Supply of Consultancy Services

Request for Proposals (RfP)
OECM Legal and Policy Framework Review across CTI countries (Re-launch)

IUCN HQ, Protected and Conserved Areas Team
RfP Reference: IUCN-26-01-P03771-1
(Re-launch of RfP-IUCN-25-12-P03771-1)

Welcome to this Procurement by IUCN. You are hereby invited to submit a Proposal. Please read the information and instructions carefully because non-compliance with the instructions may result in disqualification of your Proposal from this Procurement.

1. REQUIREMENTS

1.1. A detailed description of the services and/or goods to be provided can be found in Attachment 1.

2. CONTACT DETAILS

2.1. During the course of this procurement, i.e. from the publication of this RfP to the award of a contract, you may not discuss this procurement with any IUCN employee or representative other than the following contact. You must address all correspondence and questions to the contact, including your Proposal.

> IUCN Contact: Siska Sihombing, Senior Programme Development Officer - IUCN Green List, Siska.SIHOMBING@iucn.org

3. PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE

3.1. This timetable is indicative and may be changed by IUCN at any time. If IUCN decides that changes to any of the deadlines are necessary, we will publish this on our website and contact you directly if you have indicated your interest in this procurement (see Section 3.2).

DATE	ACTIVITY
16 January 2025	Publication of the Request for Proposals
24 January 2026	Expression of Interest
15 February 2026	Deadline for submission of Proposals to IUCN ("**Submission Deadline**")
20 February 2026	Planned date for contract award
02 March 2026	Expected contract start date

3.2. Please email the IUCN contact to express your interest in submitting a Proposal by the deadline stated above. This will help IUCN to keep you updated regarding the procurement.

4. COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

4.1. Your Proposal must consist of the following four separate documents:

- Signed Declaration of Undertaking (see Attachment 2)

- Pre-Qualification Information (see Section 4.3 below)

- Technical Proposal (see Section 4.4 below)

- Financial Proposal (see Section 4.5 below)

Proposals must be prepared in English.

4.2. Your Proposal must be submitted by email to the IUCN Contact (see Section 2). The subject heading of the email shall be [RfP Reference – bidder name]. The bidder name is the name of the company/organisation on whose behalf you are submitting the Proposal, or your own surname if you are bidding as a self-employed consultant. Your Proposal must be submitted in PDF format. You may submit multiple emails suitably annotated, e.g. Email 1 of 3, if attached files are too large to suit a single email transmission. You may not submit your Proposal by uploading it to a file-sharing tool.

IMPORTANT: Submitted documents must be password-protected so that they cannot be opened and read before the submission deadline. Please use the same password for all submitted documents. After the deadline has passed and within 12 hours, please send the password to the IUCN Contact. This will ensure a secure bid submission and opening process. Please DO NOT email the password before the deadline for Proposal submission.

4.3. *Pre-Qualification Criteria*

IUCN will use the following Pre-Qualification Criteria to determine whether you have the capacity to provide the required goods and/or services to IUCN. Please provide the necessary information in a single, separate document.

	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	3 relevant references of clients similar to IUCN / similar work
2	Confirm that you have all the necessary legal registrations to perform the work
3	State your annual turnover for each of the past 3 years
4	How many employees does your organisation have who are qualified for this work?

4.4. *Technical Proposal*

The Technical Proposal must address each of the criteria stated below explicitly and separately, quoting the relevant criteria reference number (left-hand column).

Proposals in any other format will significantly increase the time it takes to evaluate, and such Proposals may therefore be rejected at IUCN's discretion.

Where CVs are requested, these must be of the individuals who will actually carry out the work specified. The individuals you put forward may only be substituted with IUCN's approval.

