020
- b. Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by the ISA secretariat, by 23 October 2020.

Output 2 (Draft of the Action Plan):

- c. Submission and approval of the first draft by 13 November 2020
- d. Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by the ISA secretariat, by 27 December 2020.

9. Reporting and administrative arrangements

11. The consultant will report and will receive guidance from the Communications Specialist who, after close consultation and cooperation with all relevant offices within the Secretariat, will review and approve the deliverables/outputs.

12. All deliverables should be submitted in English.

10. Competencies

14. The consultant should possess the following qualifications:

- A first-level university degree in marine policy, international law, ocean science, or related field;
- Demonstrated ability and sound knowledge of deep-sea science, seabed mineral resources international law of the sea, management of seabed mineral resources in the international seabed area, functions and mandate of ISA;
- Experience with the development, implementation of ocean literacy projects and programmes is desirable;
- Experience with the preparation of analytical reports, research and background papers on marine policy, ocean governance for UN agencies, and other intergovernmental entities is desirable;
- Familiarity with the work and general functioning of ISA and the Convention, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global and regional ocean governance frameworks is required;
- Good understanding of ocean sciences and its application to ocean education and capacity development is desirable.

11. Application

Application should be submitted no later than **25 September 2020** by sending CV and cover letter to eosg@isa.org.jm.