

Terms of Reference

Posting Title:	Access to Marine Genetic Resources legal expert consultant for Panama
Department/Office:	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (the Division)
Duty Station:	Home-based (remote work)
Type of Contract:	Consultancy
Post Level:	Consultant, Level B
Languages Required:	English
Starting Date: (date when the selected candidate is expected to start)	1 September 2023
Duration:	45 days during a 5 month period
Contract sum:	US \$ 30,000 (paid upon the Division's confirmation of completion of each phase)

Background

The Programmes of Assistance to Meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea is a project implemented by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (the Division), with funding provided by Norway, through its Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The project provides support to developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in building sustainable ocean-based economies through addressing critical capacity barriers at the regional and national levels, including with respect to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and related instruments.

The Programmes of Assistance is composed of three major series of activities, one of them is the conduct of analyses of national frameworks for ocean governance in selected beneficiary States (Ocean Governance Studies). The Ocean Governance Studies (OGS) consist of a national-level inventory and analyses of legal and institutional frameworks for ocean governance in the selected beneficiary States. Panama is one of the beneficiary States of the OGS, and based on this Study, the Government of Panama identified the need to establish a policy framework to regulate the management, conservation, and sustainable use of marine genetic resources inside the Economic Exclusive Zone. As part of its collaboration in the implementation of the OGS recommendations, the Division will contract a consultant to work with the Government of Panama to develop such framework.

The consultant will also coordinate with the Government and other stakeholders in Panama to gather information to draft the required legislation on access to marine genetic resources.

Work Location

Home-based

Expected duration

45 days distributed in a 5-month period

Responsibilities and work deliverables:

Under the overall supervision of the Head of Capacity-Building and Trust Funds of the Division, in cooperation with the Project Focal Point for Panama, the consultant will assist the Government of Panama to strengthen the legal framework related to access to marine genetic resources. The Consultant is expected:

- To liaise with key stakeholders to gather the necessary information.
- To prepare a draft law to regulate the management, conservation, and sustainable use of marine genetic resources inside the Economic Exclusive Zone.

The consultant will also prepare monthly progress reports that will be shared with the Division and the Ministry of Environment of Panama.

Payment is due 50% upon completion of phase 1 (First draft of the law), and 50% upon the completion of phase 2 (final draft of the law satisfactorily accepted by the Government).

Competencies

- **Professionalism:** Demonstrated analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, and other databases. Competence in data analysis and a demonstrated ability to conduct data collection using various methods. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Ability to build good working relationships at all levels. Ability to work under pressure and in dynamic situations; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results. Ability to treat sensitive or confidential information appropriately. Ability to incorporate gender perspectives in substantive research. ability to deal efficiently and effectively with administrative responsibilities.
- **Teamwork:** Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain harmonious working relationships in a multicultural, multi-ethnic and political work environment. Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve project goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; Ability to develop consensus among people with varying points of view; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.
- **Planning & Organizing:** Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.
- **Communications:** Strong oral communication and drafting skills; Ability to interact positively with high-level government officials.
- **Technological awareness:** Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office applications including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Ability to use other relevant software (such as mapping tools), as well as

database software to organize, analyse and archive collected materials during research is desirable. Actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks.

Education

Advanced university degree (PhD degree – graduate or undertaking PhD programme - or post-doctoral professional) in international law, law of the sea, sustainable development, environment/ocean-based science, or related fields. Demonstrated knowledge on regulatory frameworks related to access to marine genetic resources.

Work Experience

1. A minimum of 8 years of progressively responsible experience in legislative drafting and policy advising.
2. experience in ocean affairs and access to marine genetic resources regulations required.
3. experience preparing analytical reports, legal research and organizing multi-stakeholder meetings.
4. previous work experience in the UN system is highly desirable; and
5. evidence of recent relevant research and publications is desirable.

Languages

For this position, fluency in Spanish with excellent drafting and communication skills, and basic English are required. Knowledge of another United Nations official language is an advantage.

TO APPLY TO THIS CONSULTANCY:

Please send a CV and cover letter to rachel.lucas@un.org (with a copy to doalos@un.org).

Closing date: 9 August 2023

Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.