

Request for Proposal for a Short-Terms Study on Scope of Marking of Fishing Gear in India – Current Status and Stakeholder's Perception

Under the

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES, MARINE LIVING RESOURCES, AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION FOR THE BENEFIT OF COASTAL STATES AND COMMUNITIES PROJECT

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Immediate Engagement

1.0 Introduction and Background

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) is designated as the Executing Agency for implementation of the Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources, and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities also known as BOBLME-2 Project. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and NORSAD and being managed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO). The BOBLME Project, has been established to support and advance the objectives outlined in the BOBLME-I Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

The overarching aim of this project is to safeguard and perpetuate the ecosystem services that regulate and provide sustenance in the BOBLME. It seeks to accomplish this by enabling the member countries of the BOBLME to achieve their project outcomes through a collaborative partnership, which includes the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), BOBP-IGO, and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC). BOBP-IGO, as the executing agency, will oversee project implementation within its member countries, comprising Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

2.0 Project Objective

The primary objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region. This involves mitigating environmental stress and enhancing the environmental status to the advantage of coastal states and their communities. The accomplishment of these objectives will be facilitated through an integrated approach structured around the themes of SAP. The project will embrace a country-led,

participatory, bottom-up strategy, emphasizing focus areas that span community, sub-national, national, and regional levels. This approach is vital to ensure the maximum positive impact and lasting benefits.

3.0 Role of BOBP-IGO

BOBP-IGO is tasked with the critical responsibility of executing key segments of the project work plan, specifically related to "Sustainable Management of Fisheries" (Component 1 of the Project); Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health (Component 3), and Regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME (Component 5). This entails ensuring effective coordination and delivery of the work concerning the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), mitigation of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, developing guidelines and practices for controlling pollution and building of a sustainable coordination mechanism for effective implementation of the project.

4.0 Description of the Work

Abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear contributes significantly to marine litter, leading to ghost fishing and habitat destruction. The BOBLME-2 project aims to address these issues through the implementation of sustainable fishing practices, including the marking of fishing gears, to enable their tracking and recovery. This study aims to assess current practices, and identify challenges to contribute to the development guidelines for the effective marking of fishing gears.

This study aligns with Component 3 of the BOBLME project, focusing on the management of coastal and marine pollution to enhance ecosystem health. The duration of the study is three months from the date of the award.

5.0 Scope of Work:

A. Gauging Stakeholder Perception:

- i. Conduct structured consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, fishery authorities, environmental organizations, and industry representatives, to understand their perspectives, needs, and suggestions regarding the marking of fishing gears.
- ii. Conduct field visits to a selection of fishing harbours across India to directly observe and document handling of fishing gear at the end of their life-cycle.

B. Policy & Technical Review:

- i. Systematically review existing government documents, policies, regulations, and previous studies, if any, related to handling of fishing gear in India.
- ii. Analyze the effectiveness of current policies and identify gaps or areas for improvement in handling ALDFG in India.
- iii. Identify the main challenges and barriers faced by the fishing communities and regulatory bodies in the marking of fishing gears.
- iv. Identify potential strategies and technologies that could be employed for effective gear marking in the Indian context.
- v. To propose a framework for the development of comprehensive regional guidelines for the marking of fishing gears, outlining key areas for further research, stakeholder collaboration, and policy development.

C. Deliverables:

- i. Inception Report: Detailed methodology, stakeholder engagement plan, selected harbours for visits, and a comprehensive work plan (Within 15 days).
- ii. Draft Final Report: Summary of insights, challenges, and recommendations gathered from stakeholder consultations and focus group discussions and a set of targeted recommendations for policy improvements, stakeholder engagement strategies, and gear management. (Within 75 days).
- iii. Final report: “Scope of Marking of Fishing Gear in India – Current Status and Stakeholder’s Perception” (Within 90 days)
- iv. In addition, the Consultant will provide quarterly update on the progress of the work.

6.0 Budget

A detailed budget will be prepared and approved based on the project proposal and required resources. However, the maximum fund allocated for the study is limited to USD 3000 excluding study-related travels.

7.0 Eligibility

Both firms and individual experts may apply. A demonstrable track record in analysis of such problems is essential.

8.0 Support from BOBP-IGO

BOBP-IGO will evaluate the proposed methodology and help in finalization. The Organisation will also introduce the consultant to the concerned Government agencies and stakeholders and the purpose of the study. The Organisation may depute officials to observe and assist during stakeholder consultations.

8.0 Application Process

Qualified individuals and firms should submit their CVs and a cover letter with a brief outline of the proposed work-plan to BOBP-IGO via email at info@bobpigo.org. The cover letter should effectively articulate the candidate's suitability for the role. Please note that only candidates who are shortlisted will be contacted for an interview.