



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025/OSER/008

CONSULTANCY ON ENHANCING HABITAT AND CONNECTIVITY MODELS FOR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 31 January 2026

BACKGROUND

1. The International Seabed Authority (the Authority) is an international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement). The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources in accordance with the regime for the seabed and the ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) established in the 1994 Agreement.
2. The Authority is required to take the necessary measures to control and organize current exploration activities, as well as future mining activities, in the Area. In so doing, the Authority has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities.
3. In addition, the Authority is to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area and coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis, when available.
4. In accordance with Article 143 of the UNCLOS, the Authority jointly with strategic partners launched in 2022 the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative ("SSKI"), a flagship initiative under its Action Plan on Marine Scientific Research for the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ("The Authority's MSR Action Plan").
5. In this context, the Secretariat of the Authority and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ("Defra") of the UK signed an agreement to collaborate on the project "Precision in Preservation: Enhancing Habitat and Connectivity Models for Regional Environmental Management". The project aims to advance the understanding of regional-scale biodiversity patterns to inform the design of effective environmental management measures of the CCZ, in the Pacific Ocean. In doing this, the project also aims to enhance the sharing and use of biodiversity data to enhance biodiversity assessment and monitoring in the Area.
6. In line with the above background, the Authority is seeking a contractor with requisite experience and expertise in deep sea biology, ecology, biogeography and connectivity. The contractor must possess skills for compiling, synthesizing and analyzing biological and environmental datasets, as well as summary and visualization of results from such analyses including through maps and other infographics.
7. Proposals in line with the scope of work in the appended Terms of Reference are to be submitted via email to rfp@isa.org.jm on or before 31 January 2026.
8. Proposals should be concise but reflect a clear methodology demonstrating the competence and expertise of the potential contractor to carry out the tasks described in the Terms of Reference and including an itemized financial proposal. The résumé of every team member who is assigned to this project should be attached to the proposal.

9. Potential contractors are to send their requests for clarifications or questions regarding this call for Proposals via email at rfp@isa.org.jm.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

10. Proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format. All documents must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the contractor. The proposal must be submitted as a single PDF file. The proposal, including all supporting documents, shall not exceed ten pages.
11. The currency for fees quoted must be United States dollars (USD) and should be valid for a minimum period of 60 days.
12. Submission of a proposal shall be deemed to constitute an acknowledgement by the applicant of the General Conditions of Contracts for the services of Contractors and Individual Contractors (Annex C).
13. It is the responsibility of the potential contractor to ensure that proposals reach the Secretariat on or before the deadline.
14. The Secretariat implements a zero-tolerance policy on fraud and other proscribed practices, including corruption, unethical practices and obstruction. The Secretariat is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against the Authority and third parties involved in its activities.
15. The Secretariat requests that every potential contractor prevent and avoid conflicts of interest by disclosing clearly any involvement or possible conflict of interest in the preparation of their proposal.
16. Requests for information/clarification regarding this CfP can be sent via email to rfp@isa.org.jm.
17. This CfP is conducted in accordance with the procurement principles contained in the [Financial rules of the Authority](#): best value-for-money, fairness, integrity and transparency, effective international competition and the interest of the Authority.

ANNEX A

CONSULTANCY ON ENHANCING HABITAT AND CONNECTIVITY MODELS FOR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

In accordance with the the Authority’s mandate under Article 143 of the UNCLOS, in 2022, the Authority jointly with strategic partners launched the Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (“SSKI”), a flagship initiative under its Action Plan on Marine Scientific Research for the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (“ISA MSR Action Plan”). SSKI serves as a catalyst to generate, assess, and disseminate new deep-sea biodiversity information to inform decision-making processes and ensure effective protection of the marine environment in the Area. Further information about SSKI can be found at [Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative - International Seabed Authority](#).

SSKI relies on an interdisciplinary network of experts and key stakeholders, including member States, the scientific community, competent international organizations, and industry. The Initiative has received significant financial support from the European Union, the Republic of Korea, France, Ireland, China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). Since its launch, SSKI has built a strong collaborative platform of more than 15 scientific institutions and international organizations, including the IOC-UNESCO’s Ocean Biodiversity Information System, the Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD”) and the World Register of Marine Species (“WoRMS”), and has brought together a network of more than 300 deep-sea biodiversity experts from across 60 countries.

