Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
FISHERIES COASTAL RESILIENCY (FishCoRe) Project
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (SBAC)
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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Philippines
Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency Project
Loan No.: Loan No.9480- PH

Consulting Services for Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework for Selected Fishery Management Areas in the Philippines

Reference No.: **PH-BFAR CO - DA-416457-CS-QBS**

The Republic of the Philippines has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) - Fisheries Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project, now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are summarized below:

- Must have at least ten (10) years of experience with blue economy assessment and development, ecosystem services analysis and valuation, marine spatial planning and implementation, integrated coastal zone management, regulatory and policy development, and in the seafood sector.

- Must have transdisciplinary skills and proven experience with fisheries/mariculture planning and analysis, especially integration of fisheries with broader marine spatial planning and associated processes is essential.

- Demonstrated track record and experience preparing Strategic Environmental Assessments will be a plus

- Prior satisfactory consultancy engagement in related projects preferably in the agri-fishery sector.

- Availability of key experts meeting the qualification criteria as outlined in the attached Terms of Reference.

- List of completed contracts for the last five years with supporting documents, such as contract, certificate of completion, etcetera.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment is provided in Attachment 1.

Procurement of contracts financed by the World Bank will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (November 2020) (Procurement Regulations), and is open to all eligible firms as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" (November 2020) July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

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.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Based Selection (QBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [*9:00 am to 4:30 hours, Mondays to Fridays except public holidays*].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, by mail or e-mail, no later than **May 27, 2024.**

BFAR Special Bids and Awards Committee
2nd floor, FishCoRe SBAC Office,
National Food Authority Building,
Visayas Avenue, Brgy. Vasra, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 09988427249
Official email address: bac.fishcore@bfar.da.gov.ph

Original Signed
ROY C. ORTEGA
Chairperson, Special Bids and Awards Committee
BFAR-FishCoRe Project

Attachment 1

Terms of Reference for a Consulting Firm

Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework for Selected Fishery Management Areas in the Philippines

Assignment Objectives:

To create and test frameworks for Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Marine Spatial Planning for Two Selected Fishery Management Areas in the Philippines

The overarching objective of the GOP's FishCORE program is *to improve management of targeted fisheries resources and enhance the value of fisheries production to coastal communities in selected Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs).* Marine Spatial Planning and blue economy assessment needs to be integrated alongside the broader fishery focused objectives for FishCORE to ensure that both coastal fisheries and other sectors and marine protection can co-exist, and be managed in a consistent, integrated manner.

1. Context

In seeking multi-sectoral, integrated sustainable blue economy growth within current and future biophysical and climatic limitations, a new approach to assessing, prioritizing and investing in the blue economy is needed. Alongside understanding the current state and future potential of the sustainable blue economy and the ecosystems and communities that support it, the processes associated with developing marine spatial plans, integrating them with fisheries plans and ultimately ensuring they are implementable are critical to enabling FishCORE program success.

Although fisheries management areas and local fisheries plans are well understood and used in the Philippines, there is less experience with integrating fisheries with broader coastal and marine uses and protection LGU boundaries, and across different sectoral agencies within government. Both of these are important elements of marine spatial planning (and key to successful implementation of MSP's) throughout the world and are critical to sustainable blue economy growth and conflict avoidance. There is growing global acceptance that marine spatial planning processes and implementation are essential in enabling sustainable, multi sectoral coastal and ocean management and protection. This also requires effective leadership and guidance from central government, including through enabling legislation, framework marine spatial plans and associated guidance, integrated coastal zone management plans, investment in data, systems and tools alongside significant capacity building at all levels of government.

The technical assistance to be provided through this project will enable future blue economy assessment, marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone planning to be developed and implemented elsewhere in the Philippines alongside fisheries plans in a way that is consistent, enables certainty through zonation and regulation for current and future uses. It will ensure all of the appropriate data, systems, tools and capability needs have been met, and that local institutions fully understand the potential of MSP, and are able to create, implement and monitor them in the future.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance on Marine Spatial Planning, integrating it with local fisheries plans, integrated coastal zone management plans and blue economy assessment in a selected Fisheries Management Area (FMA) in the Philippines. The project will enable a clear understanding of regulatory and policy needs, human capability, data, systems and tools needed for marine spatial planning, nearshore fisheries plans and blue economy assessment and development. It will identify the gaps that currently exist and necessary steps to address the gaps (noting not all gaps will be closed so will need to be costed and prioritized). The project will further actively seek to build capability and capacity with local institutions to enable future marine spatial planning to be locally-led, as informed and supported by global best practice.

