



Ministry of Environment

Republic of Maldives

Accelerating Sustainable Private Investments in Renewable Energy (ASPIRE) Project SCF Grant NO.: TF017182

Terms of Reference for Procurement Officer

A. BACKGROUND

The Republic of Maldives is a low lying, atoll based, archipelagic nation in the central Indian Ocean. It comprises 1,190 islands grouped into 26 atolls that together occupy a land area of 298 km² and form a chain over 820 km in length, spread over an area of around 90,000 sq km. With a total population of the Maldives is 324,992, it is the smallest Asian country in terms of area and population.

Almost all of the country's current power needs are met through diesel fired generation. The cumulative installed electricity capacity in Maldives was approximately 245 MW in 2012. Of this, 105 MW (43% of installed capacity) is located in resort islands which run their systems independent of state-owned utilities. The fuel has to be imported and transported to the dispersed generating locations, adding to the cost and difficulty of maintaining reliable power operations. As a result, the Maldives has among the highest cost of electricity generation in South Asia - 30-40 US\$ cents per kWh in the larger islands, and even higher in the remote small islands. Despite these challenges, access to electricity is universal in the Maldives, and the GoM is constitutionally obligated to ensure the provision of electricity to every inhabited island at a reasonable standard.

The 2010 National Energy Policy and Strategy are centered on creating an enabling environment for the growth of a reliable and sustainable energy sector. Thus, the GoM had been taking measures under this policy to address the issues faced within the sector.

One of the key policy statements includes the development and promotion of renewable energy use within the country. Thus, through the efforts of the GoM through the Ministry of Environment (ME), the Maldives became one of six pilot countries that participated in the Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP).

As a requirement of the SREP, an Investment Plan (IP) was prepared on how SREP resources, leveraged by co-financiers, would be used to support the scaling up of renewable energy (RE) development in the Maldives. The IP was developed by the Government of Maldives (GoM) under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment. The main objective of Maldives SREP IP is to transform the electricity sector and to develop renewable energies on a large scale.

The SREP IP estimated that just rooftop space of individual households and public buildings could meet as much as 30% of the electricity demand in some islands, and as much as 80% in some other islands. The SREP IP objective of scaling-up renewable energy in the Maldives supports socioeconomic development by generating new economic opportunities and widening access to sustainable, clean and reliable energy. Thus, it effectively contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development - benefiting the Maldives and its people as a whole.

The Accelerating Sustainable Private Investments in Renewable Energy (ASPIRE) Project hence had become one of the key projects under the SREP program that will contribute to the overall targets of SREP.

Currently, the Maldives has a cumulative installed PV based generation capacity of around 2 MW, spread across several islands and programs. The proposed ASPIRE Project will combine technical assistance with private sector investment, to scale-up the deployment of PV based generation on the islands. ASPIRE seeks to provision IDA and SREP resources to develop and implement an appropriate investment framework that will result in the deployment of PV systems through private sector investments during and after the ASPIRE implementation completion. The identified hurdles to private investments in the Maldives' energy sector include the paucity of experience with project finance, limited local familiarity with the technology, and little private sector exposure to the institutions in the sector.

To address these hurdles, the ASPIRE Project aims to develop the Maldives' potential for solar PV through private sector investments rolled out over the Project's implementation timeframe. This will be done through the use of an investment framework that has been developed and appraised taking into account government and institutional considerations and informed by feedback from potential private investors. In that regard, the Project has undertaken a significant market sounding exercise, and including an investor conference held on March 26, 2014 by the GoM.

The GoM is also a key beneficiary, since the Project would reduce the islands' financial exposure to oil price volatility, and generate savings by replacing higher cost, imported diesel fueled generation, with cleaner PV generation. The Project also reduces the need for public investment in the power sector, and helps reduce the operating and capital expenses of the state utility companies. Not only would this help GoM to achieve low carbon growth, but it would also free up resources to fund key social needs such as education and health.

Finally, the project would: (i) enable private sector investing in PV infrastructure development; and (ii) diversify the investment base in the country through developing a local market and expertise in renewable energy. This will benefit the private sector engaging in the renewable energy sector of Maldives.

In this regard, the promotion of renewable energy technology through a proper outreach mechanisms are very key in the successful implementation of the overall ASPIRE project.

B. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to support the procurement activities being undertaken for the ASPIRE project with the responsibility for ensuring compliance with the World Bank guidelines on procurement and the requirements of Strategic Climate Fund (SCF).

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Procurement Officer will undertake the procurement activities for the ASPIRE project being administered by the PMU. The Procurement Officer will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Work under the guidance of the Project Director / Project Manager in implementing all aspects of the project procurements managed by the PMU.
- Review project procurement plan for goods, works, and services managed by the PMU and update the Plan as and when needed (at least bi-annually).
- Preparation of invitation for bids, request for expressions of interest, bidding documents, request for proposals, evaluation reports, contracts, and other documents concerning procurement of goods, works, and consultants' services.
- Coordinate with the PMU technical staff to ensure that the appropriate technical inputs are incorporated into all of the procurement documents throughout the process.
- Closely monitor procurement activities in reference to the timeline and milestones laid out in the Procurement Plan as well as the procurement approval process of the Government and bring any slippage of activities immediately to the attention of the Procurement Specialist / Project Manager.
- Any other task assigned by the project management as may be necessary for the performance of the procurement duties for the projects.

D. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Consultant will report to the Project Director / Project Manager. On a day-to-day basis, s/he will work in close coordination with the PMU team.

E. KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum Master's Degree in procurement/ commerce/ finance/ business/ management/ law or related discipline. And;
Minimum three (3) years of work experience in procurement.
OR
- Minimum Bachelor's Degree in procurement/ commerce/ finance/ business/ management/ law or related discipline. And;
Minimum seven (7) years of work experience in procurement.
- Procurement related training will be an added advantage.
- Have at least two (2) years' experience in donor funded projects having responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area (use of internationally accepted contract documents for works, goods and services);
- Sound understanding of principles underlying good procurement practices and international agencies' procurement guidelines; understanding of Government's procurement Regulations/Act; analytical capability in identifying and resolving procurement issues is desirable;

- Knowledge and understanding of technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement of the World Bank financed project will be an added advantage.
- Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues. Ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multidisciplinary team.

In addition to the above the consultant's reputation of integrity and impartiality routed in independent from third parties shall be considered.

The successful candidate must understand the objectives, delivery mechanisms and time-frames that must be followed stringently in World Bank-supported projects. S/he must be willing and quick to learn/grasp World Bank Procurement Procedures and Guidelines. S/he must be willing to work in a team environment, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of actions.

Candidate must be willing to work for extended periods without direct supervision and may be expected to travel routinely to islands within the catchment.

F. SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

The duration of the assignment is initially for **06** months from the commencement of the consultancy with potential extension based on performance and need. The successful candidate must be available to commence the position in **June 2019**.

G. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The Client shall make available to the Consultant Office space and other facilities such as computers at the ME. Local transport for official travel between Male', inter-Atolls and inter-islands and food and accommodations for the trips will be provided from the project.