

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare
Male', Republic of Maldives



Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare

Expression of Interest

(by the consulting firm in response to the REOI
issued by the procuring entity)

for

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for
Agriculture

Ref No: MAP/CS/2024/002

Submission date: 03rd September 2024

Foreword

This document has been prepared by Project Implementation Unit of Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare, and is based on the 1st edition of the IFAD-issued standard procurement document for expression of interest available at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. This bidding document is to be used for the procurement of services using Quality Cost Based Selection in projects financed by IFAD.

IFAD does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or translation, if applicable, or any other aspect in connection with the content of this document.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations².

5. All consultants are required to comply with the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations (hereinafter, “IFAD’s Anticorruption Policy”) in competing for, or in executing, the contract.
 - a. If determined that a consultant or any of its personnel or agents, or its sub-consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers, sub-suppliers and/or any of their personnel or agents, has, directly or indirectly, engaged in any of the prohibited practices defined in IFAD’s Anticorruption Policy or integrity violations such as sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse as established in IFAD’s Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse³ in competing for, or in executing, the contract, the EOI may be rejected or the contract may be terminated by the client.
 - b. In accordance with IFAD’s Anticorruption Policy, the Fund has the right to sanction firms and individuals, including by declaring them ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to participate in any IFAD-financed and/or IFAD-managed activity or operation. The Fund also has the right to recognize debarments issued by other international financial institutions in accordance with its Anticorruption Policy.
 - c. Consultants and any of their personnel and agents, and their sub-consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers, sub-suppliers and any of their personnel and agents are required to fully cooperate with any investigation conducted by the Fund, including by making personnel available for interviews and by providing full access to any and all accounts, premises, documents and records (including electronic records) relating to this selection process or the execution of the contract and to have such accounts, premises, records and documents audited and/or inspected by auditors and/or investigators appointed by the Fund.
 - d. Consultants have the ongoing obligation to disclose in their EOI and later in writing as may become relevant: (i) any administrative sanctions, criminal convictions or temporary suspensions of themselves or any of their key personnel or agents for fraud and corruption, and (ii) any commissions or fees paid or to be paid to agents or other parties in connection with this selection process or the execution of the contract. As a minimum, consultants must disclose the name and contact details of the agent or other party and the

² The policy is accessible at www.ifad.org/anticorruption_policy.

³ The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/40738506>.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

reason, amount and currency of the commission or fee paid or to be paid. Failure to comply with these disclosure obligations may lead to rejection of the EOI or termination of the contract.

- e. Consultants are required to keep all records and documents, including electronic records, relating to this selection process available for a minimum of three (3) years after notification of completion of the process or, in case the consultant is awarded the contract, execution of the contract.
6. The Fund requires that all beneficiaries of IFAD funding or funds administered by IFAD, including the client, any consultants, implementing partners, service providers and suppliers, observe the highest standards of integrity during the procurement and execution of such contracts, and commit to combat money laundering and terrorism financing consistent with IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy.⁴
7. **Procedure:** the selection process will be conducted using Quality Cost Based Selection as laid out in the IFAD Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The client will evaluate the EOIs using the criteria provided in **Annex 3**. The shortlisted consultant(s) will be provided with the detailed TORs and asked to submit a detailed technical and financial offer. The evaluation will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
8. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
9. Any request for clarification on this EOI including the PTOR should be sent via e-mail to the address below no later than 29th August 2024, 10:00hrs (GMT+5). The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 31st August 2024, 15:00hrs (GMT+5).
10. **Submission Procedure:** please submit your expression of interest using the forms provided for this purpose. Your EOI should comprise one (1) original copy of each EOI form annexed to this document. EOIs shall be submitted to the address below no later than 03rd September 2024, 14:00hrs (GMT+5).

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Project Implementation Unit

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare

Attn: Shazin Mukhthar Rushdhy / Procurement Specialist

5th Floor, M. Hazaarumaage, Fareedhee Magu,

Male', Republic of Maldives

⁴ The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41942012>.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

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Yours sincerely,



Shafana Rasheed

Project Director

Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare

Form EOI-1
EOI Submission Form

[Location, date]

[Authorized official]

**Re: Consultancy for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for
Agriculture**

Ref: MAP/CS/2024/002

We, the undersigned, declare that:

1. We are expressing our interest in providing the consulting services for the above-mentioned assignment and have no reservations to the REOI, the instructions to the consultants and any addenda thereto.
2. Our expression of interest is open for acceptance for a period of ninety (90) days.
3. Our firm, its associates, including any subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract, have not been declared ineligible by the Fund and have not been subject to sanctions or debarments under the laws or official regulations of the client's country or not been subject to a debarment recognized under the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions (the "Cross-Debarment Agreement")⁵, beyond those declared in paragraph 9 of this EOI submission form.
4. We acknowledge and accept the IFAD Revised Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations. We certify that neither our firm nor any person acting for us or on our behalf has engaged in any prohibited practices as provided in ITC Clause 6. Further, we acknowledge and understand our obligation to report to anticorruption@ifad.org any allegation of prohibited practice that comes to our attention during the selection process or the contract execution.
5. No attempt has been made or will be made by us to induce any other consultant to submit or not to submit an EOI for the purpose of restricting competition.
6. We acknowledge and accept the IFAD Policy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. We certify that neither our firm nor any person acting for us or on our behalf has engaged in any sexual harassment, sexual exploitation or abuse. Further, we acknowledge and understand our obligation to report to ethicsoffice@ifad.org any allegation of

⁵ The Cross-Debarment Agreement was entered into by the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, additional information may be located at: <http://crossdebarment.org/>.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse that comes to our attention during the selection process or the contract execution.

- 7. The following commissions, gratuities, or fees have been paid or are to be paid with respect to the selection process: *[Insert complete name of each recipient, its full address, the reason for which each commission or gratuity was paid and the amount and currency of each such commission or gratuity.]*

Name of Recipient	Address	Reason	Amount	Currency

(If none has been paid or is to be paid, indicate “none.”)

- 8. We declare that neither our consulting firm nor any of its directors, partners, proprietors, key personnel, agents, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, consortium and joint venture partners have any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest as defined in ITC Clause 5 regarding this selection process or the execution of the contract. *[insert if needed: “other than the following:” and provide a detailed account of the actual, potential or perceived conflict].* We understand that we have an ongoing disclosure obligation on such actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and shall promptly inform the client and the Fund, should any such actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest arise at any stage of the procurement process or contract execution.
- 9. The following criminal convictions, administrative sanctions (including debarments) and/or temporary suspensions have been imposed on our consulting firm and/or any of its directors, partners, proprietors, key personnel, agents, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, consortium and joint venture partners:

Nature of the measure (i.e., criminal conviction, administrative sanction or	Imposed by	Name of party convicted, sanctioned or suspended (and relationship to	Grounds for the measure (i.e., fraud in procurement or corruption in contract execution)	Date and time (duration) of measure

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

temporary suspension)		the consultant)		

If no criminal convictions, administrative sanctions or temporary suspensions have been imposed, indicate “none”.

- 10. We acknowledge and understand that we shall promptly inform the client about any material change regarding the information provided in this EOI submission form.
- 11. We further understand that the failure to properly disclose any of information in connection with this EOI submission form may lead to appropriate actions, including our disqualification as consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.
- 12. We understand that you are not bound to accept any EOI that you may receive.

[Authorized signatory]

[Name and title of signatory]

[Name and address of firm]

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

(details in the following format to be provided for all associates) – (i) Name of the company (ii) Nature of business (iii) Address of the company (iv) Website of the company (v) Brief description of company (maximum of 120 words)	
Any other information that the consultant would like to add:	

Maximum 10 pages

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

Description of actual services provided by your staff within the assignment:

Name of Firm: _____

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

of water extraction related to the level of recharge, vertical upheaval of saltwater and horizontal intrusion for project island not having such information

3. Background on project

The Government of Maldives (GoM) through MoAAW is jointly implementing the Maldives Agribusiness Programme (MAP) with financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The PIU set-up within the MoAAW Implements MAP in accordance with the guidelines provided by the project design report, project implementation manual of MAP, and with the guidance of the project steering committee and IFAD supervision missions.

The main aim of MAP is to enable small farmers in the Program area to sustainably enhance their production levels, increase income, secure food and nutrition for their household demands and deliver produce to connected markets.

MAP will be implemented nationwide, covering all regional and sub-regional hubs, clusters and islands, where agriculture is undertaken by small farmers. The main hubs for Programme activities are in region 1-3 including Haa Alif Hoarafushi for region 1. Haa Dhaalu Vaikaradhoo for region 2, and Shaviyani Milandhoo for region 3. Each of these hubs will serve eight (8), nine (9) and nine (9) inhabited agriculture islands respectively.