IUCN will evaluate Technical Proposals with regards to each of the following criteria and their relative importance:

	Description	Information to provide	Relative weight
1	Technical understanding and approach	Detailed and context-specific methodological approach demonstrating understanding of OECM concepts, CBD Decision 14/8, IUCN–WCPA guidance. Clear explanation of how the Coral Triangle (CT6) governance will inform data collection, analysis, and synthesis.	30%
2	Institutional and regional experience in the Coral Triangle / SE Asia–Pacific	Demonstrated track record of the individual/firm or consortium in marine conservation, spatial and policy analysis, and OECM or MPA-related	20%

		initiatives within the Coral Triangle or comparable island/coastal systems in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Include references to completed or ongoing work in CT6 countries or similar geographies.	
3	Expertise and regional familiarity of proposed personnel	Qualifications, roles, and relevant experience of key experts, especially those with proven knowledge of biocultural governance systems, customary marine tenure, and conservation planning. Include CVs evidencing prior work or partnerships with governments, regional bodies or local institutions, in both regions.	15%
4	Capacity for legal and policy framework analysis	Demonstrated experience in reviewing and interpreting national and subnational conservation legislation and policy frameworks across CT6 or similar multi-jurisdictional contexts; ability to assess compatibility between customary tenure and formal conservation law.	15%
5	Work plan, deliverables, and timeline	Feasible and coherent work plan aligned with ToR deliverables (Inception, Legal Review, Geospatial Package, Final Synthesis). Clear sequencing and time allocation reflecting regional coordination needs and data availability.	10%
6	Quality assurance, coordination, and stakeholder engagement	Proposed mechanisms for quality control, harmonization of spatial and narrative outputs, and coordination with IUCN. Description of engagement approach with CTI-CFF Secretariat, CT national representatives, and regional/national experts to ensure culturally and institutionally appropriate outputs.	10%
	TOTAL		100%

4.5. *Financial Proposal*

4.5.1. The Financial Proposal must be a fixed and firm price for the provision of the goods/services stated in the RfP in their entirety.

4.5.2. *Prices include all costs*

Submitted rates and prices are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes (except VAT, see below), fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Terms of Reference or Specification of Requirements. IUCN will not accept charges beyond those clearly stated in the Financial Proposal. This includes applicable withholding taxes and similar. It is your responsibility to determine whether such taxes apply to your organisation and to include them in your Financial Proposal.

4.5.3. *Applicable Goods and Services Taxes*

Proposal rates and prices shall be exclusive of Value Added Tax.

4.5.4. *Currency of proposed rates and prices*

All rates and prices submitted by Proposers shall be in EUR.

4.6. Additional information not requested by IUCN should not be included in your Proposal and will not be considered in the evaluation.

4.7.   Your Proposal must remain valid and capable of acceptance by IUCN for a period of 90 calendar days following the submission deadline.

4.8.   *Withdrawals and Changes*

You may freely withdraw or change your Proposal at any time prior to the submission deadline by written notice to the IUCN Contact. However, in order to reduce the risk of fraud, no changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the submission deadline.

5.   EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

5.1.   *Completeness*

IUCN will firstly check your Proposal for completeness. Incomplete Proposals will not be considered further.

5.2.   *Pre-Qualification Criteria*

Only Proposals that meet all of the pre-qualification criteria will be evaluated.

5.3.   *Technical Evaluation*

5.3.1.   *Scoring Method*

Your Proposal will be assigned a score from 0 to 10 for each of the technical evaluation criteria, such that '0' is low and '10' is high.

5.3.2.   *Minimum Quality Thresholds*

Proposals that receive a score of '0' for any of the criteria will not be considered further.

5.3.3.   *Technical Score*

Your score for each technical evaluation criterion will be multiplied with the respective relative weight (see Section 4.4) and these weighted scores added together to give your Proposal's overall technical score.

5.4.   *Financial Evaluation and Financial Scores*

The financial evaluation will be based upon the full total price you submit. Your Financial Proposal will receive a score calculated by dividing the lowest Financial Proposal that has passed the minimum quality thresholds (see Section 5.3.2) by the total price of your Financial Proposal.

Thus, for example, if your Financial Proposal is for a total of CHF 100 and the lowest Financial Proposal is CHF 80, you will receive a financial score of 80/100 = 80%

5.5.   *Total Score*

Your Proposal's total score will be calculated as the weighted sum of your technical score and your financial score.