In this context, ISA Secretariat and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“Defra”) of the UK signed an agreement to collaborate on the project Precision in Preservation: Enhancing Habitat and Connectivity Models for Regional Environmental Management. This project aims to advance the understanding of regional-scale biodiversity patterns to inform the design of effective environmental management measures of the CCZ, in the Pacific Ocean. In doing this, the project also aims to enhance the sharing and use of biodiversity data to enhance biodiversity assessment and monitoring in the Area.

OBJECTIVE

In line with the context outlined above, the objectives of this consultancy will be to:

- Generate biogeographic maps and incorporate biological, oceanographic data and bathymetric information from the CCZ to validate the regional habitat map; and
- Identify biological indicators to assess connectivity of deep-sea ecosystems across multiple spatial scales in the CCZ.

This work will build on the ongoing work undertaken by the Secretariat of the Authority to advance several priority actions recommended by the Legal and Technical Commission (“LTC”) during the latest review of the CCZ-Environmental Management Plan, including taxonomic standardization and analysis and synthesis of biodiversity data.

The ISA Secretariat has engaged a consultant¹ to assist with the biological data review available in ISA DeepData database, including the data submitted since the first CCZ species checklist was

¹ Consultancy 2024/OEMMR/006

published in 2023, providing the basis for the analytical work envisioned in this project.

This work will also capitalize on the scientific outputs and research work undertaken under the UK-funded Seabed Mining and Resilience to Experimental Impact (“SMARTEX”) project, as well as other SSKI activities and initiatives conducted under the ISA MSR Action Plan.

It is expected that this project will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Authority’s MSR Action Plan, specifically towards strategic research priorities 1 and 2. In addition, understanding biodiversity patterns and connectivity in line with the Authority’s regional planning process will provide a scientific basis to guide the formulation of effective environmental management strategies, facilitating informed decision-making and responsible resource management practices.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Working under the supervision of the Environmental Coordinator, the potential contractor is tasked to:

- Compile and review new, relevant biological and environmental data in the CCZ from the Authority’s DeepData, as well as from other databases and scientific projects and initiatives;
- Conduct data analysis to identify any spatial distribution patterns of biodiversity in the region;
- Validate existing model/s for habitat classification in the CCZ using available biological and environmental data, and/or develop new models or methods for predicting habitat distributions;
- Identify potential taxa which could serve as biological indicators for measuring connectivity across different scales in the CCZ, taking into consideration data availability and feasibility for long-term monitoring of such taxa; and
- Identify areas or species that lack sufficient data to meet the model performance standards, and provide research and/or sampling recommendations to address those gaps.

Specifically, the contractor shall undertake the following tasks:

(a) Data compilation and review

Building upon the work of the previous consultant, any updates to available biological data, including diversity, distribution and ecological information, as well as oceanographic and bathymetric data will be compiled and reviewed, including new data submissions by exploration contractors and other relevant data sources.

(b) Identification of patterns of biodiversity distribution

- (i) Analyze and map spatial distribution patterns of specific species or taxa, including analyses of biodiversity indices and biogeography at the sub-regional and regional scale;
- (ii) Analyze and map spatial distribution patterns of abiotic parameters, particularly those identified as most relevant for driving biodiversity distribution; and
- (iii) Conduct data analyses to identify any relationships between abiotic factors (e.g.

bathymetry, productivity, sedimentation rates) and biological distribution.

(c) Validation of habitat classification models in the CCZ

- (i)*** Validate the CCZ habitat classification model as described in McQuaid et. al (2020) ², including integrating the biological data with geospatial datasets of environmental (abiotic) variables; and
- (ii)*** Building on existing research, refine existing models and/or develop new predictive models or methods for characterizing habitat distribution and variability at a regional scale, which could serve as a basis to guide future planning and management of seabed activities.

(d) Identification of biological indicators for connectivity studies

- (iii)*** Based on the spatial distribution patterns of biodiversity and habitats, identify potential taxa and biological indicators for long-term studies on connectivity at a sub-regional or regional scale in the CCZ;
- (iv)*** Document the rationale for selecting specific taxa and indicators for regional-scale connectivity studies; and
- (v)*** Describe the sampling methodologies for regional-scale connectivity studies based on the taxa and indicators selected.