It will integrate local fisheries plans alongside other blue economy sectors such as mariculture, coastal shipping, offshore renewable energy, ports, marine protection, and tourism through the marine spatial planning process and associated zonation. There will be an emphasis on understanding and assessing the blue economy and the ecosystem services that underpin it; this includes both current blue economy state and desired future opportunities, as well as protection and restoration of critical habitats. Understanding the blue economy is critical to enabling future (public and private) investment and determining local and central government regulatory and policy requirements in the marine spatial planning process.

The assignment entails very significant focus on stakeholder, sectoral (including investors in key sectors) and government engagement, assessment and understanding of ecosystem services, and creating a capacity and capability building program to enable future marine spatial planning to be replicated and effectively implemented. In considering multiple (sometimes overlapping or conflicting) uses, this project will provide processes for spatial prioritization and conflict resolution and ultimately will provide certainty to future investors and sectors operating in the coastal environment. It will be underpinned by climate change and biodiversity requirements and commitments by the government and sectors, as well as social needs of local communities.

Recognizing the significant time and resource needs for the completion of a full marine spatial planning processes and implementation, this objective of this assignment is rather to create a framework for MSP development and test through development of a high level marine spatial plan.

The outcome of this project will be that future marine spatial and integrated coastal planning will enable sustainable blue economy growth consistently throughout the Philippines. The capability and capacity, data, systems and tools required will be well understood and able to deliver the underpinning tasks for future marine spatial planning.

3. Expected Consultancy Outcomes

1. Marine Spatial Planning objectives, scope, processes, alignment and integration opportunities with fisheries plans and the wider blue economy are understood and agreed.
2. Regulatory, data, systems, tools, and human capability needs for marine spatial planning, integrated coastal plans and blue economy assessment, current gaps, and approach to address the gaps are understood and agreed.
3. A framework marine spatial plan is piloted in two selected FMAs at an LGU level (i.e. one selected LGU in each FMA).

   This includes integrating fisheries plans into the MSP process and outputs, assessment of the wider blue economy, analysis and valuation of ecosystem services that will underpin blue economy development enabled by the marine spatial planning, zonation and associated prioritization of current and future uses including protection).
4. A model MSP implementation plan is prepared and costed as part of the MSP pilots, with clear roles and responsibilities for LGU's, government agencies, with a capacity building plan, monitoring and evaluation approach, and with guidelines for future MSP preparation elsewhere in the Philippines.
5. Local institutional capacity and capability is developed to enable future marine spatial plans to be led locally.
6. A national MSP framework is developed and presented at the national level to provide guidance and consistency to the pilot MSP and any future FMU / LGU MSP initiatives.

4. Scope, Approach and Outcomes

Scope

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
1. Marine Spatial Planning Objectives, Input requirements & Scope	1.1 Prepare Inception Report and present the findings of Task 1 and outlining the proposed methodology, approach and workplan for the assignment subject for approval by BFAR. 1.2 Identify draft MSP, fishery plans, and blue economy objectives, scope, including sectors / uses to be considered and any coordination mechanisms required to integrate with the other projects in the wider FishCORE program. 1.3 Workshop draft objectives and scope of MSP with government agencies and World Bank. 1.4 Identify input requirements to meet agreed MSP objectives and scope, including: - Data - Systems - Tools - Capabilities and experience	Inception Report outlining the proposed assignment methodology, approach and workplan. Report containing: - agreed objectives, input requirements, scale and scope of the MSP, fishery plans and blue economy assessment process. - Required coordination mechanisms to ensure integration with FishCORE - stakeholder map and engagement plan. - Identification of the institution(s) that will partner with the consultant to develop in-house capacity and capability.	Objectives, scope, approach, timelines and inputs required for project delivery agreed. Coordination mechanisms in place for aligning MSP work with other projects in the FishCORE program. Stakeholder engagement approach agreed. Local institution(s) fully engaged and aligned with the approach, timing and objectives of the project.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	- Supporting regulatory / policy 1.5 Conduct MSP stakeholder mapping exercise to identify groups/individuals and their preferences. 1.6 Identify local institution(s) to partner with to build capacity and capability for future MSP development.		
2. Current baseline, Gap Analysis, Plan and Budget to Address Gaps	2.1 Baseline Review Assess current state in the Philippines of data, systems, tools, capabilities and experience, regulatory / policy settings. This should include engagement with agencies, universities and other specialists. 2.2 Gap Assessment Compare the current baseline with the input requirements identified in workstream 1 to identify gaps that need to be addressed to support the MSP and blue economy assessment processes. This will include a workshop with experts to confirm gaps and their relative priority.	Report detailing - current state (regulatory / policy, skills (capability / capacity), data, systems and tools) available for MSP development and blue economy assessment. - gaps that will impact ability to fulfill the project scope and objectives (regulatory/policy, skills (capability / capacity), data, systems and tools). - agreed plans to address gaps (regulatory / policy changes, spatial and non-spatial tools, capacity and capability building, data	Agreed approach to addressing all regulatory / policy, skills, data, tools, and systems gaps to enable objectives and scope to be met within timeframes and budget

