

RFP/TECO/2021-02

" Technical assistance to promote recovery of the tourism activity in the aftermath of the lockdown, regaining consumer confidence and building resilience in the tourism sector in the Republic of Maldives"

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Date: 03rd June 2021

QUESTION 1

The deadline for submissions is the 23th of June. Can you give us the subsequent milestones (tender acceptance, contract, contract signature, etc.) as well as the proposed lead-up time and the start of the mission?

It is estimated that after the deadline for submission, approximately 25 working days would be required to complete the subsequent milestones (tender acceptance, contract, contract signature, etc.) and to launch the project implementation.

QUESTION 2

Assuming a project start in August the total duration of the study is some 3 month. However, the TOR (page 6, heading "Planning") calls for a 5-month project duration. How could this be reconciled?

The project is envisaged to be implemented in line with the proposed terms of reference. In case the situation warrants a change in implementation strategy, including a possible adjustment of the time frame, that would have to be in consultation with the client and the UNWTO. In case parties would agree on a change of actuals or effort, this would be adjusted on the basis of actuals using a pro rata approach.

QUESTION 3

The three stages have durations of 4, 12 and 5 weeks respectively, filling the entire 5-month project duration. Is there an out-of-project review period for the stage report submittals by the UNWTO, JICA and the Ministry of Tourism? The stages seem to be unable to overlap as one feeds into the next.

Reference is made to the answer under question 2. For the implementation of the three stages, it may not be necessary to wait with commencing a new stage till the previous stage has been fully completed. E.g. work on stage 2 and stage 3 could commence when the previous stage is about half-way.

QUESTION 4

Are there any Covid related contingencies included? We may not be able to travel and/or to meet local leaders and the communities due to the worsening Covid situation in the Maldives?

It is the intention to undertake the missions to the Maldives as planned, as travel to the Maldives is still possible. If this situation changes, in consultation with the selected company and project partners we may agree how to address this; e.g. planning more virtual meetings and/or rescheduling missions.

QUESTION 5

What flexibility does the programme allow for Covid related difficulties, notably quarantine requirements upon return of specialists from country visits?

UNWTO will liaise with the Ministry of Tourism and JICA to provide assistance on any possible Covid related difficulties faced during the mission in the Maldives. The selected company would have to make its own arrangements for any possible Covid related difficulties upon return from country visits.

QUESTION 6

According to the Terms of Reference, some international experts are required to undertake one field mission of 20 days to the Maldives? Would it be possible to split this mission in two (or more) missions, if during the implementation process such an approach proves to be more beneficial for efficient implementation of the project? Can such a decision be made after the start of the project?

Reference is made to the answer under question 2. When agreeing on a realistic planning of the project implementation, the possibility to split up mission can also be considered.

QUESTION 7

What is the expert rate applied to travel days according to the rules of the UNWTO? I.e. is it a full or a half of the daily expert rate?

UNWTO normally works with lump sums for the total costs of a mission, including expert fee, travel costs, DSA, without making an exact breakdown of the expert rate for travel days.

QUESTION 8

Regarding the point 1.2. Eligible Bidders that says „a) The bid shall be signed so as to be legally binding on all members of the joint venture or group“; should signatures of the JV members be hand written or will digital signatures be regarded as valid?

The documents can be submitted digitally signed.

QUESTION 9

Is the consultant expected to conduct any primary market research?

The marketing expert is not expected to undertake field missions to any source markets. Any other proposed activities to conduct market research within the framework of the project could be included in the proposal for the tender process.

QUESTION 10

What kind of information and market data will be available for this project related to COVID 19 and the Maldives tourism brand?

Project partners will make detailed information available on the tourism recovery process in the Maldives in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the selected company is expected to carry out further desk/internet and field research to collect relevant information. The Ministry of Tourism of the Maldives has already made available various publications on this through its website: <https://www.tourism.gov.mv/en/downloads/publications>