

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Closing Date:	30 January 2017
Consultancy:	Oceans Statistics
Department:	SDG Data and Information Unit, Science Division, UN Environment
Location:	Home-based, with some travel
Remuneration:	Determined by proposal against scope of work
Duration:	Start date approximately 15 February; end-date approximately 15 July

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

Background

Purpose

Oceans provide key natural resources including food, medicines, biofuels and other products. They help with the breakdown and removal of waste and pollution, and their coastal ecosystems act as buffers to reduce damage from storms. Maintaining healthy oceans supports climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Furthermore, Marine Protected Areas contribute to poverty reduction by increasing fish catches and income, and improving health. They also help improve gender equality, as women do much of the associated land-based work in small-scale fisheries. The marine environment is also home to a number of bio diverse ecosystems such as coral reefs and gardens, mangroves, saltmarsh and sea grass meadows. However, increasing levels of pressures on the world's oceans are having a major environmental and economic impact. For instance, marine debris impact biodiversity through entanglement or ingestion of debris items by organisms, which can kill them or make it impossible for them to reproduce. As far as the world's coral reefs are concerned, about 20 per cent of them have been effectively destroyed and show no prospects for recovery, as a result of various pressures including climate change. Furthermore, improper marine management has resulted in some stocks being fished beyond sustainable levels. UN Environment estimates the cumulative economic impact of poor ocean management practices is at least US\$200 billion per year.

To address these issues, the United Nations have agreed a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targeting oceans ("Life below water"), Goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources". The delivery of national SDG-related data and information are country-led and voluntary, based on a set of globally agreed indicators. Indicators have become essential tools for effective policy formation and political decision-making due to their ability to track progress towards targets such as the SDGs. The development and implementation of a comprehensive and fully operational national reporting mechanism for the SDGs will require a significant level of capacity development and technical support.

Ten indicators have been agreed to monitor countries' progress in the implementation of SDG 14 targets. UN Environment is custodian for a combined total of 3 indicators, which are:

- 14.1.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication (ICEP) and Floating Plastic debris Density.
- 14.2.1 Proportion of national Exclusive Economic Zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches.
- 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas.

With the exception of 14.5.1 on marine protected areas, the methodologies for these indicators are still under development. In this context, the SDG Data and Information Unit of

UN Environment' Science Division is hiring a consultant to produce a user guide on the development of statistics related to oceans for data compilers. The document should be primarily aimed at indicators for SDG targets 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1. The user guide should also include general guidance and linkages to other relevant indicators. It will showcase a list of best practices in indicator development, and use the results of two case studies to illustrate country-level indicator development in practical terms.

A final draft from the consultant is to be due by May 2017. This user guide will be presented to expert group meetings (i.e. 44th Meeting of GESAMP, SDG 14 Conference) for peer review and feedback.

Proposed Outline of Report

- Executive Summary (2 pages)
- Chapter I: Background (2-3 pages)
- Chapter II: Guidance on developing methodologies for country-level indicators, including list of best practices and linkages to regional/global-scale indicators (3-5 pages per SDG indicator, preceded by a 3-5 page general overview of issues related to monitoring oceans in the context of these goals)
- Chapter III: Case studies (two countries) (10-15 pages)
- Chapter IV: Concluding remarks (including challenges such as data gaps), followed by recommendations and way forward (5 pages)

Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer for the SDG Data and Information Unit, the consultant will complete the following objectives:

- Review available literature and existing methodologies;
- Integrate results from relevant studies and synthesize the information into a list of best practices;
- Conduct country case studies for two countries;
- Provide core recommendations related to the development of country-relevant methodologies for indicators.

Expected products and outputs

- An inception note and finalization of report outline should be submitted 3 days after the start of the contract. The note will comprise: a) the Contractor's understanding of the consultancy and associated tasks; b) identification of issues crucial to the viability of the consultancy; and c) comments on this TOR and report outline.
- A schedule for the country missions should be agreed within 5 days of the start of the contract.
- A draft report should be provided mid-way through the contract and the final report should be provided at the end of the contract.
- Case study reports should be provided within 2 weeks of completing the country missions.
- A presentation to UN Environment (including any background materials and PPT) should be given a week before the end of the contract.

Administrative Arrangements

- This is a desk study which also includes some travel. The travel will be paid by UN Environment and thus travel expenses do not need to be included in the budget proposal.
- All administrative costs (supplies, telecommunications, equipment, etc.) are to be borne by the consultant.
- All documentation must be produced on software compatible with that of United Nations (i.e., MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, etc.)
- All materials developed remain property of the United Nations.

Compensation

- Compensation will be paid on a product delivery basis, at the end of the project, upon receipt of invoice.
- Fees to be determined by proposal.

Background Requirements

- Extensive experience in marine management or marine research required. Experience in collecting marine related statistics desirable.

Proposals and Queries

Candidates should submit the following items for consideration:

- Current resume
- Name, address, and telephone number of three references who have first-hand knowledge of your work in this area (do not attach letters of reference).
- Approximate schedule of product delivery and detailed costing table. Costing table should include proposed rate for each product mentioned under Products and Outputs section above.

Applicants are requested to submit the above package of items under "Proposals and Queries" by 30 January 2017 electronically to Elisabetta.bonotto@unep.org with the subject "Oceans Statistics Manual TOR".

Due to the volume of applications, only candidates under positive consideration will be contacted.