4. Background of the assignment

Groundwater, alongside rainfall, constitutes one of the primary sources of freshwater in the Maldives. It is distributed beneath each island in what hydrologists refer to as lenses—curved layers of freshwater floating atop denser saltwater. However, these groundwater reservoirs face multifaceted threats, including erratic future rainfall patterns, population growth, escalating pumping demands, rising sea levels, and contamination from surface pollutants. In addition, increasing temperatures exacerbate evaporation rates, diminishing the volume of rainwater available for infiltration into aquifers.

The extraction rate from aquifers has surged significantly, in areas where aquifers are shallow, such as along the island ridges. This escalating demand strains water sources, heightening the risk of saline water intrusion, imperiling agricultural lands. The intensifying requirements of agriculture necessitate meticulous planning to ensure sustainable water resource management.

The MAP initiative is committed to conserving and sustainably managing natural resources while promoting climate resilient agriculture farming practices. The project currently has established 12 demo sites of Green Houses (by introducing climate smart technologies like drip irrigation, hydroponics etc.) as an alternative to open area farming. The number of Green Houses is expected to increase in all the intended project sites during the adoption phase, while also escalating the demand for water. Hence, the program emphasizes the importance of evaluating water lens status and formulating comprehensive water and land use plans to pinpoint suitable intervention areas.

To this end, delineated responsibilities entail engaging a proficient firm to conduct water and land use assessments and develop a comprehensive water management plan along with a framework for continuous monitoring. This plan aims to provide guidance to MAP

and pertinent governmental initiatives in identifying optimal sites and activities for sustainable groundwater utilization. By fostering the development of a Water Lens Plan, communities can bolster their capacity to harness natural resources sustainably, thereby safeguarding livelihoods and fostering biodiversity conservation.

5. Overall objective

The overarching aim of this study is to evaluate the status and availability of groundwater and land use trends/ patterns across 14 islands in the Northern Atolls (HA, HDh, and Sh); and formulate a comprehensive water and land use plan geared towards enhancing sustainable agricultural practices.

6. Objectives of the assignment

The main objectives of this assignment are to develop comprehensive Water and Land Use plan for 14 (refer Annex 2 of EOI document) islands, in close coordination and collaboration with technical team of MOAAW while assessing the current status of groundwater and prevailing land use practices.

7. Methodology

It is expected that the study will utilize both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary data to be gathered through interactions with households, communities, stakeholders, and government line agencies. Additionally, results from water level testing also be assessed. Secondary data to be obtained from existing land use plans and related documents. Some key considerations and expectations while conducting the study are given in the expected deliverables of work.

8. Scope and limitation of work

- 8.1. Review available data on previous groundwater assessment reports
Site visits to 14 islands for proper understanding of the site, its boundary, and other features that would have planning implications. The service provider shall carry out thorough data collection and do their own analysis of the area.
- 8.2. Undertake baseline assessment of geological, hydrological (physiochemical, microbiological, geo-physical) and land-use information. The survey shall be conducted such that the whole island will be covered and a detailed overview of the ground water quality and quantity of each island can be obtained. Minimum requirements hydrological studies are as follows:
 - Physiochemical: The following parameter shall take for each island: pH, Dissolved, Oxygen, Electrical Conductivity, Turbidity, Temperature, Salinity, Ammonia, Nitrate, Phosphate.
 - Microbiological: The following parameters shall be taken for each island: total coliform and fecal coliform.
 - Geophysical GW survey: including electrical resistivity Instrument (ER) and Ground conductivity (using equipment like EM31-MK2)
 - Undertake UAV mapping of islands using real-time kinematic accuracy with ground points. Supplement the UAV with topographic map and important geographical parameters (including, but not limited to shoreline and vegetation line).

- Design and conduct a social survey to quantify groundwater usage in household, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and other economic activities existing on the islands.
 - Social survey to collect supporting information regarding flooding depths, frequency and causes
 - Sufficient samples to establish soil permeability.
 - Conduct well yield test at strategic locations at the islands.
 - Steady state pumping tests
- 8.3. Assess the present impacts on the freshwater lens and quality of other water sources
- 8.4. Estimate rates of groundwater recharge and discharge.
- 8.5. Determine flood prone zones of the islands
- 8.6. Assess the present impacts on the freshwater lens and quality of other water sources
- 8.7. Determine sustainable groundwater yield for each island.
- 8.8. Using GIS and CAD delineate areas where water cannot be extracted
- 8.9. Provide recommendation if infiltration galleries are need on island both for better infiltration and minimizing flood water.
- 8.10. Determine islands with similar configuration with use of appropriated statistical analysis extrapolation of finding.