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	2.3 Plan to Address Gaps Prepare a costed and prioritized plan to address the critical gaps. Share the draft plan with experts, receive feedback and rework as necessary.	gathering and analysis needs etc. - costs to address critical gaps, and agreed priorities that need to be addressed.	
3. Initial data analysis, document review, blue economy assessment	3.1 Update the status of coastal and marine ecosystems in the pilot area and identify the underlying threats, issues and challenges. Review relevant policy, legislation, literature, and existing data and information on marine and coastal uses in the pilot area. 3.2 Undertake a baseline fishery and broader blue economy assessment for the pilot area, including risk assessment, and analysis of dependencies between current / future sectors. 3.3 Gather, assess and analyze existing environmental and sectoral data to provide baseline information for the preparation of the MSP; identifying data gaps for	A report outlining - current status, threats and challenges for coastal and marine ecosystems in the pilot area. - review of relevant policy, legislation, literature, and existing data and information on marine and coastal uses in the pilot area. - current state of the blue economy in the pilot area, including economic and non economic values and cross-sectoral dependencies. - ecosystem services in the pilot area including risks and threats, values, and dependencies. A summary report and maps of the data uploaded into the GIS system.	Current status, threats and challenges for coastal and marine ecosystems in the pilot areas understood and documented. Preliminary data analysis completed and included as layers within GIS system. Current blue economy and dependencies and ecosystem services for the pilot areas understood and quantified. A framework MSP will provide nationally consistent direction to the pilot MSP (for the partner institution(s) to be able to deploy further in the future).

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	GOP's follow-up data collection action 3.4 Undertake ecosystem services valuation for key ecosystem types in the pilot area. 3.5 Input analyzed data into the GIS (and any other) systems being used for the marine spatial plan. Integrate this with fisheries planning information and blue economy assessments. 3.6 Prepare a framework marine spatial plan at national level to guide the approach, content, roles and responsibilities, integration with fisheries plans, and scope of the MSP for the pilot site.	A framework Marine Spatial Plan including a road map for the process - to be used as a guide for the pilot sites.	
4. Stakeholder Engagement & Capacity Building plan	4.1 Engage with relevant stakeholders through workshops to understand perspectives and priorities. 4.2 Prepare and implement a capacity building approach for the MSP and blue economy assessment. This should include development of MSP training	A report detailing - Capacity building approach and outcomes. This will include any training materials developed. - Stakeholder workshop outcomes	Strengthened understanding of key stakeholders about MSP processes, alignment and integration with fisheries plans and other blue economy sectors. Strengthened capacity of relevant national and LGU-level stakeholders in marine spatial planning and blue economy assessment.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	manuals for BFAR and local implementers and guidelines on integrating ICZM and MSP zoning for FMA 6 and 9.		
5. Pilot MSP drafting & preliminary zoning	5.1 Plan Drafting In collaboration with the partner institution(s), BFAR and LGU's, and consistent with the framework MSP, prepare the draft pilot MSP content. Collaborate and coordinate with FMA governance and RFOs in the formulation of marine spatial plans in the pilot areas. This should define the goals, objectives, indicators and targets of each Plan and priority locations within each FMA for critical habitat restoration and protection. The draft Plan shall promote integration into municipality-level CRM and ICM plans, and will be integrated with the existing (and future) fisheries plans. This will require the draft MSP to include recommended policy and	A draft Marine Spatial Plan in two LGUs (one in FMA 6 and one in FMA 9) for review and feedback. Draft GIS maps and zonation supporting the MSP's	The process of preparing and drafting the MSP, and all associated objectives, priorities and conflict resolution, zones and maps will enable integration with fisheries and other sectoral plans, marine protection and critical habitat restoration, future blue economy development, and provide central agencies and LGU's with a consistent output. The draft maps will contain clear zonation and will enable understanding of potential impact of prioritized uses and protection on other uses / the environment and communities. The draft maps will also enable scenarios to be considered with different spatial allocation and zonation to understand

