Terms of Reference for Consultancy Services for

Co-management of Coastal and Marine Resources Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Palk Bay

1 General Information

Project Name :	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, India (CMPA)
Project Nr.	2011.9299.6-001.00
Duration of consultancy	Twelve Months (from the time of signing of the contract)
Contact person(s)	Ms Neena Elizabeth Koshy

2 Context, Background & Rationale

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India (MoEFCC) has entered into a technical cooperation agreement with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) for implementing the project 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Existing and Potential Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)'. The BMUB has commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to jointly implement the Project with the MoEFCC in selected states in India.

The overall objective of the project is 'to contribute to the improvement of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the pilot areas, while taking into consideration the economic circumstances of the local population'.

The CMPA Project intends to improve the protection of biodiversity by promoting participatory approaches to the conservation and management of existing coastal and marine protected areas, and supporting conservation and management of identified biodiversity rich coastal and marine areas in the future. By involving stakeholders at local, state and national levels, it is expected to make a significant contribution to the conservation of areas rich in biodiversity. At the same time the Project is concerned with identifying economic activities in protected coastal areas in concordance with agreed conservation strategies.

The MoEFCC-GIZ CMPA Project has identified pilot areas in four states on the Indian seaboard and one among them is Tamil Nadu.

The Palk bay, given its unique geophysical characteristics, is a confluence of biologically diverse and critical ecosystems namely seagrasses, coral reefs and mangroves. It is home to critically endangered fauna such as marine mammals namely Dugongs and various cetaceans, turtles (including olive ridley, leatherback and green turtles), fishes, molluscs etc. The Palk Bay, therefore, is considered to be one of the richest areas with regard to coastal biodiversity along the Indian coast. This biodiversity rich area also supports many diverse livelihoods.

Fisheries and its allied activities is the main livelihood provider of the area contributing about 0.26 mn livelihoods in the area. However fisheries in the area have seen a slow but certain decline indicated by increased effort per unit catch, change in the composition of species caught from the area over the years to more species from the lower trophic levels, decrease in the average size of economically important fin fish species etc. This has also resulted in increased competition and thereby increased conflict among different gear segments/ communities etc

In the given situation of Palk Bay, where rate of exploitation and use of unsustainable exploitation techniques and practices is one of the major factors affecting the ecosystem, specific actionable fisheries management measures could indirectly support or result in conservation. It is also fairly known that in such a scenario as Palk Bay any management or conservation measure should be designed and executed with people's involvement. This also determines the success and failure of such adopted measures.

It is also widely understood by fishing communities along Palk Bay that the current levels and patterns of exploitation are totally unsustainable. One of the studies conducted by GIZ under this project however gives indication that the dependent communities are aware of the above and are willing to take tougher measures (may it be fisheries management measures or direct conservation measures) if necessary political and administrative support is provided.

This offers a unique opportunity to develop a management and conservation strategy for the area with the involvement of stakeholders.

Examples of management models of natural resources management have, especially in case of resources having heavy livelihood dependence on them, demonstrated people-inclusive conservation models to be better among the lot. One among them is the co-management model of natural resources. The first major deviation from any traditional management practice is that this model acknowledges resource-dependent communities as the major custodian of these resources. This devolves power to the communities empowering them to manage these

resources. Thus this model maintains a balance between biological, social and economic concerns.

The Project Fisheries Management and Sustainable Livelihoods (FIMSUL) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations suggested co-management as a way forward in Palk Bay for bettering the coastal and marine resource status as well as the socioeconomic status of the area. Co-management with the formation of Fisheries Management Units was suggested as the model in Palk Bay. Following up on the same an ecosystem-based three-tier co-management system is formed in Palk Bay after thorough consultations with the community. However, the smooth and successful working of this system depends heavily on the capacity of the fishers, the larger community, the department officials, and other administrative personnel who are envisaged to be partners in the process. Therefore, capacity building for better and effective co-management of coastal and marine resources is automatically implied.

3 Objective of the Assignment

The current assignment is to contribute to the operationalizing of a co-management framework for resource management in Palk Bay with emphasis on better conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity of the area. Therefore the scope of assignment involves,

- undertake a capacity needs assessment with respect to co-management of coastal and marine resources in Palk Bay;
- develop detailed activity plan for capacity development with measurable indicators and execute the same;
- suggest roadmaps to integrate co-management into the policy space of the State both within the ambit of fisheries management and resource conservation. This should keep in mind that co-management suggested balances the biological, resource conservation and socioeconomic concerns in the context of Palk Bay.

4 Area under consideration for the Project and Assignment

The Pilot site for the CMPA Tamil Nadu Project is the coastal stretch of Palk Bay (Ramanathapuram), Tamil Nadu. However, the assignment under discussion will treat the whole of Palk Bay as a unit for practical purposes.

