



Consultancy for the development of a strategic roadmap to implement scientific programmes under the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area

11 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 a strategic roadmap to implement scientific programmes under the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area in line with the scope of work in the Annex. Application should be submitted to eosg@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

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Terms of Reference

1. Background

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an international organization established under the 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. The ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS shall, in accordance with the regime for the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) established in Part XI and the 1994 Agreement, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.

2. Article 143, paragraph 2, of UNCLOS provides that ISA shall promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area. Article 143, paragraph 3, of UNCLOS provides that States parties shall promote international cooperation in marine scientific research in the Area by, inter alia, ensuring that programmes are developed through ISA or other international organizations as appropriate for the benefit of developing States and technologically less developed States with a view to (a) strengthening their research capabilities; (b) training their personnel in the techniques and applications of research; and (c) fostering the employment of their qualified personnel in research in the Area.

3. In this context, the ISA's Endowment Fund ("the Fund") was established as a special account by the Secretary-General pursuant to the resolution of the ISA Assembly of 16 August 2006 (ISBA/12/A/11) and in accordance with the ISA Financial Regulations, with objectives to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in marine scientific research programmes and by providing them with opportunities to participate in international technical and scientific cooperation, including through training, technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes.

4. Subsequently, within the framework of ISA Strategic Plan¹ and High-level Actions² adopted by the Assembly in 2018 and 2019, the ISA secretariat has developed Action Plan on Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which will be considered by Assembly in October 2020. Among others, it has identified the following strategic research priorities:

(a) Strategic research priority 1: Advancing scientific knowledge and understanding of deep-sea ecosystems, including biodiversity and ecosystems functions, in the Area;

(b) Strategic research priority 2: Standardizing and innovating methodologies for deep-sea biodiversity assessment, including taxonomic identification and description, in the Area;

¹ ISBA/24/A/10

² ISBA/25/A/15

- (c) Strategic research priority 3: Facilitating technology development for activities in the Area, including ocean observation and monitoring;
- (d) Strategic research priority 4: Enhancing scientific knowledge and understanding of potential impacts of activities in the Area;
- (e) Strategic research priority 5: Promoting dissemination, exchange and sharing of scientific data and deep-sea research outputs and increasing deep-sea literacy;
- (f) Strategic research priority 6: Strengthening deep-sea scientific capacity of Authority members, in particular developing States.

5. Over the years, the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area programme has made an essential contribution to the capacity building of developing States. However, it has now become important to ensure that the structure and operations of the Fund respond to the needs identified by developing States members of ISA as identified by the 2020 ISA workshop on capacity development and subsequent follow up initiatives.

2. Objectives

6. Working under the direct supervision of the Director of OEMMR and the Senior Policy Officer, this consultancy will provide strategic and technical inputs to the development of short and long-term scientific programme aligned with ISA's strategic research priorities listed above, which can be potentially funded by the Endowment Fund.

3. Scope of the assignment

7. Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Director of OEMMR and the Senior Policy Officer, the consultant shall undertake the following tasks, bearing in mind the above-noted strategic research priorities as well as priorities for capacity development:

- **Strategic Planning for the development of scientific programme:**
 - Identify potential partner organisations,
 - Provide an overview of innovative approaches currently employed by other international, intergovernmental and UN organizations and entities to incentivize members, scientific institutions, the private sector and philanthropic organisations to contribute to institutional funds, in particular those with the purpose of marine scientific research and/or capacity development of developing countries and to participate in their activities;
- **Developing effective mechanisms for identifying fund recipients**
 - Considering the potential scientific programme suggested above, develop relevant sets of selection criteria/modalities that can be used in identifying fund recipients, including institutions and individuals, which would serve a range of proposed scientific programmes addressing strategic research priorities.
- **Developing effective mechanism for sharing of the results of the programme outputs**
 - Identify effective ways to share and disseminate: (i) process-related report, describing the overall programme and how it was undertaken, and (ii) scientific outcomes of the programmes funded by the Endowment Fund

- **Identifying possible strategies for creating and maintaining ISA fellow network**
 - Identify possible forms and modalities for creating and maintaining ISA network among the beneficiary organizations/individuals to be funded by the Endowment Fund
- **Developing of performance indicators**
 - Identify possible performance indicators to assess short/long-term impacts of programmes and activities against use of Fund.
 - Identify intervals for periodic review of performance
- **Proposing a structure for the operational administration of the Fund**
 - Based on the above scope, propose a general structure for operating the fund, identifying the minimum number of and functions of members of the administrative team.
 - suggest possible scientific partnerships with identified organizations, including innovative modalities of fund operation,
 - develop practical and feasible implementing mechanism, including adequate measure to incentivise partner organizations, balancing ISA's strategic research priorities with the needs for capacity development by developing States, including, *inter alia*, post-doctoral programmes, twinning of scientific institutions for technical assistance, and training of trainers programmes.
 - develop a mid/long-term strategy(ies) for resources mobilization with concrete recommendations for implementation;
 - Undertake a review of financial mechanisms/strategies needed to ensure that the EFMSR meets not only its originally objectives but also emerging needs within the context of ISA strategic plans and high-level action plans, taking into consideration the need to channel mid/long-term support and provide the necessary flexibility to ensure implementation of activities and achieve short/mid-term outcomes (1-2 years);
- **Developing an overall roadmap**
 - Drawing on the above-noted tasks and reflecting specific outputs, prepare an overall roadmap for the development of scientific programmes to be funded by the Endowment Fund

4. Specific outputs and timeframe of submission

8. Under the supervision of the Director of OEMMR and the Senior Policy Officer, the consultant will produce the following outputs in accordance with the suggested timeline:

- Output 1 (Extended outline of the Roadmap Document):
 - Submission and approval of the first draft, by 23 October 2020
 - Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by the ISA secretariat, by 6 November 2020.
- Output 2 (Draft of the Roadmap Document):
 - Submission and approval of the first draft by 20 November 2020
 - Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by the ISA secretariat, by 4 December 2020.

5. Competencies

1. The consultant shall possess the following qualifications:

- An advanced university degree (Master's degree or Ph.D) in and Oceanography, Marine Environmental Sciences, Ocean Resources Management or related field is required.;
- Demonstrated ability and sound knowledge of ocean management, ocean governance, and ocean sustainability policy, and blue economy ;
- A minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in ocean scientific programme development and implementation is required;
- Experience with the preparation of strategic document, policy paper and brief, roadmaps or other planning documents on ocean scientific programme in support of UN agencies, and other intergovernmental entities is desirable;
- Demonstrated ability to quickly shift from one task to another to meet multiple support needs;
- Self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision is necessary.

2. Application

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