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	regulatory changes required for implementation. The draft plans will include the existing blue economy assessments and identify priorities and locations for future blue economy development. It will identify risks and conflicts between current and future uses, and between environmental protection goals and current / future uses. Identify and map sources of pollution, causes of habitat degradation and other major habitat threats. Identify recommended future data gathering needs, monitoring and evaluation requirements, and suggested enforcement approaches to ensure effective implementation. Hold workshops and sessions with relevant experts and affected stakeholders to discuss and validate plan priorities, conflicts, risks and opportunities to integrate across different		potential risks and opportunities.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	planning and policy frameworks at LGU and sectoral / agency levels. 5.2 GIS mapping and zonation Based on the outputs of 5.1, prepare GIS maps identifying current uses, areas of significance / protection, critical habitats. Prepare the draft zoning framework.		
6. Final MSP's, maps & Implementation Plan	6.1 Final MSP and zonation maps Workshop to discuss and agree any changes to the draft MSP and / or zoning. Receive written feedback from reviewers and produce final MSP and associated zonation maps for each pilot area. 6.2 Implementation plan Undertake a costing exercise for all of the recommended actions in the MSP and recommend financing mechanisms and institutional arrangements to implement the MSP's.	Final MSP and maps. Implementation plan containing costings, recommendations to support LGU's, enforcement, future data needs, and monitoring and evaluation of implementation.	The final MSP, zonation maps and implementation plans will provide clarity, consistency and certainty to users, future investors in the marine area, government at both central and LGU levels.

Workstream	Tasks	Deliverables	Outcomes
	This will include recommendations to support LGU's in the implementation, strengthening LGU and local stakeholder and in habitat health monitoring, evaluation and reporting. It will including assistance for the LGUs in identifying the necessary equipment and resources and training for implementation. The implementation plan will include recommendations for ongoing enforcement, capacity building, data gathering, monitoring and reporting to enable understanding of the effectiveness of implementation. It is to be developed collaboratively with the partner institution(s) that have been involved throughout the process to ensure capacity and capability are developed appropriately.		

5. Timing of deliverables

Deliverables	**Timing, in weeks, from the date of signing of the Contract with the selected Consultant**
Contract Signing	0
Inception Report	6
Workstream 2 Report: Current baseline, Gap Analysis, Plan and Budget to Address Gaps	24
Workstream 3.1-5 Report: Initial data analysis, document review, blue economy assessment	44
Workstream 3.6 Report: National MSP Framework	50
Workstream 4.1 Report: Stakeholder Engagement plan	12
Workstream 4.2 Report: MSP Capacity Building plan	58
Workstream 5: Pilot MSP drafting & preliminary zoning	90
Workstream 6: Final MSP, zoning maps and implementation plan	106

The acceptance criteria for the deliverables are set to be met against the specified work under each task, and the set timeline, as minimum criteria.

6. Firm and KEY PERSONNEL Qualifications

This assignment will be undertaken by a consulting firm, academic institution, non-governmental or research organization (the Consultant(s)), with a strong technical team and demonstrated track record to enable satisfactory execution of the assignment. Consultant(s) are encouraged to associate to enhance their qualifications and ensure the full mix of skills required –from technical to operational.

The Consultant(s) selected to provide this technical assistance must have experience with blue economy assessment and development, ecosystem services analysis and valuation, marine spatial planning and MSP implementation, regulatory and policy development, relevant sectors and finance & investment in the blue economy. Transdisciplinary skills and proven experience with fisheries planning and analysis, especially integration of fisheries with broader marine spatial planning and associated processes is essential. Demonstrated track record and experience preparing Strategic Environmental Assessments will be a plus.

The Consultant(s) will be working in collaboration with concerned government agencies and must further demonstrate local presence by partnering with a local institution(s) to ensure capacity and capability is developed through the project, that can be deployed to future MSP initiatives elsewhere in the Philippines. In this context, the Consultant is encouraged to engage relevant local private sector, non-governmental organizations, research and/or academic institutions that already have demonstrated experience and expertise providing technical support on marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, sustainable blue economy, enviro-economic analysis, and integrated seascape management in the Philippines.