The relative weights will be:

Technical:	**80%**
Financial:	**20%**

Thus, for example, if your technical score is 83% and your financial score is 77%, you will receive a total score of 83 * 70% + 77 * 30% = 58.1% + 23.1% = 81.2%.

Subject to the requirements in Sections 4 and 7, IUCN will award the contract to the bidder whose Proposal achieves the highest total score.

6. EXPLANATION OF PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

6.1. IUCN is using the Open Procedure for this procurement. This means that the contracting opportunity is published on IUCN's website and open to all interested parties to take part, subject to the conditions in Section 7 below.

6.2. You are welcome to ask questions or seek clarification regarding this procurement. Please email the IUCN Contact (see Section 2), taking note of the deadline for submission of questions in Section 3.1.

6.3. All Proposals must be received by the submission deadline in Section 3.1 above. Late Proposals will not be considered. All Proposals received by the submission deadline will be evaluated by a team of evaluators in accordance with the evaluation criteria stated in this RfP. No other criteria will be used to evaluate Proposals. The contract will be awarded to the bidder whose Proposal received the highest Total Score. IUCN does, however, reserve the right to cancel the procurement and not award a contract at all.

6.4. IUCN will contact the bidder with the highest-scoring Proposal to finalise the contract. We will contact unsuccessful bidders after the contract has been awarded and provide detailed feedback. The timetable in Section 3.1 gives an estimate of when we expect to have completed the contract award, but this date may change depending on how long the evaluation of Proposals takes.

7. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCUREMENT

7.1. To participate in this procurement, you are required to submit a Proposal, which fully complies with the instructions in this RfP and the Attachments.

   7.1.1. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have submitted a complete and fully compliant Proposal.

   7.1.2. Any incomplete or incorrectly completed Proposal submission may be deemed non-compliant, and as a result you may be unable to proceed further in the procurement process.

   7.1.3. IUCN will query any obvious clerical errors in your Proposal and may, at IUCN's sole discretion, allow you to correct these, but only if doing so could not be perceived as giving you an unfair advantage.

7.2. In order to participate in this procurement, you must meet the following conditions:

   - Free of conflicts of interest
   - Registered on the relevant professional or trade register of the country in which you are established (or resident, if self-employed)
   - In full compliance with your obligations relating to payment of social security contributions and of all applicable taxes
   - Not been convicted of failing to comply with environmental regulatory requirements or other legal requirements relating to sustainability and environmental protection
   - Not bankrupt or being wound up
   - Never been guilty of an offence concerning your professional conduct
   - Not involved in fraud, corruption, a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism, or any other illegal activity.

7.3. You must complete and sign the Declaration of Undertaking (see Attachment 2).

7.4. If you are participating in this procurement as a member of a joint venture, or are using sub-contractors, submit a separate Declaration of Undertaking for each member of the joint venture and sub-contractor, and be clear in your Proposal which parts of the goods/services are provided by each partner or sub-contractor.

7.5. Each bidder shall submit only one Proposal, either individually or as a partner in a joint venture. In case of joint venture, one company shall not be allowed to participate in two different joint

ventures in the same procurement nor shall a company be allowed to submit a Proposal both on its behalf and as part of a joint venture for the same procurement. A bidder who submits or participates in more than one Proposal (other than as a subcontractor or in cases of alternatives that have been permitted or requested) shall cause all the Proposals with the bidder's participation to be disqualified.

7.6. By taking part in this procurement, you accept the conditions set out in this RfP, including the following:

- It is unacceptable to give or offer any gift or consideration to an employee or other representative of IUCN as a reward or inducement in relation to the awarding of a contract. Such action will give IUCN the right to exclude you from this and any future procurements, and to terminate any contract that may have been signed with you.

- Any attempt to obtain information from an employee or other representative of IUCN concerning another bidder will result in disqualification.

- Any price fixing or collusion with other bidders in relation to this procurement shall give IUCN the right to exclude you and any other involved bidder(s) from this and any future procurements and may constitute a criminal offence.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

8.1. IUCN follows the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The information you submit to IUCN as part of this procurement will be treated as confidential and shared only as required to evaluate your Proposal in line with the procedure explained in this RfP, and for the maintenance of a clear audit trail. For audit purposes, IUCN is required to retain your Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after then end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.