9. Expected Deliverables

- 9.1. The deliverables shall include;
- 9.1.1. Draft report for review and inputs: Analyze all collected data and present the first findings to the PIU team for discussion and identification of gaps. If needed collect additional data for finalization of the analysis
 - 9.1.2. Final report: The report will contain clear recommendations on monthly safe levels of water extraction across the year, extrapolation of data for use in similar islands, map showing areas where water can and cannot be extracted and the need for infiltration galleries. Including a framework for regular and continuous monitoring.
- 9.2. Soft copies of high-quality GIS maps: Prepare all necessary drawing, scheme and map for the islands which will designate land areas for distinct uses based on the analysis so as to sustainably use the natural resources to secure their livelihoods while promoting biodiversity conservation.
- 9.3. Data sets generated from the study, and
- 9.4. Presentation of results to MAP and government agencies, and in related forum as needed
- 9.5. Conduct water level testing in potential sites in close coordination with Island Councils (follow a random sampling approach in identifying islands and sites)

- 9.6. Evaluate the trends and potential scenarios of groundwater utilization, accounting for climate change impacts and heightened demand stemming from population growth and intensified agricultural activities.
 - 9.7. Develop GIS maps delineating the current status, trends, and potential scenarios of groundwater resources.
 - 9.8. Determine monthly safe extraction levels throughout the year from the given water lens, extrapolate data for application on similar islands, and produce maps delineating areas suitable and unsuitable for water extraction, highlighting the necessity for infiltration galleries.
 - 9.9. Contribute to identification of potential risks (including potential reluctance and resistance among beneficiaries) and devise corresponding mitigation measures.
 - 9.10. Prepare a comprehensive and actionable water and land use plan grounded in scientific analysis and participatory input, supplemented by field verification.
 - 9.11. Present the study findings to the MAP, government agencies, and stakeholders.
 - 9.12. Engage in consultations with smallholder farmers, government line agencies, and non-governmental organizations involved in water and land use to gather insights into existing issues and potential solutions.
 - 9.13. Develop a framework for regular and continuous monitoring.
 - 9.14. Ensure participatory consultation processes throughout the study to incorporate diverse perspectives and promote stakeholder engagement.
- 9.10. Water and Land use must be planned for 14 islands with the focus on conservation of soil, water, and other land resources and new technology of land use.
- 9.11. The consultancy service should include:
- 9.11.1. Assessment and documentation of current water and land use practices within the 14 islands and their relative significance:
 - This will be done in a process involving meetings with island council members, Agriculture Division members meetings, and field visits etc.;
 - Assess the current water and land use plans of the islands.
- 9.12. Conduct water level testing at potential sites in close coordination with Island Councils, employing a random sampling approach to identify islands and sites.
- 9.11.2. Identify and document sustainable water and land use practices that promote:
 - Sustainable use of water resources
 - Achieve effective operational efficiencies and cost effectiveness

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

- Create a suitable environment that supports range of agricultural research, demonstration and extension methodologies
- Anticipate the trend of local demand, emerging technologies and evolving agriculture practices and research methodologies
- Island livelihoods and cultural heritage;
- Biodiversity conservation;
- Reduced land use conflicts;
- Climate change adaptation strategies;
- Sustainable agriculture;

10. Reports and schedule of deliverables

SN	Activities	Month I				Month II				Month III			
		w1	w2	w3	w4	w1	w2	w3	w4	w1	w2	w3	w4
1	Inception report	█											
2	Literature review	█	█	█	█	█							
3	Finalize survey instrument		█										
4	Data collection			█	█	█							
5	Community consultation			█	█	█							
6	Data analysis					█	█	█					
7	Report writing						█	█	█				
8	First draft report										█		
9	Second draft report											█	
10	Finding presentation												█
11	Final report												█
12	Report sharing												█

10.1. Inception report with process guide (detailed Methodology) and plan template and clear timelines.

10.2. Finalization and agreeing list of stakeholders and primary research tools.

10.3. Questionnaire for need assessment and FGDs

10.4. Community and stakeholder engagement report

10.5. Draft water lens and land use plan and incorporating all comments and recommendations from PIU, and MoAAW. The report should include:

- 10.5.1 Groundwater survey using restrictive electrical resistivity instrument and ground conductivity.
 - 10.5.2 UAV mapping of islands using real-time kinematic accuracy with ground points. Supplement the UAV with topographic map and geographical parameters.
 - 10.5.3 Sufficient samples to establish soil permeability and generate reports
 - 10.5.4 Conduct well yield test at strategic locations at the islands.
 - 10.5.5 Under social survey if not available to quantify water use for HOUSEHOLD, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and other economic activities existing on the islands. Also establish if the island expires flooding, if flooding how deep, how often and cause to the flooding. Establish potential flood zones of the island
 - 10.5.6 Estimate rate of lens water discharge and recharge on a monthly basis across the year.
 - 10.5.7 GIS and CAD delineate areas where water cannot be extracted
 - 10.5.8 Provide recommendation if infiltration galleries are need on island both for better infiltration and minimizing flood water.
 - 10.5.9 statistical analysis extrapolation of finding between islands with similar configuration will be determined
- 10.6. Final water lens and land use plan including all drawings, recommendations, and maps

11. Consultant's qualifications and experience

Key expert 1: Team leader

Qualifications, skills and Experience

- Master's Degree in the field of Agriculture Extension/ Agronomy, water and land-use Planning/ land use management Regional Planning, Environmental Planning, or similar field.
- At least 10 years of relevant professional work experience in Land use planning and Environment;
- Demonstrated evidence of the ability to develop GIS based Land Use Plans

Specific professional experience

- Demonstrated ability to work in partnerships with state agencies, manage and coordinate the work process
- The consultant shall have excellent planning, analytical, report writing and communication skills, and excellent knowledge of English and Divehi

Key expert 4: Socio-Economist

Qualifications, skills and Experience

- Postgraduate degree in economics, finance, statistic or similar field
- Professional experience of at least 5 years

Specific professional experience

- Experience in financial and economic analyses, data analyses and experience on data collection
- Experience in conducting training and organizing workshops, stakeholder dialogue
- Good understanding of international policies and agreements related to sustainable land management
- Preferable Experience on Agriculture Extension

Key expert 5 and 6: Two Land Surveyor

Qualifications, skills and Experience

- Postgraduate degree in Engineering, Geodesy or Survey
- Professional experience of at least 5 years

Specific professional experience

- Experience in conducting land survey
- Good understanding of international policies and agreements related to sustainable land management
- Preferable Experience in conducting training and organizing workshops, stakeholder dialogue
- Preferable Experience on Agriculture Extension

12. Location and period of execution

12.1. Study will be conducted for the selected demo islands stated in Annex 2 of the Expression of Interest (EOI) document.

12.2. Expected duration of this assignment is up to 90 working days after signing the contract and conducting an inspection workshop

13. Project coordination

13.1. Consultant shall operate under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Director, with technical guidance and support from the Chief Technical Advisor of the project, operational support and direct supervision from the PIU, technical guidance from IFAD, in close collaboration with MoAAW and in consultation with the relevant national stakeholders.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

14. Services and facilities to be provided by client

- 14.1. Full cooperation in facilitating the Services
- 14.2. Assistance in provision of any letters or other documents required for obtaining Visa and/or Work Permits necessary for expatriate members of the Consultancy Team.
- 14.3. Available relevant data and information requested by the Consultant regarding existing infrastructure at the Works site deemed to be useful for planning and carrying out the Services.

Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Developing Sustainable Land Use Plan for Agriculture (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/002)

ANNEX 2

#	Name
1	HA. Uligan
2	HA. Kelaa
3	HA. Filladhoo
4	HDh. Neykurendhoo
5	Sh. Goidhoo
6	Sh. Foakaidhoo
7	Sh. Narudhoo
8	HDh. Makunudhoo
9	HDh. Kumundhoo
10	Sh. Kanditheemu
11	Sh. Bilehfahi
12	HA. Hoarafushi
13	HDh. Nolvivaramfaru
14	Sh. Feydhoo

ANNEX 3
SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

Item	Criteria	Points
A.	General Experience	Max 40
i	<i>Firm has been active for the years 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023</i>	20
ii	<i>Team of experts with experience in Conducting Environment Assessments</i>	20
B.	Specific Experience	Max 60
i	<i>Experience in Conducting Survey on ground water</i>	20
ii	<i>Experience in community & Stakeholder engagements</i>	20
iii	<i>Experience in GIS mapping</i>	10
iv	<i>Experience in undertaking land use plans</i>	10
	Total Points	100
	Minimum score of 70% is required to qualify for the RFP	