The results from the above activities and analyses will be documented in the quarterly progress reports to be submitted to the secretariat of the Authority. Frequent interaction with the Secretariat of the Authority may also be required.

OUTPUTS

Under the overall supervision of the Environmental Coordinator, the selected contractor will produce the following outputs to be completed within one year after signature of the contract.

The outputs shall be reported in the quarterly progress reports. An indicative timeline for specific outputs is suggested below.

- Output 1: To be completed by 15 June 2026
 - Compilation and synthesis of available biological and environmental data
- Output 2: To be completed by 30 September 2026
 - Identification of patterns of biodiversity distribution

² 1 Kirsty A. McQuaid and others, "Using habitat classification to assess representativity of a protected area network in a large, data-poor area targeted for deep-sea mining", *Frontiers in Marine Science*, vol. 7 (9 December 2020), p. 1066.

- Output 3: To be completed by 15 December 2026
 - Validation of habitat classification models in the CCZ
 - Identification of biological indicators for connectivity studies
- Output 4: To be completed by 15 March 2027
 - Preparation of final project report summarizing results and implications for regional management planning and future research
 - Preparation of a manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal

QUALIFICATIONS

Mandatory:

- Expertise in deep-sea biology and ecology
- Experience in numeric analyses of multiple environmental datasets, data interpretation and modelling
- Track-record of geospatial mapping of biodiversity, habitats and/or biogeography including data integration from available public and other sources
- Track-record of peer-reviewed publications on topics related to the objectives of this consultancy.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of the mandate and activities of ISA.
- Experience in international collaboration
- Experience in writing technical reports for government or inter-governmental organizations

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be submitted by email to rfp@isa.org.jm by 31 January 2026. When submitting the proposal, potential contractors shall attach

- Annex B – Bidder general information form
- Proposal including a) competence and experience for this consultancy; b) methodology; c) itemized financial proposal
- Resume of each team member to be directly involved in the consultancy

SELECTION/EVALUATION

All proposals will be evaluated by a Committee based on the following:

- Qualifications and experience of the proponent
- Competitiveness, feasibility and completeness of the financial proposal

Consideration will also be given to gender diversity and the participation of nationals from developing countries in the proponent's team.

Only shortlisted proposals will be contacted for further discussion.

A procurement contract shall be awarded to the qualified proposer whose proposal, all factors considered, is the most responsive to the requirements set forth in this CFP.

MODALITIES OF WORK

The work shall be performed at the contractor's home base with scheduled virtual meetings with the Secretariat staff, as required.

To facilitate timely and accurate outcomes by the contractor, the Environmental Coordinator and relevant officers of OSER will make reasonable and practical efforts to respond promptly to the contractor's queries and provide the necessary reference material as identified by the contractor, where feasible.

MONITORING

The contractor will report to and receive guidance from the Environmental Coordinator, who will review and approve the deliverables/outputs in close consultation with the relevant offices in the Secretariat.

PAYMENT

The agreed fees between the Secretariat and the selected contractor will be reflected in a contract signed by both parties.

Payments shall be made in installments upon presentation of an invoice in USD, based on the agreed rates and subject to any agreed modifications made in accordance with this contract, and duly certified by the Director of Office of Stewardship, Environment and Resources (OSER).

ANNEX B
**CONSULTANCY ON ENHANCING HABITAT AND CONNECTIVITY MODELS FOR REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE**
BIDDER GENERAL INFORMATION FORM

Date: (day, month, year)
Page ____ of ____
Maximum length three pages

Full name:
Legal address:
Email address:
Nationality:
Provide details of your expertise in deep sea biology, ecology and/or biogeography, including any previous research experience related to the objectives of this consultancy:
Provide supporting evidence of the qualifications of your team:
Confirm your technical capacity for conducting the required data analyses as outlined in the Terms of Reference:
Are you involved in any pending legal proceedings of which the Authority should be aware? Please provide details.
Name of duly authorized officer:
Signature:
Date:

ANNEX C

**CONSULTANCY ON ENHANCING HABITAT AND CONNECTIVITY MODELS FOR
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS FOR THE SERVICES OF CONTRACTORS AND
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS**

I. Legal status

1. The contractor or individual contractor shall have the legal status of an independent contractor vis-à-vis the International Seabed Authority. The contractor [Any representative or employee of the contractor]¹ shall not be regarded, for any purposes, as being either a staff member of the Authority, under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Authority, or an official of the Authority, for purposes of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority. Accordingly, nothing within or relating to the contract shall establish the relationship of employer and employee, or of principal and agent, between the Authority and the contractor.