8.2. In the Declaration of Undertaking (Attachment 2) you need to give IUCN express permission to use the information you submit in this way, including personal data that forms part of your Proposal. Where you include personal data of your employees (e.g. CVs) in your Proposal, you need to have written permission from those individuals to share this information with IUCN, and for IUCN to use this information as indicated in 8.1. Without these permissions, IUCN will not be able to consider your Proposal.

9. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If you have a complaint or concern regarding the propriety of how a competitive process is or has been executed, then please contact procurement@iucn.org. Such complaints or concerns will be treated as confidential and are not considered in breach of the above restrictions on communication (Section 2.1).

10. CONTRACT

The contract will be based on IUCN's template in Attachment 3, the terms of which are not negotiable. They may, however, be amended by IUCN to reflect particular requirements from the donor funding this particular procurement.

11. ABOUT IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 1,000 staff with offices in more than 50 countries.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations

and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org
https://twitter.com/IUCN/

12.　ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1　*Specification of Requirements / Terms of Reference*

Attachment 2　*Declaration of Undertaking (select* 2a for companies *or* 2b for self-employed *as applicable to you)*

Attachment 3　*Contract Template*

Terms of Reference for IUCN Consultancy

Title: OECM Legal and Policy Framework Review across CTI countries (Re-launch)

Objective of the Consultancy

This consultancy to conduct OECM desktop reviews in the Sulu-Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda, and Bismarck-Solomon Seascapes, including a review of legal and policy frameworks relevant to OECM identification and recognition across the six CTI countries has the following objective(s):

1. Develop a harmonized methodological framework and data architecture for identifying potential marine OECMs in the Coral Triangle.
2. Ensure alignment of all work with CBD Decision 14/8, IUCN-WCPA Guidance on OECMs, and SOMACORE requirements. The consultancy will also ensure alignment with lessons and case studies from other IUCN regions to support global OECM knowledge integration while delivering CT-focused outputs
3. Consolidate outputs from the three seascapes into a unified regional geodatabase and synthesis report.
4. Conduct a comprehensive review and comparative analysis of legal and policy frameworks relevant to OECM identification and recognition across the six CTI countries.
5. Provide a regional synthesis and actionable recommendations for CT6 countries, elaborated in Section 3.

Background

Project Reference: P03771

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About the Project

The SOMACORE (Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle) project is a multi-country initiative designed to strengthen the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them across the six Coral Triangle countries, funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) and led by GIZ and its Implementing Partners. The project enhances the governance, effectiveness, and sustainability of marine and coastal protected and conserved areas, including MPAs, LMMAs, MMAs, and OECMs, while scaling proven local solutions to the seascape, national, and regional levels. Within this framework, IUCN plays a central role by applying its global standards, knowledge products, and extensive networks to elevate conservation practice and policy in the region. IUCN leads the establishment of a regional programme to adopt and institutionalize the IUCN Green List Standard, training national experts, forming Expert Assessment Groups for the Green List, and guiding at least 12 MPAs through diagnostic assessments and evaluation toward improved equity, governance, and effectiveness. IUCN also strengthens marine OECM understanding and implementation, supports CT6 data management through the CT Atlas, and identifies sustainable financing options including outcomes-based mechanisms linked to the Green List. In parallel, IUCN drives knowledge exchange and visibility through PANORAMA Solutions, documenting and disseminating case studies across multiple languages, showcasing CT6 leadership at regional and global events, and generating policy recommendations that connect seascape-level practices to international biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development agendas. Through its combined technical leadership, regional coordination, and global outreach, IUCN ensures that successful models from the Coral Triangle are scaled, recognized, and embedded in long-term conservation frameworks, thereby supporting CTI-CFF's RPOA 2.0 and strengthening ecosystem and community resilience across the region.

The present consultancy is implemented by IUCN Global Protected and Conserved Areas, IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO) and IUCN Oceania Regional Office.

