

Standard Format for Terms of Reference (ToR)
REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME: NAIROBI CONVENTION

<i>Job Opening number</i>	:	UN Environment Programme--Consultant
<i>Job Title</i>	:	Consultant– To support development of a Strategy on SIDS
<i>General Expertise</i>	:	Coastal and marine resource conservation
<i>Category</i>	:	Environment Planning and Management
<i>Department/ Office</i>	:	United Nations Environment Programme
<i>Organizational Unit</i>	:	UNEP Ecosystems Division EIB Regional Seas Programme

Working location: Home

Organization Setting:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action. UNEP's Ecosystems Division works with international and national partners in providing technical assistance and capacity development for the implementation of environmental policy and strengthening the environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

SIDS and Biodiversity Conservation post the COVID-19 Pandemic

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of developing countries that face common social, economic and environmental challenges. These include small populations, high dependency on development assistance and international trade (especially commodities through preferential trade regimes), susceptibility to external shocks, high transportation costs and low connectivity, susceptibility to natural disasters and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

The tourism sector, which is dependent on the integrity of natural resources is the key economic sector for SIDS in terms of earnings and employment. Tourism has strong links with other sectors such as agriculture, environmental services, financial services, ICTs. In some SIDS, fisheries can contribute 10 per cent or more of gross domestic product (GDP) and may account for up to 90 per cent of animal protein in their populations' diet, with national fish consumption as much as four times higher than the global average per capita.

SIDS have access to natural assets and unique indigenous knowledge that can help them to develop sustainably and manage their natural environment productively and equitably. They also possess a wealth of hitherto underutilized Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) that could be synergized with modern science to develop sustainability strategies that are more appropriate to local realities. Externally derived strategies may not be appropriate to small islands, and there is need to reorient development aspirations

away from conventional development. Innovative approaches and tools that are adapted to local conditions, cultures, and needs are required. This can be facilitated by harnessing and integrating ILK with modern science.

A number of factors threaten the environmental and socio-economic development of SIDS. Foremost among these is climate change and sea level rise which have had a disproportionately greater impact on the environment and socio-economic development in SIDS. Given that climate change and sea level rise impacts are expected to long persist even if greenhouse gas emissions are stabilized, implementation of a comprehensive package of adaptation and mitigation measures is urgently needed. In addition to climate change, SIDS are also faced with other planetary crises such as pollution and biodiversity loss.

In 2010, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 to address the underlying drivers that influence the direct pressures on biodiversity. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 structured the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets around five Strategic Goals, setting benchmarks for improvements across drivers, pressures, the state of biodiversity, the benefits derived from it and the implementation of relevant policies and enabling conditions.

The UN has been supporting the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS finalized at the Global Conference held in Barbados in 1994, known also as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), which was revised in 2005 in Mauritius. In 2014, the international community gathering in Samoa adopted the Samoa Pathway to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS and to support their development via the five priority areas:

1. Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation
2. Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programs
3. Protect the biodiversity of SIDS and care for environmental health by mitigating the impact of invasive plant and animal species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, as well as protecting oceans and seas
4. Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition, improved water and sanitation, reducing the incidence of non-communicable disease and by promoting gender equity and women's empowerment
5. Foster partnership among SIDS, UN Agencies, development partners and others to achieve these goals

Following the COVID-19 global pandemic, the measures put in place to contain the spread of the pandemic have taken a heavy toll on the tourism sector. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that COVID-19 resulted in a contraction of the tourism sector by up to 30% in 2020, making SIDS more vulnerable since they are especially dependent on the tourism sector. For the Seychelles in 2018, tourism contributed an estimated 67% to its GDP as well as indirectly and directly hired 67% of the workforce (WTTC 2018). Overall, travel and tourism in SIDS is worth some \$30 billion per year. According to UNCTAD, a decline in tourism receipts by 25% will result in a \$7.4 billion or 7.3% fall in GDP. The drop could be significantly greater in some of the SIDS, reaching 16% in the Maldives and Seychelles.

The ocean economy has been overlooked in COVID-19 stimulus measures to date, especially when compared to the pandemic's devastating impacts on ocean workers and sectors. Global responses to the pandemic must not miss the unprecedented opportunity to reset and rebuild economic activities in a way that sets the foundation for a more equitable, more resilient and sustainable ocean economy fit for everyone's future. The COVID-19 crisis has caused deep disruptions to the ocean economy, leading to significant revenue losses across coastal and marine tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, and global shipping industries. The impact of these disruptions is felt acutely by countries highly dependent on income from commodity exports, tourism and remittance flows, alongside low-income, food deficit countries and small island developing states which rely on fish and fish products as an accessible and low-cost source of protein and micronutrients.