¹ Where the contractor is an institutional or corporate contractor, the term “contractor” as used in the present General Conditions includes its representatives and employees.

II. Standards of conduct

2. The contractor shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to the International Seabed Authority in connection with the performance of the obligations under the contract. Should any authority external to the Authority seek to impose any instructions on the contractor regarding the contractor’s performance under the contract, the contractor shall promptly notify the Authority and shall provide all reasonable assistance required by the Authority. The contractor shall not take any action in respect of the performance of the contract or otherwise related to the contractor’s obligations under the contract that may adversely affect the interests of the Authority, and the contractor shall perform the obligations under the contract with the fullest regard for the interests of the Authority. The contractor warrants that the contractor has not offered and shall not offer any direct or indirect benefit arising from or related to the performance of the contract or the award thereof to any representative, official or employee of the Authority. The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing upon the performance of the obligations under the contract.

3. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that any breach of any of the provisions hereof shall constitute a breach of an essential term of the contract, and, in addition to any other legal rights or remedies available to any person, shall give rise to grounds for termination of the contract. In addition, nothing herein shall limit the right of the Authority to refer any alleged breach of the foregoing standards of conduct to the relevant national authorities for appropriate action.

4. The contractor may not at any time communicate any information to any other person, Government or authority external to the Authority or known to them by reason of their association with the Authority that has not been made public, except in the course of their duties or by authorization of the Secretary-General or any designate by the Secretary-General; nor shall the contractor at any time use such information to private advantage. These obligations do not lapse upon termination of the contract with the Authority.

III. Title rights, copyrights, patents and other proprietary rights

5. Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by the Authority to the contractor for the performance of any obligations under the contract shall rest with the Authority, and any such equipment shall be returned to the Authority upon completion of work under the contract or when no longer needed by the contractor. Such equipment, when returned to the Authority, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the contractor, subject to normal wear and tear, and the contractor shall be liable to compensate

the Authority for any damage or degradation of the equipment beyond normal wear and tear.

6. The Authority shall be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how or documents and other materials that the contractor has developed for the Authority under the contract and that bear a direct relation to or are produced, prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the contract, and the contractor acknowledges and agrees that such products, documents and other materials constitute works made for hire for the Authority. However, to the extent that any such intellectual property or other proprietary rights consist of any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of the contractor: (a) that pre-existed the performance by the contractor of the obligations under the contract; or (b) that the contractor may develop or acquire, or may have developed or acquired, independently of the performance of the obligations under the contract, the Authority does not and shall not claim any ownership interest thereto, and the contractor grants to the Authority a perpetual licence to use such intellectual property or other proprietary right solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of the contract. At the request of the Authority, the contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and, generally, assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring or licensing them to the Authority in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law and of the contract. Subject to the foregoing provisions, all maps, drawings, photographs, mosaics, plans, reports, estimates, recommendations, documents and other data compiled or received by the contractor under the contract shall be the property of the Authority, shall be made available for use or inspection by the Authority at reasonable times and in reasonable places, shall be treated as confidential and shall be delivered only to authorized officials of the Authority upon completion of work under the contract.