About This Assignment

Marine OECMs have emerged as an important complement to formal marine protected areas in the Coral Triangle, where diverse customary, community-led, and co-managed marine governance systems have long contributed to biodiversity conservation, often without formal designation. Across the CT6 countries, Indigenous and local communities manage coastal zones, regulate fishing grounds, enforce
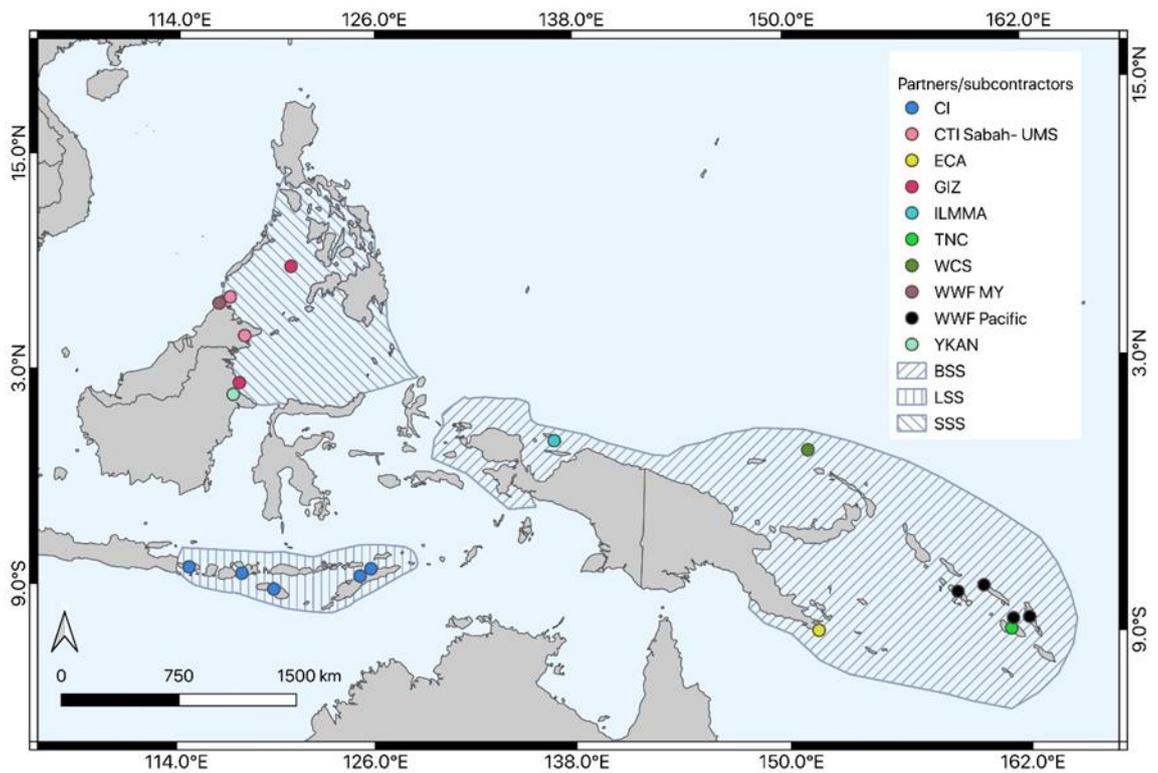
traditional closures, and maintain sacred or customary marine areas that deliver effective in-situ conservation outcomes aligned with global OECM criteria. As the Coral Triangle countries work toward GBF Target 3 and the ambitions of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2.0, interest in recognizing and strengthening these area-based contributions has increased, particularly where formal MPA networks are incomplete, or management capacity is uneven. SOMACORE positions OECMs as a key mechanism to enhance ecological representativeness, social equity, and governance effectiveness in the region. Through awareness building, spatial planning support, governance guidance, and integration with global standards such as the IUCN Green List, the project provides the technical foundation needed for countries to identify, recognize, and monitor marine OECMs within their existing management systems.

Within the three SOMACORE priority seascapes, OECMs build upon strong local traditions of stewardship and varied governance systems, and complement existing and planned MPA systems.