5 Experts' Profile

In order to carry out the tasks described above, the expert/s or consultant/s to be hired need to have expertise in the following fields relevant to the task;

A. Co-management Expert (full time)
B. Fisheries Expert (approx. 150 days)
C. Expert for Capacity Development in the field of fisheries (approx. 60 days)
D. Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (approx. 10 days)
E. Programme Manager (full time)
F. Community organisers (2 nos. full time).

The expert/s or consultant/s to be hired need to have;

- thorough knowledge about the coastal resources and management issues in the area under consideration (Palk Bay)
- appreciation of the degree of livelihood dependence and the need for co-management in the area and its role in resource conservation
- experience in engaging with the coastal community in operationalizing co-management in other parts of Tamil Nadu
- experience in working in the area and engaging with coastal resource dependent communities for more than 5 years in the area

6 Scope of the consultancy contract

6.1 Capacity Needs Assessment with respect to co-management of coastal and marine resources in Palk Bay

6.1.1 Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats offered by the peculiar context of Palk Bay that could help implement a co-management framework for coastal resources management in Palk Bay;

6.1.2 Conduct capacity needs assessment for co-management model to work in Palk Bay. This will

- list all stakeholders critical for successful co-management in Palk Bay;
- detail description of each stakeholder groups roles, rights and responsibilities.

6.2 Capacity Development on Co-management in Palk Bay

6.2.1 Develop detailed plan of action with specific measures for the identified capacity development for specific stakeholders/ responsible groups.

6.2.2 Execute the capacity building activities drawn out by the consultant organization hired by GIZ. This will be done through

- Meetings or small workshops such as district council meetings; village meetings; community leader meetings etc
- Thematic Trainings and Workshops for council members for fisher (men and women) leaders, NGOs, Fisheries officers; Scientist and Academics

6.3 Indicators for Capacity Development on Comanagement in Palk Bay

6.3.1 Develop measurable indicators for the capacity development measures implemented.

6.3.2 Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the effectiveness of the capacity development measures undertaken

6.4 Co-management in Legal Space

6.4.1 Suggest roadmaps to integrate co-management into the policy space of the State both within the ambit of fisheries management and resource conservation. This should keep in mind that co-management suggested balances the resource conservation and socioeconomic concerns of Palk Bay.

6.5 Awareness Raising/ Building Activities

6.5.1 Develop materials for campaign and action on focused themes such as

- *sustainable fishing;*
- *conservation of coastal and marine resources;*
- *campaign for better beach management etc.*

7 Details of implementation of the consultancy

The consultancy will be done in close cooperation with GIZ and under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GOI and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

The consultants will also be required to extend full cooperation to other consultants hired by GIZ for the purpose of the CMPA Project.

Though the pilot site chosen for the CMPA Tamil Nadu Project is Palk Bay (Ramanathapuram District), Tamil Nadu the assignment will consider the whole of Palk Bay as an operational unit. In total the assignment will cover a period of not more than 12 months, starting from the day of signing the contract.

8 Expected Outputs & Deliverables

The deliverables for the consultant/ consultant organization under this contract are as given below

- Conduct capacity needs assessment for successful co-management of coastal and marine resources of Palk Bay;
- Submit a report on Capacity Needs Assessment (stakeholderwise) for Palk Bay;
- Submit a monitoring and evaluation framework for the capacity needs assessment plan devised;
- Form a national/ international consortium for dialogue and deliberation on including co-management in the policy space for better conservation of coastal and marine resources;
- Submit a roadmap for including co-management in policy space in Tamil Nadu;
- Write a white paper on co-management as a tool for better conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity especially in high-livelihood-dependent areas.
- Produce 5 different types of awareness products to further the idea of co-management and its links to coastal and marine resource conservation

9 Budgetary Guidelines, Service Tax and Payment Schedule

The budget calculation should present all costs for the assignment, being comprised of fee components and reimbursable such as travel and accommodation, meetings and production of the report.

If applicable, service tax should be incorporated at 14.5 %

The payment schedule will be as follows

First instalment: 40% as advance upon signing of the contract
Second instalment: 30 % upon completion of half the activities as mutually agreed on the capacity building exercise
Final instalment: 30% upon submission of final reports

10 Clause on Intellectual Property Rights

The data collected in the context of this contract are the property of the CMPA Project.

The consultant/ organisation will be free to use the data and results of the study for academic publications, if scientific ethics about anonymity are guaranteed.

Sensitive data which relate to unlawful activities, trade secrets, medical or well-being formulations obtained in the course of this study shall only be published in a manner that does not violate intellectual property rights or any other personal rights.

GIZ shall be intimated of any publication using data collected in the context of this contract prior to its publication. The consultant shall ensure that any use of the data, be it for publications or for other purposes, properly acknowledges the role of the CMPA Project and that of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as the commissioning agency.