Key Personnel

Key Personnel whose qualifications indicated by the Consultants in their Technical Proposals will be used for evaluating the Key Experts at the time of evaluation of Technical Proposals are detailed below.

Project Lead – a PhD in marine policy or related field and at least 25 years experience with blue economy assessment, leading marine spatial plan development and implementation, marine policy, ecosystem services analysis, regulatory and policy development, relevant sectors and finance & investment in the blue economy. Ideally in Asian countries, but also a strong understanding of best practice in other regions of the world.

Senior marine spatial planning / integration specialist – a graduate degree in marine policy, law or related field with a very strong track record of at least 10 years of leading marine spatial planning at both national and regional scales, integrated coastal planning, blue economy assessment, prioritization processes, zonation approaches. Ideally in Asian countries, but also a strong understanding of best practice in other regions of the world.

Senior Philippines marine spatial planning specialist – a graduate degree with strong science background and demonstrated track record developing marine spatial planning applications in the Philippines, ideally at the Regional and/or Local Government Leves.

Senior blue economy specialist – a graduate degree in business, finance, marine studies or related fields and at least 10 years of very strong experience in blue economy assessments, developing new blue economy multi sectoral investment projects, and in-dept understanding of blue economy finance and investments.

Senior fisheries specialist – with very strong understanding of fisheries planning and management and science in the Philippines. Ideally the senior fisheries specialist should also have strong understanding of other blue economy sectors, underpinning ecosystem services, and marine protection.

Senior Philippines marine scientist – with advance oceanographic/oceanographic modeling expertise in the Philippines and strong understanding of climate and nature-risk assessment, integrated seascape management, ecosystems and ecosystem services.

Economist – strong understanding and experience in blue economy assessments, economic analysis, valuation of natural capital, and environmental markets in the Philippines.

Lead policy and Philippines regulatory specialist – a degree in policy, planning, law or related fields and at least five years experience. A strong understanding of Philippines central and LGU policy (including fisheries), and key regulatory agencies. Awareness of policy and regulatory settings in other countries with marine spatial planning and implementation.

Data specialist – a masters degree in GIS, remote sensing or related fields and strong understanding of data needs, analysis, systems and tools available or required for marine spatial planning and implementation, blue economy assessment. Understanding of the GoP data management requirements and experience integrating data analysis across sectors, National Government Agencies, and LGU units.

Stakeholder Engagement specialist(s) – experienced in designing and delivering large scale stakeholder, sector, government and community engagement, preferably in the Philippines, including assessing and summarizing feedback from engagement and working with project teams to assimilate feedback into marine spatial planning. Language proficiency for stakeholder engagement in both FMA 6 and FMA 9 coastal areas required.

Capacity building specialist – experienced in identification of capacity and capability needs, design of capacity building initiatives including with sectors, local and central government, and technical experts.

Monitoring, Reporting & Verification specialist – experienced in design of impact monitoring and reporting in marine environments, including with the key sectors of relevance (especially fisheries), as well as information on data sources, methods for M&E, etc.

7. Duration of Contract and Form of Contract

Total duration of the contract will be 28 months from the date of signing of the Contract by the two parties. The Contract will be a Lump-sum Contract.

8. Client's Input and Counterpart Personnel

(a) Services, facilities and property to be made available to the Consultant by the Client:

i. Relevant existing policy, legislation, literature, and existing data and information on:

- national, regional, and local marine and coastal plans
- marine/coastal uses in the potential MSP pilot areas (to be determined as part of FISHCRMM Sub-component 1.3 output)
- available oceanographic and ecosystem data, including coastline delineation in the potential MSP pilot areas
- any existing MSPs available for areas within or outside FMA 6 and 9 (Pagbilao Bay, BFAR-FAO-UP MSI Project)
- where available, use of BFAR office equipment and facilities

(b) *Professional, coordinating, and support counterpart personnel to be assigned by the Client to the Consultant's team:*

National Project Implementing Office		
FRMD	Roy C. Ortega FISHCRMM 1.3	rortega@bfar.da.gov.ph crmml.fishcore@bfar.da.gov.ph
FMA 6	Neil Kenneth Catibog	rpiu6.fishcore@bfar.da.gov.ph
FMA 9	Atty. Roland Intud	rpiu9.fishcore@bfar.da.gov.ph
LGU	To be determined	