In the Sulu–Sulawesi Seascape (SSS), spanning Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, a long history of community-managed fishing grounds, Indigenous tenure systems, and co-management arrangements provides a rich basis for identifying potential OECMs that deliver conservation outcomes outside formal MPAs. These include local no-take zones, customary fishing restrictions, and multi-stakeholder management models. Here, OECMs offer a pathway to recognize conservation outcomes in areas governed primarily for sustainable use, while integrating community leadership into national reporting systems and CTMPAS alignment.

In the Lesser Sunda Seascape (LSS), covering Bali, Nusa Tenggara, and Timor-Leste, biocultural governance systems such as awig-awig and tara bandu shape marine resource use and protection. These customary systems often stronger and more enduring than formal regulatory frameworks include periodic closures, species-specific protections, and spatial rules that safeguard coral reefs, spawning grounds, and coastal habitats. Recognizing such areas as OECMs strengthens their legitimacy, supports their integration into national planning processes, and helps link culturally grounded governance with science-based conservation and MPA network design. In this seascape, OECMs help articulate the conservation value of customary marine tenure and support national capacity building in both Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

In the Bismarck–Solomon Seascape (BSS), where customary marine tenure remains the dominant governance system across Papua, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands, communities maintain some of the region's most intact and traditionally governed marine areas. Clan-based ownership, taboo systems, seasonal bans, and community-regulated reefs provide strong candidates for OECM recognition. Many of these areas effectively conserve biodiversity through deeply embedded cultural practices yet remain largely invisible in national reporting and global conservation metrics. OECM recognition in this seascape can help elevate Indigenous-led governance, support sustainable livelihoods, and enhance provincial and national efforts to meet CBD and SDG commitments.

© SOMACORE, Coral Triangle Seascapes

Across all three seascapes, SOMACORE strengthens the understanding, identification, and monitoring of marine OECMs by aligning global guidance with local realities, supporting national and regional capacity, and ensuring that effective community-led conservation receives recognition alongside formal MPAs. This approach not only enhances ecological connectivity and management effectiveness but also anchors conservation outcomes in the cultural, social, and governance systems that have sustained marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle for generations.

IUCN is commissioning a desktop review to identify potential marine OECMs within each of the project's priority seascapes: the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, the Lesser Sunda Seascape, and the Bismarck-Solomon Seascape. Each seascape exhibits distinct social-ecological characteristics, governance structures, and customary marine management systems that play a critical role in achieving biodiversity outcomes beyond formal MPAs. The review will draw on spatial data, literature, governance documents, and local knowledge to generate seascape-level baselines of areas that may qualify as OECMs under CBD Decision 14/8 and IUCN-WCPA guidance.

Description of the Assignment

The final objective is to generate a consolidated regional dataset and synthesis report that captures cross-seascape patterns, governance typologies, ecological contributions, risks, and opportunities for future field validation and potential OECM recognition.

The consultancy will conduct a comprehensive desktop review to identify, screen, and map potential Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) within the Sulu-Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda, and Bismarck-Solomon Seascapes. The consultancy will analyse existing spatial datasets, published and grey literature, customary governance records, marine spatial plans, and available geospatial information to generate an evidence-based inventory of areas that may qualify as marine OECMs under CBD Decision 14/8 and IUCN-WCPA guidance. For that matter, the consultancy mission will help recognise candidate OECM as the first step.

Using globally recognized OECM criteria and region-specific governance realities, the consultancy will identify candidate sites, develop preliminary boundary estimates, and produce indicative maps of potential marine OECMs. The ultimate objective is to provide IUCN and CT6 governments with a high-quality, scientifically robust seascape-level baseline of where OECMs are likely to exist and how they can contribute to GBF Target 3, ecological connectivity, customary tenure recognition, and seascape-level conservation planning across the Coral Triangle.

The consultancy will develop a harmonized methodological framework to guide the screening of potential marine OECMs in alignment with CBD Decision 14/8, IUCN-WCPA criteria, and SOMACORE requirements, ensuring consistency in governance assessments, spatial boundary approximations, ecological overlays, and risk analyses.

