



Government of Vanuatu
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MoLNR)
Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project (VARs)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Individual Selection of Consultant	
Country:	Government of Vanuatu
Name of the Project:	Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project
Consulting Service:	Environment Officer
Individual/Firm:	Individual
Duty Station:	PMU, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Date of Publication:	17 th April 2024
Deadline for submission:	01st May 2024 at time: 1400 Hours.
Reference Number:	VU-MLNR-421377-CS-INDV

1. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT:

A long-term vision of the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) is to provide potable water, sanitation, roads, drainage, and electricity to low-income households for the largest number of citizens. To address this, the International Development Agency of the World Bank Group is supporting the GoV with the Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project (VARs). Aims of the Project include developing a phased, 10-year, risk-informed Land Development, and Investment Strategy (LDIS) for the Greater Port Vila area with an estimated population of 114,000 people, almost 40 percent of the country's population. VARs also will support the GoV to prepare a five-year action plan to implement phased settlement upgrading (SURP) of the 23 existing informal settlements in the Greater Port Vila area. To build towards these two interdependent medium-term platforms, the Project will implement on-the ground selected investments and associated institutional, and policy strengthening measures to pilot and set policy precedents for new land development and in situ settlement upgrading. This includes: (a) basic area upgrading of four informal settlements (Ohlen Mataso, Seaside, Tokyo and portion of Anamburu); (b) developing a 10 ha 'sites-and-services' (greenfield) lower-middle income residential area subdivision; (c) expansion or rehabilitation (as required) of off-site infrastructure focusing on flood management and mitigation; and (d) implementing measures for transformative institutional capacity strengthening of responsible Government of Vanuatu and sub-national agencies for planning, financing, and implementing the 10-year LDIS and 5-year SURP in partnerships with communities and the private sector.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

GoV, represented by MoLNR, is now seeking a qualified and experienced Environment Officer to work closely with other members of the PMU and other project stakeholders to ensure compliance with contractual environmental safeguards practices at each project activity site. The services must be undertaken in accordance with the VARs Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and include environmental safeguards monitoring and management at selected settlements under VARs.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is envisaged that after the award of the contract, the Environment Officer will join the PMU team at MoLNR offices full time for around two months to help develop a programme for monitoring project activities in different settlement sites and confirm monitoring tools. Thereafter, the Environment Officer will travel to project activity sites within the settlements on a regular basis, typically away from the office for at least 50% and potentially more of the time.

Duties and responsibilities will include.

- Develop a workplan. In conjunction with the Social and Environmental Specialist and other PMU team members, develop a work plan designed to incorporate lessons learned and reduce environmental safeguards risks.
- Provide advice to the PMU to ensure the project implements environmental safeguards in compliance with the ESCP, ESIA, ESMPs and the laws of Vanuatu.
- Assist in the updating of project safeguards documents as may be required to cover the subprojects and the nature of the works planned, paying special attention to any environmental issues identified during implementation.
- Monitor environmental safeguards management at selected settlement sites on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the ESCP, ESIA and ESMPs and/or ECoP.
- Identify the potential environmental safeguards risks at project activity sites.
- Understand the contractual requirements of consultants and contractors to manage these risks.
- Monitor contractor activities to identify if the risks are being managed correctly in line with project and contract requirements.
- Confirm contractor performance and any environment impacts with relevant key stakeholders including communities, chiefs, associations, and government agencies for the project activity sites.
- Assist with the preparation of safeguard monitoring instruments by collecting relevant information, arranging, and conducting site assessments and keeping records.
- Assist with the preparation of relevant permits and licenses for the project, liaising with GoV regulatory agencies on the information and processes required.
- Assist with preparation and delivery of safeguard awareness training programs with government agencies and climate change and disaster risk reduction awareness training at the community level.
- Prepare a monthly Monitoring and Compliance Report covering all the above (with appropriate photos and maps) for each proposed project activity site with recommendations for specific measures to improve contractors' safeguards' performance. This may include the use of dedicated templates and software on a personal mobile device.
- Discuss the Monitoring and Compliance Report with the PMU Contracts Manager, Social and Environmental Specialist and relevant Supervision Consultant to confirm the appropriate response to any failures to satisfactorily manage environmental safeguards.
- Attending weekly PMU team progress update meetings.

4. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

Qualifications

- Certificated qualification(s) in Environmental Management, Environmental Science or similar.

Experience

- At least 5 years of hands-on field experience in environmental safeguards assessment and management.
- At least 3 years' experience in environmental safeguards monitoring, preferably on civil works project and within project frameworks.

Skills, Knowledge, and Competencies

- The ability to understand the changing work environment, and to anticipate developments and opportunities, threats, and weaknesses.
- The ability to drive a vehicle and undertake monitoring visits to project activities.
- Competency in Microsoft office suite (Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.).
- Ability to write fluent, sequential, informative, and accurate activity reports in English and good oral communication skills in Bislama and English.

5. REPORTING:

- Weekly Checklist and Monthly Monitoring and Compliance Report based on site visits to settlements. Reports will identify and record potential non-compliance with environment safeguards requirements and include specific recommendations for improved safeguards management at each site in line with legislative and ESIA/ESMP/ECOP requirements.
- Monthly report on capacity building, training and awareness sessions undertaken with contractors, supervision consultants, communities, and government agencies.
- Assist with any updates of the project ESMF, ESMPs and review of Contractors ESMPs.
- Other safeguards report as may be required to meet the objectives.

6. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT:

This is a full-time consultancy contract for a period of 33 months. The aggregate time inputs over the period shall not be any longer than 726 working days. Contract may be extended thereafter, subject to satisfactory performance and budget.

The position will be subject to a probationary period of 6 months, with a performance review by the Project Manager provided to MoLNR to determine whether the Consultant will continue to be engaged beyond the probationary period. Specifically, the Consultant will be assessed on his/her performance on the following outputs:

7. DUTY STATION:

This is a full-time consulting position; therefore, the consultant is required to station in the VARS Project PMU Office, at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MoLNR).

8. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to section III, para 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's *Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in Investment Projects Financing Goods, Works, Non -Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017 August 2018, and November 2020* ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.

Interested applicants may obtain further information including a detailed Terms of Reference from the Ministry in person or by e-mail to the address given below during office hours from 8.00 a.m.– 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Deadline: Expressions of interest and CV must be delivered to the address below by hand, mail, or email on or before **01st May 2024 at 14:00 Hours Vanuatu Time.**

Address:

Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project (VARs).
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MoLNR)
Socapo Area, Port Vila
Email to: po@vars.vu cc'd to pm@vars.vu

Submit your application with the following as your subject:

- **Environment Officer – VU-MLNR-421377-CS-INDV**

Terms of Reference (ToR).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWbKzTMwwSmQus6zTZxGlfa4yitCx5JP/view?usp=sharing>