Objective

The objective of this assignment is to document the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 on SIDS and their biodiversity (including impact on the contribution of biodiversity to economy, livelihoods, society and culture). Consequently, the assignment will review the pandemic's implications on achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the SAMOA Pathway, and SIDS engagement in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and the negotiations of the international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Finally, the assignment will propose recommendations on mitigating the impacts of the COVID pandemic to build back better through enhanced biodiversity conservation and implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and Agenda 2030. The assignment will be undertaken in both the Nairobi and Cartagena Conventions. Two consultants are required each covering one Convention area. The consultancy is located at the Nairobi Convention in the Ecosystems Integration Branch, Ecosystems Division, UNEP Nairobi duty station.

1. Duties and Responsibilities:

- a) Through interviews and review of relevant literature, determine and document the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, livelihoods, poverty dimension, gender and culture of SIDS.
- b) Review the implications of the pandemic on the eventual achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 14), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Aichi Targets: 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 19 – see Annex 1 below), the SAMOA Pathway, and SIDS engagement in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and the negotiations of the international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- c) Review the Impacts of the pandemic on implementation of key projects supported by both the Nairobi (especially under WIOSAP) and Cartagena Conventions in SIDS
- d) In consultation with key informants, generate recommendations on mitigating actions to build back better and enhance resilience following the shocks precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- e) In consultation with key informants, generate recommendations on the major actions necessary and required support for the effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and 2030 Agenda for ocean related SDGs

1.1 Ultimate result of services

A report on the COVID-19 impacts and consequent challenges and opportunities for SIDs in implementing the Aichi biodiversity actions, the successor post 2020 global biodiversity framework and management of BBNJ.

1.2. Outputs/Work Assignment:

Output 1: An inception Report outlining the proposed report layout, methodologies, tools to be deployed in the assignment, approach and strategy on stakeholder consultation for delivery of this task for approval.

Output 2: A report on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on:

- 2.1. the economy, livelihoods, poverty dimension, gender and culture of SIDs (2030 Agenda)
- 2.2. SIDs in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and negotiations of the international legally binding instruments under UNCLOS on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), and preparedness of SIDs in implementing the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.
- 2.3. implementation of key projects supported by both the Nairobi (especially under WIOSAP) and Cartagena Conventions in SIDs.

Output 3: A report with recommendations on mitigating actions to enhance resilience following the shocks precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Output 4: A report with recommendations on the major actions necessary and required support for the effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and Agenda 2030 for ocean related SDGs (14).

Output 5: Final report combining in a coherent manner outputs 2 - 4

Output 6: Power Point presentation and short article summarizing the main outcomes for media publication.

1.3 Legislative authority reference

UNEP Programme of work 2020/2021

1.4 Title and identification number of program/projects

Project 316.1: Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services (A3)

1.5 Source of Funds : Regular Budget Extra-budgetary

1.6 Allotment Account / Budget Line

XXXX

2. Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

Academic Qualifications: Advanced university degree (a Master's degree or equivalent) in Marine or Ocean Sciences, Coastal Ecosystem Management, Environmental Science or any related disciplines.

Experience:

1. A minimum of 10-years of professional experience in the management of coastal and marine programmes at a research or policy level;

2. Familiarity with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
3. Experience in working with different stakeholders at both strategic and technical levels and demonstrated quality and timely delivery;
4. Working knowledge of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and Cartagena Convention area and experience of working with the Governments of these regions for each respective consultant would be preferred;
5. Familiarity with/appreciable understanding of the work of the UNEP-Nairobi Convention and Cartagena Convention Programmes of work:
6. Demonstrated competency in high level and excellent scientific/technical writing;
7. Ability to work within very short timelines and with minimum supervision.

Languages:

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post, fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of any other UN language an asset.

3. Reporting lines

The consultants shall be under the overall supervision of the Jared Bosire, Programme Officer, Nairobi Convention. The Cartagena Convention work will be coordinated, and quality assured by Chris Corbin before submission to the Nairobi Convention

4. Duration












1 month

5. Travel not involved.

Annex 1

SDG 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

SDG 14 Targets	Highly Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets
14.1: "By 2025, prevent and reduce marine pollution .."	 Aichi Target 8
14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems including by strengthening their resilience , and take action for their restoration ..."	 Aichi Target 10 Aichi Target 15 
14.3: "Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification ..."	 Aichi Target 10
14.4: "By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing ..."	 Aichi Target 6
14.5: "By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas ..."	 Aichi Target 11
14.6: "By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing..."	 Aichi Target 6 Aichi Target 3 
14.7: "By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources..."	Strategic Goal D
14.a: " Increase scientific knowledge , develop research capacity and transfer marine technology ..."	 Aichi Target 19
14.b: " Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets"	 Aichi Target 18
14.c: "Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law ..."	 Aichi Target 17