The consultancy will also consolidate all spatial and narrative outputs from the three seascapes, harmonizing metadata, attribute structures, and mapping conventions to ensure comparability. A regional analysis will be produced by the consultancy to synthesize governance arrangements, legal frameworks, ecological significance, distributional patterns, pressures, and gaps across the three seascapes. The consultancy will culminate in strategic recommendations for SOMACORE and CTI-CFF regarding future identification, recognition, reporting, integration into national and regional frameworks, and contributions to GBF Target 3. Throughout the assignment, the consultancy will maintain close communication with IUCN to ensure coordinated progress and timely delivery. The final draft will be consulted with the relevant local/regional partners, IUCN, and WCPA.

The consultancy will perform the following main specific tasks:

3.1 Coordination

- Develop a harmonized methodological framework, including criteria interpretation, data requirements, and governance assessment tools.
- Ensure comparability of outputs across seascapes, including metadata standards, spatial formats, and reporting structures.
- Prepare short communication package or stakeholder briefing summarizing findings for CT6 governments, NCCs, CTI-CFF bodies, and regional working groups.
- Sustain at least one inception and monthly coordination meetings with IUCN ARO, ORO, and HQ to confirm alignment of methodology and outputs, and monitor progress.

3.2 Seascape Analysis (3)

3.2.1. Data Compilation and Literature Review

- Collect relevant spatial and non-spatial data, including:

- o LMMA networks, customary marine tenure systems (clan tenure, taboo areas)
  - o Fisheries-managed areas, sanctuaries, village-based closures
  - o National and provincial MPAs
  - o Coastal habitat layers: mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs
  - o Human pressure layers (population density, fishing effort, sedimentation, nitrogen input)
  - o Ecosystem resilience and climate refugia datasets
  - o Seascape conservation plans, academic literature, project reports
- Review governance frameworks, existing OECM initiatives, and relevant national policies across CT6.

3.2.2. Development of Seascape-Specific OECM Screening Framework

- Customize an OECM screening matrix using CBD Decision 14/8, IUCN-WCPA guidance, and SOMACORE context.
- Define criteria for governance, biodiversity outcomes, long-term persistence, and area-based management.

3.2.3. Spatial Identification of Potential OECMs

- Apply the Estradivari et al. (2024) spatial methodology to:
  - o Identify non-MPA managed areas with conservation outcomes
  - o Approximate boundaries using coastal village or sub-district polygons and 4–12 nm offshore rules
  - o Overlay ecological and pressure layers to generate preliminary ecological contribution scores
  - o Integrate management and governance data where available

3.2.4. Seascape-Level Mapping

- Produce maps showing:
  - o MPAs and non-MPA managed areas
  - o Candidate OECMs
  - o Coastal habitats
  - o Human pressures
  - o Ecological connectivity and spacing

3.2.5. Prioritization and Recommendations

- Classify candidate sites into:
  - o High-potential OECMs
  - o Moderate-potential OECMs
  - o Low-potential OECMs
- Provide recommendations for:
  - o Sites requiring field verification
  - o Governance strengthening needs
  - o National reporting and CT Atlas integration
  - o How the IUCN Green List Standard may strengthen OECM
  - o Alignment with CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0 and GBF Target 3

3.3 Integration and Regional Analysis

- Merge all spatial outputs into a single regional geodatabase with harmonized metadata, attributes, and cartographic conventions.
- Develop a cross-seascape comparative analysis highlighting governance types, ecological contributions, geographical patterns, and priority areas for validation.
- Analyse spatial and governance overlaps between identified candidate OECMs and existing international designation areas (e.g., World Heritage, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites)

3.4 Review of Legal and Policy Frameworks Across CTI Countries

Conduct a systematic review of national and subnational legal and policy frameworks relevant to the identification, recognition, reporting monitoring and sustainability of OECMs in each CT6 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands.