IV. Confidential nature of documents and information

7. Information and data that are considered proprietary by either the Authority or the contractor or that are delivered or disclosed by one of them (“discloser”) to the other (“recipient”) during the course of performance of the contract, and that is designated as confidential (“information”) shall be held in confidence and shall be handled as follows: the recipient of such information shall use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of the discloser’s information as it uses with its own similar information that it does not wish to disclose, publish or disseminate and the recipient may use the discloser’s information solely for the purpose for which it was disclosed. The recipient may not disclose confidential information to any other party unless with the discloser’s prior written consent. Subject to and without any waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its officials, the contractor may disclose information to the extent required by law, provided that the contractor will give the Authority sufficient prior notice of a request for the disclosure of information in order to allow the Authority to have a reasonable opportunity to take protective measures or such other action as may be appropriate before any such disclosure is made. The Authority may disclose information to the extent required pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority. The recipient shall not be precluded from disclosing information that is obtained by the recipient from a third party without restriction, is disclosed by the discloser to a third party without any obligation of confidentiality, is previously known by the recipient or is developed at any time by the recipient completely independently of any disclosures hereunder. These obligations and restrictions of confidentiality shall be effective during the term of the contract, including any extension thereof, and, unless otherwise provided in the contract, shall remain effective following any termination of the contract.

8. Confidential information means information that:

- (a) Is by its nature confidential
- (b) Is designated by the Authority as confidential
- (c) The contractor knows or ought to know is confidential

9. Confidential information does not include information that:

- (a) Is or becomes public knowledge by means other than by breach of the contract
- (b) Is in the possession of the contractor without restriction to disclosure before the date of receipt from the Authority
- (c) Has been independently developed or acquired by the contractor
- (d) Was in the possession of the contractor prior to the commencement date of the contract
- (e) Is obtained by the contractor from a third party that is free to divulge the same

10. The Authority may at any time require the contractor to give a written undertaking, in a form required by the Authority, relating to the non-disclosure of confidential information. In the written undertaking, the contractor is required to acknowledge that the provisions of article 168 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea related to the responsibilities of the staff of the Authority apply, mutatis mutandis, to the contractor. The contractor shall promptly arrange for all such undertakings to be given.

V. Travel, statement of good health and service-incurred death, injury or illness

11. If the contractor is required by the Authority to travel beyond commuting distance from his or her usual place of residence, such travel shall be at the expense of the Authority and shall be governed by conditions equivalent to the relevant provisions of the administrative instruction of the Authority on official travel. In such cases, the travel expenses borne by the Authority shall not exceed the cost of travel by the least costly economy class regularly available or its equivalent when by air, unless a higher standard is approved in advance by, or on behalf of, the Secretary-General of the Authority.

12. Prior to the commencement of the contractor's services in any offices or premises of the Authority or before engaging in any travel required by the Authority or connected with the performance of the contract, the contractor shall submit a certificate of good health provided by a medical practitioner for himself or herself, or for the representative or employee concerned, and certify that he or she, or the representative or employee concerned, is in possession of medical or health insurance during the period of the contractor's services. The contractor shall provide such a certificate of good health and certification of the medical or health insurance that includes medical treatment as soon as practicable following the signature of the contract. The contractor warrants the accuracy of any such certificate of good health, including but not limited to confirmation that the contractor has been fully informed regarding the requirements for inoculations for the country or countries to which travel may be authorized.

13. The contractor shall be responsible for assuming all costs that may be incurred in relation to the certificate of good health and medical or health insurance.

14. In the event of the death, injury or illness of the contractor that is attributable to the performance of services on behalf of the Authority under the terms of the contract while the contractor is travelling at the Authority's expense or is performing any services under the contract in any offices or premises of the Authority, [the representative or employee of] the contractor or his or her dependants, as appropriate, shall be entitled to compensation equivalent to that provided under appendix B to the Staff Rules of the Authority.

VI. Prohibition on assignments and modifications

15. The contractor may not assign, delegate, transfer, pledge or make any other disposition of the contract, of any part thereof or of any of the rights, claims or obligations under the contract except with the prior written authorization of the Authority, and any attempt to do so shall be null and void. The terms or conditions of any supplemental undertakings, licences or other forms of agreement concerning any goods or services to be provided under the contract shall not be valid and enforceable against the Authority or in any way constitute an agreement by the Authority thereto, unless any such undertakings, licences or other forms of agreement are the subject of a valid written undertaking by the Authority.

16. No modification or change in the contract shall be valid and enforceable against the Authority unless provided by means of a valid written amendment to the contract signed by the contractor or a duly authorized representative thereof and a duly authorized representative of the Authority.

