



**Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy**  
Male', Republic of Maldives

Answers to questions received with reference to  
Announcement Number (IUL)1139-EMCD/1139/2026/29 dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**Consultancy Service to Determine Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) for Five  
Protected Areas under the CATENATE Project**

03rd June 2026

Please find below answers for clarification for the above bid.

#	Clarification required	Answer
1	<p>Only three experts are required for ecological assessment. Are you expecting the out puts you are seeking form the exercise has the expertise on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bird species</li><li>• Seagrass</li><li>• Wetland</li><li>• Water quality</li></ul> <p>Is it open to propose additional expertise among the team?</p>	<p>Yes, additional experts can be proposed, but points are given to the proposed team members as per the TOR.</p>
2	<p>Please provide the level of protection for the 5 PAs listed. Are they in the same categories? Please share the protected status documents for 5 Pas.</p>	<p>The required information can be found from the link below: <a href="https://protectedareas.environment.gov.mv/en/protected-areas">https://protectedareas.environment.gov.mv/en/protected-areas</a></p>
3	<p>Conduct benthic surveys using standardized methods (Line Intercept Transect, Photo Quadrat)</p> <p>Would this be based on any previous similar surveys at respective sites. Would the sample sampled sites and numbers be same if previously surveyed/ If not the representative sampling would be decided by the bidder? Is it possible to share the previous sampling methods so that the costs of sampling can be realistically determined for the submission of the bid?</p>	<p>Please refer to the recommended methodology in the TOR.</p>



4	<p>Assess hard coral cover, diversity, and structural complexity</p> <p>Please specify the level of diversity for corals. Family, genera or species diversity?</p>	Genus level would be okay.
5	<p>Document coral recruitment rates and juvenile densities</p> <p>Coral recruitment rates are you looking for visible recruits or invisible recruits (coral larvae are not visible to the naked eye until they are about a year old if they survive on the natural reef substrate. Visible recruits and their densities can be determined in the field. Invisible recruitment are often measured using settlement tiles post known spawning periods. That would provide indication of larval settlement potential and how they recruit and become juveniles. Therefore, usually settlement and recruitment go in parallel. For this settlement rate determination, it would take few months. Is it settlement or recruitment you are seeking?</p>	<p>This is to be determined and proposed by the Consultant as part of the methodology. It can be based on the recommended methodology proposed in the TOR.</p> <p>The proposed methodology by the Consultant will be evaluated so we are unable to provide more information.</p>
6	<p>Identify bleaching susceptibility and resilience indicators</p> <p>Please clarify what this means. Bleaching susceptibility can be determined (site specific level) during a bleaching event and susceptibility varies based on various environmental factors in addition to elevated SST.</p>	We are looking for bleached level and signs of recovery and presence of more resilient species.
7	<p>Map coral distribution across reef zones (lagoon, reef flat, reef edge, outer reef)</p> <p>Mapping coral distribution is a general term. What resolution of mapping are you referring to?</p>	An appropriate resolution may be proposed, based on the methodology that you propose.
8	Assess fish and invertebrate nursery function Seagrass Meadows (if present):	This is to be determined and proposed by the Consultant as part of the methodology. It can



	Assessing fish and invertebrate in mangroves would be difficult without specifying the level of assessment. It is based on visual observations or other methods such as, e.g., bottom trawling, grab sampling or netting?	be based on the recommended methodology proposed in the TOR.
9	Assess species composition and health Marine Megafauna:  Health Marine Megafauna? Specific surveys for shortlisted megafauna? Health determined only by visual limits only?	Species composition and health has not been listed under Marine Megafauna.
10	Record sightings of threatened species (Napoleon wrasse, groupers, rays)  Are groupers in general among the threatened list? Please provide the list of threatened grouper species.	Some groupers are listed under IUCN Red List. You may record groupers in general instead of to species level.
11	Assess critical habitat areas b) Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment Island Vegetation:  Please provide that critical habitat are in the context of this assignment.	In the TOR, Critical habitats is mentioned under Marine Megafauna and not b) Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment Island Vegetation.
12	Survey freshwater/brackish wetland extent and condition  Clarify what is meant by condition	This refers to the general condition as observed by the expert.
13	Assess water quality and seasonal variation  Seasonal variation cannot be determined by a one-off survey or sampling. This is beyond the scope of work for this assignment.	Please use literature for seasonal variation determination.
14	Conduct bird surveys (species richness, abundance, breeding)  This survey would be a snapshot. Species richness, abundance, breeding is a seasonal assessment. Are you referring to a snapshot based on few days/?	Please propose a methodology as per your expert judgement.



15	Water quality testing (temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nutrients)  Specify the nutrient because this would have cost implications to the cost calculations.	In general, we are looking for any contaminants (Ammonia, Nitrate and Phosphate).
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**Procurement Department**

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