The review should:

- Identify enabling conditions, gaps, and constraints for OECM recognition.
- Review of national legal and policy documents relevant to the OECM implementation (particularly National Plan of Action/NPOA, NBSAP, etc.
- Analyse compatibility between customary tenure systems and formal conservation legislation.
- Map legal pathways for formal recognition of customary closures, LMMAs, taboo areas, and other governance forms.
- Provide a regional comparative matrix summarizing the readiness of each country for OECM adoption and reporting.
- Provide technical guidance for integration with CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0, CT Atlas, CTMPAS, NPOA and NBSAPs.

3.5 Synthesis and Recommendations

- Prepare a final regional synthesis report integrating findings from the three seascapes and the legal review.
- Provide strategic and technical guidance for CT6 countries with clear necessary steps for advancing OECMs.
- Provide inputs on how OECM results may influence National Plans of Action (NPOAs), given their central role in CT6 policy and implementation.
- Distil relevant global case studies from other regions (including legal, governance and implementation options), providing CT6 countries with practical examples of pathways to identify, recognise and report marine OECMs.
- Provide guidance on how elements of the IUCN Green List Standard may inform or strengthen the sustained effectiveness of potential marine OECMs, and identify opportunities where Green List could support OECM readiness and continuous improvement
- Provide recommendations on how CT OECMs could contribute to, complement, or strengthen international designations

3.6 Facilitation of exchanges

- Assist in socializing the results at national or seascape levels (NCCs, CTI-CFF working groups, SOMACORE working groups).
- When necessary, facilitate knowledge-sharing on marine OECMs across CT6 incl. contributions to MPA Working Group, Seascape Working Group, and SOMACORE/CTI-CFF meetings.
- Support preparation of learning materials, brief technical inputs, or case summaries for regional and national events.
- Participate - when appropriate - with IUCN cross-regional insights to strengthen alignment with IUCN's global OECM portfolio, while maintaining primary focus on the Coral Triangle.

Duration of the Assignment

Duration: 6 months (February - June 2026)

Estimated Budget Range: The estimated maximum budget is EUR 45,000, corresponding to approximately 60-90 working days for this consultancy.

Deliverables and Activities

The consultancy will produce an inception report outlining the coordination mechanism, harmonized methodological framework, and work plan for the assignment. It will later deliver a mid-term coordination report summarizing progress across the three seascapes, identifying gaps and issues, and outlining actions taken to maintain methodological alignment. A regional geospatial integration package will be prepared, including a consolidated geodatabase and harmonized maps covering the three seascapes. Finally, the consultancy will produce a comprehensive regional synthesis report integrating and analysing the outputs of the individual seascape level desktop reviews.

Deliverable	Description	Due Date
Inception Report	Methodology, work plan, data collection mechanism	February 2026
Legal and Policy Framework Review	Comparative analysis across 6 CTI countries, matrix and recommendations	March 2026
Geospatial Analysis Package	Maps and datasets identifying potential OECM areas	April 2026
Final Report	Three seascape individual report Synthesis regional report Recommendations Facilitation of webinar/presentations, when necessary	June 2026

Skills and Experience

The consultant must have the following skills, education and experience as a minimum:

- Proven track record in conservation planning, marine conservation, and OECM.
- Demonstrated experience in geospatial analysis for biodiversity conservation, including GIS modelling and connectivity assessments.
- Strong understanding of KM-GBF Target 3.
- Proven track record in scientific publishing in the Coral Triangle countries.
- Good skills in coordination, communication and public speaking.
- The consultancy team needs to have good knowledge and context of all Coral Triangle countries.

Supervision and coordination

The individual/firm/organization will report to the IUCN-SOMACORE team, e.g. IUCN Global Protected and Conserved Areas as the main report line, and the IUCN Protected, Conserved and Heritage Areas Teams (IUCN Asia Regional Office / IUCN Oceania Regional Office). The individual / firm / organization will also coordinate with CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the CT6 Countries Focal Points, under the guidance of the IUCN teams.

Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

All deliverables, datasets, and reports will remain the property of IUCN. Any external use requires prior written consent.

Additional Note

The SOMACORE Consortium Partners are not eligible to apply for this consultancy services.