VII. Subcontractors

17. In the event that the contractor requires the services of subcontractors to perform any obligations under the contract, the contractor shall obtain the prior written approval of the Authority for any such subcontractors. The Authority may, at its sole discretion, reject any proposed subcontractor or require such subcontractor's removal without having to give any justification therefor, and such rejection shall not entitle the contractor to claim any delays in the performance or to assert any excuses for the non-performance of any of the obligations under the contract. The contractor shall be solely responsible for all services and obligations performed by its subcontractors. The terms of any subcontract shall be subject to, and shall be construed in a manner that is fully in accordance with, all of the terms and conditions of the contract. The contractor shall not assign work to be performed under the contract to any person other than those accepted by the Authority in the form of written notification.

VIII. Use of the name, emblem or official seal of the Authority

18. The contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill that the contractor has a contractual relationship with the Authority; nor shall the contractor in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of the Authority or any abbreviation of the name of the Authority in connection with its business or otherwise without the written permission of the Authority.

IX. Indemnification

19. The contractor shall indemnify, defend and hold and save harmless the Authority and its officials, agents and employees from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature, including but not limited to all litigation costs and expenses, attorney's fees, settlement payments and damages, based on, arising from or relating to:

- (a) Allegations or claims that the use by the Authority of any patented device, any copyrighted material or any other goods or services provided to the Authority for its use under the terms of the contract, in whole or in part, separately or in combination, constitutes an infringement of any patent, copyright, trademark or other intellectual property right of any third party;
- (b) Any acts or omissions of the contractor or of any subcontractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them in the performance of the contract that give rise to legal liability to anyone not a party to the contract, including, without limitation, claims and liability in the nature of a claim for workers' compensation.

X. Insurance

20. The contractor shall pay the Authority promptly for all loss, destruction or damage to the property of the Authority caused by the contractor or of any subcontractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them in the performance of the contract.

21. The contractor shall be solely responsible for taking out and for maintaining adequate liability and property damage insurance required to meet any of the obligations under the contract and in respect of any tort action or tort claim arising out of the contractor's acts or omissions related to the contract, as well as for arranging, at the contractor's sole expense or at that of its representative or employee, such life, health and other forms of insurance as the contractor may consider to be appropriate to cover the period during which the contractor provides services under the contract. The contractor shall, upon request by the Authority, provide proof of such insurance.

22. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that none of the insurance arrangements that the contractor

may make shall in any way be construed to limit the contractor's liability arising under or relating to the contract.

XI. Encumbrances and liens

23. The contractor shall not cause or permit any lien, attachment or other encumbrance by any person to be placed on file or to remain on file in any public office or on file with the Authority against any moneys due to the contractor or to become due for any work done or against any goods supplied or materials furnished under the contract or by reason of any other claim or demand against the contractor.

XII. Force majeure and other changes in conditions

24. In the event of and as soon as possible after the occurrence of any cause constituting force majeure, the contractor shall give notice and full particulars in writing to the Authority of such occurrence or cause if the contractor is thereby rendered unable, wholly or in part, to perform the obligations and meet the responsibilities under the contract. The contractor shall also notify the Authority of any other changes in condition or the occurrence of any event that interferes or threatens to interfere with the contractor's performance of the contract. Not more than 15 days following the provision of such notice of force majeure or other changes in condition or occurrence, the contractor shall also submit a statement to the Authority of estimated expenditures that will likely be incurred for the duration of the change in condition or the event. Upon receipt of the notice(s) required hereunder, the Authority shall take such action as it considers, at its sole discretion, to be appropriate or necessary in the circumstances, including the granting to the contractor of a reasonable extension of time in which to perform any obligations under the contract.

25. If the contractor is rendered permanently unable, wholly or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform the obligations and meet the responsibilities under the contract, the Authority shall have the right to suspend or terminate the contract on the same terms and conditions as provided for below, under "Termination", except that the period of notice shall be five days instead of any other period of notice. In any case, the Authority shall be entitled to consider the contractor permanently unable to perform the obligations under the contract in the case of the contractor's suffering any period of suspension in excess of 30 days.

26. Force majeure as used herein means any unforeseeable and irresistible act of nature, any act of war (whether declared or not), invasion, revolution, insurrection, strikes or other labour disturbances, riots, floods, storms, earthquakes, fires or any other acts of a similar nature or force, provided that such acts arise from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the contractor.

