



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR A CONSULTANCY TO REVIEW THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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 (UNCLOS) and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the 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 as a whole. 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.
2. The ISA is seeking a consultant¹ with requisite experience in international development/economics/marine or environment policy or related fields to prepare a review report in line with the Terms of Reference of work in the Annex to the present call and invites proposals to be submitted via email to eosg@isa.org.jm not later than 31 March 2021.
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. All proposals will be reviewed by a committee and the outcome will be communicated to applicants using the contact details provided.

¹ Under ISBA/ST/AI/2003/01, ISA can recruit both companies (Institutional consultant) or individuals (Independent consultant).

Annex

Terms of Reference

for a consultancy to review the contribution of International Seabed Authority to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Background

1. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit (September 2015), member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core³. As outlined in the Strategic Plan of ISA for 2019-2021⁴, the mission of ISA is, *inter alia*, “to be the organization through which States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea organize and control activities in the Area, which is the common heritage of mankind, to promote the orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, including through the effective protection of the marine environment and contributing to agreed international objectives and principles, including the Sustainable Development Goals.”

2. Accordingly, ISA is committed to timely and effective achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda through implementing the economic, social and environmental mandates assigned to it by UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. Such mandates include (i) ensuring that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole (ii) ensuring effective protection for the marine environment and of human life with respect to activities in the Area (iii) promoting and encouraging the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area (iv) fostering healthy development of the world economy and balanced growth of international trade and (v) promoting the effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area.

3. All SDGs are of relevance to the work of ISA. Although ISA currently contributes particularly to advance 9 of the 17 SDGs⁵, particular emphasis is placed on SDG14 and its associated targets⁶.

4. Several efforts and initiatives are currently being undertaken by ISA to discharge its responsibilities as per the mandates given to it under the UNCLOS as well as to contribute to international development principles and objectives, such as the delivery of SDGs.

² UNGA Resolution 70/1

³ See <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

⁴ [ISBA/24/A/10](https://www.isa.org.jm/ISBA/24/A/10)

⁵ SDG 1 *No Poverty*; SDG 4 *Quality Education*; SDG 5 *Gender Equality*; SDG 8 *Decent Work and Economic Growth*; SDG 9 *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*; SDG 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production*; SDG 13 *Climate Action*; SDG 14 *Life below Water*; SDG 16 *Peace Justice and Strong Institutions* and SDG 17 *Partnerships for the Goals*; See <https://www.isa.org.jm/contribution-isa-sdgs>

⁶ Particularly Target 14.2 (“Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems”), SDG Target 14.5 (“Marine protected areas and effective management plans”), SDG Target 14.7 (“Increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources”) as well as SDG Target 14.(a) (“Increase scientific knowledge, develop capacity and transfer marine technology”) and SDG Target 14.(c) (“Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS”).

5. The ISA Secretariat now seeks an international consultant to produce a report describing the contribution of ISA through its mandate, functions and voluntary commitments to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Scope of Work

6. The content of the report shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - (a) Detailed analysis and mapping exercise to establish linkages between the mandates and activities of ISA and the contribution to the SDGs with particular emphasis on the 9 SDGs of specific relevance for ISA. The analysis shall reflect the activities, contributions and results achieved towards the relevant SDGs and their corresponding targets. Challenges, gaps and further opportunities with respect to implementation of the respective SDGs and targets shall also be assessed and included in the report.
 - (b) Analysis and overview of contribution of the strategic partnerships established by ISA to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
 - (c) Inputs received from the Experts Committee on SDGs established by the ISA Secretary-General;
 - (d) Present and interact with the Experts Committee on SDGs, including one or two virtual meetings;
 - (e) Recommendations based on the analyses to further ISA’s contribution to the achievement of SDGs.

7. The review will include both secondary and primary research through review of relevant documents, liaising with internal and external stakeholders under the guidance and oversight of the Secretariat of ISA.

Deliverables and Timeline

8. The consultant will be required to produce a report covering the above matters. The report should not exceed 10,000 words in length (approx.) and should include an executive summary and references, although supporting material may be provided in annexes. The report shall include adequate graphical presentations.

9. The work will be undertaken based on the following anticipated timelines:

	Deliverable	Timeline (Day)
D1	Submission of preliminary report structure/extended outline by consultant	7
D2	Submission and approval of the revised draft outline, after incorporating comments provided by ISA Secretariat	12
D3	Submission of first draft by consultant	30
D4	Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by ISA Secretariat	45
D5	Submission and approval of revised draft after incorporating comments provided by Experts Committee.	60

Competencies

- Extensive knowledge of ISA mandate;

- Comprehensive knowledge of Sustainable Development Goals;
- Demonstrates integrity and ethical standards;

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- Strong analytical, reporting and writing abilities and skills;
- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback;
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines;
- Outstanding communication, project management and organizational skills;
- Excellent presentation and facilitation skills;
- Positive, constructive attitude to work.

Qualifications

10. The selected Consultant(s) should have the following qualifications
- a) Masters in international development/ economics/environment or marine policy/ related fields is required
 - b) Minimum 10 years of demonstrated experience working on economic/environmental/social development issues and minimum 5 years of experience working on SDGs;
 - c) Record of authoring publications and reports in the field of sustainable development or related fields is required;
 - d) Knowledge and experience of working on sustainable development in multilateral organizations is desirable;
 - e) Knowledge of seabed mineral resources, international law of the sea, management of seabed mineral resources in the international seabed area and/or land-based mining, is desirable.

Modalities of work

11. The Consultant will report and receive guidance from the Senior Policy Officer who, after close consultation and cooperation with the relevant offices within the Secretariat will review and approve the deliverables/outputs.
12. All deliverables should be submitted in English.
13. 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. Where travel is deemed necessary, a round trip airline ticket (economy) as per prevailing ISA policies on official travel and DSA at the prevailing ICSC rates established on the travel days would be provided to the Consultant.

The Secretariat will make reasonable and practical efforts to facilitate the production of timely, accurate and useful outcomes by promptly responding to the Consultant's queries and providing the necessary reference material as identified by the consultant where feasible.

Application

Application should be submitted no later than 31 March 2021 by sending CV and cover letter to eosg@isa.org.jm.