XIII. Termination

27. Either party may terminate the contract before the expiry date of the contract, in whole or in part, upon giving written notice to the other party. The period of notice shall be 5 days in the case of contracts for a total period of less than two months and 14 days in the case of contracts for a longer period. The initiation of conciliation or arbitral proceedings, as provided below, shall not be deemed to be a cause for or otherwise to be in itself a termination of the contract.

28. The Authority may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy available to it, terminate the contract forthwith in the event that: (a) the contractor is adjudged bankrupt, is liquidated or becomes insolvent, applies for a moratorium or stay on any payment or repayment obligations, or applies to be declared insolvent; (b) the contractor is granted a moratorium or a stay or is declared insolvent; (c) the contractor makes an assignment for the benefit of one or more of the contractor's creditors; (d) a receiver is appointed on account of the insolvency of the contractor; (e) the contractor offers a settlement in lieu of bankruptcy or receivership; or (f) the Authority reasonably determines that the contractor has become subject to a materially adverse change in the financial condition that threatens to endanger or otherwise substantially affect the ability of the contractor to perform any of the obligations under the contract.

29. In the event of any termination of the contract, upon receipt of notice of termination by the Authority,

the contractor shall, except as may be directed by the Authority in the notice of termination or otherwise in writing: (a) take immediate steps to bring the performance of any obligations under the contract to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and, in doing so, reduce expenses to a minimum; (b) refrain from undertaking any further or additional commitments under the contract as of and following the date of receipt of such notice; (c) deliver all completed or partially completed plans, drawings, information and other property that, if the contract had been completed, would have been required to be furnished to the Authority thereunder; (d) complete performance of the work not terminated; and (e) take any other action that may be necessary, or that the Authority may direct in writing, for the protection and preservation of any property, whether tangible or intangible, related to the contract that is in the possession of the contractor and in which the Authority has or may be reasonably expected to acquire an interest.

30. A contractor may terminate the contract if: (a) the Authority is in arrears of any payment due under the contract for more than 30 days; (b) the Authority is in breach of any of the terms or conditions under the contract.

31. In the event of any termination of the contract, the Authority shall only be liable to pay the contractor compensation on a pro rata basis for no more than the actual amount of work performed to the satisfaction of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the contract. Additional costs incurred by the Authority resulting from the termination of the contract by the contractor may be withheld from any amount otherwise due to the contractor from the Authority.

XIV. Non-exclusivity

32. The Authority shall have no obligation respecting, and no limitations on, its right to obtain goods of the same kind, quality and quantity, or to obtain any services of the kind described in the contract, from any other source at any time.

XV. Taxation

33. Article 183 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides, inter alia, that within the scope of its official activities, the Authority, its assets and property, its income and its operations and transactions, authorized by the Convention, shall be exempt from all direct taxation, and that goods imported or exported for its official use shall be exempt from all customs duties. The Authority shall not claim exemption from taxes that are no more than charges for service rendered.

34. In the event that any governmental authority refuses to recognize the exemptions of the Authority from such taxation and customs duties, the contractor shall immediately consult with the Authority to determine a mutually acceptable procedure. The Authority shall have no liability for taxes, duty or other similar charges payable by the contractor in respect of any amounts paid to the contractor under the contract, and the contractor acknowledges that the Authority will not issue any statements of earnings to the contractor in respect of any such payments.

XVI. Settlement of disputes

35. Amicable settlement. The Authority and the contractor shall use their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute arising out of the contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where the parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the applicable Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the parties in writing.

36. Arbitration. Any dispute between the parties arising out of the contract, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, unless settled amicably as provided above, shall be referred by either of the parties to arbitration in accordance with the applicable UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The number of arbitrators shall be three. The language to be used in arbitral proceedings shall be English. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be based on general principles of international commercial law. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered

as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such dispute, controversy or claim.

XVII. Privileges and immunities

37. Nothing in or relating to the contract shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its officials.

XVIII. Miscellaneous

38. The contract may be executed by parties with the use of electronic signatures in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

39. The contract embodies the entire agreement and understanding between the contractor and the Authority and supersedes any and all prior agreements and understandings between parties.