



TENDER NOTICE Ref. 3/2024, 09/10/2024

EPCO (Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisation) and the Italian ngo CISS (Cooperazione Internazionale Sud-Sud) are implementing a project entitled “*Resilient ISland Endeavour (R.I.S.E.): the application of a seaweed-based multipurpose agricultural system to combat the effects of climate change in Mauritius*”, Grant Contract **FED/2023/442-087** funded by the European Union under the programme SANOI (Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle dans l’Océan Indien).

The project started on the 1st of March 2023 and foresees the construction and purchase of rafts for seaweed farming to guarantee the effective implementation of the project activities of seaweed cultivation and harvesting at sea.

This tender is issued to solicit proposals for the provision of rafts for seaweed farming and cultivation. In the framework of this project, EPCO and CISS are seeking qualified suppliers who can meet our requirements in terms of quality, design, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

R.I.S.E. project is inviting submissions of tenders for a contract to provide **three (3) floating structures/rafts for seaweed cultivation**. For technical specifications and requirements, please see the tender notice below.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact us at the following address (see instructions in the Tender Notice below for submission documentation required):

- **daksh@epco.ngo**
- **e.gatteschi@cissong.org**

Deadline: 22nd October 2024

Yours sincerely,

EPCO and CISS staff

TENDER NOTICE Ref. 3/2024, 09/10/2024

Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisation (EPCO)

Provision of Seaweed Farming Rafts

Location of supply: Republic of Mauritius

R.I.S.E - FED/2023/442-087

Background and Objectives of the project

The Resilient ISland Endeavour (R.I.S.E.) is a project that aims at contributing to the improvement of the climate change-related resilience of the island nation of Mauritius (Overall objective/Impact). The action will be implemented in 10 villages situated in Grand Port, a district in the south-east of the island. The targeted villages will be the following: Grand River South East; Quatre Sœurs; Grand Sables; Bambous Virieux; Bois des Amourettes; Old Grand Port; Morcellement Ferney; Rivières des créoles; Petit Bel Air and Ville Noire/Mahébourg. In these areas, the project will target two groups of direct beneficiaries: on the one hand, it will involve 250 farmers (women and men) in the process of seaweed farming; on the other, it will involve 12 women in the seaweed treatment for consumption as food.

Hence, R.I.S.E. seeks to promote the dissemination of innovative and sustainable seaweed farming systems for the dietary diversification and improvement of resilience to climate change disasters and erratic weather behaviour in Mauritius. By and large, the action foresees the implementation of activities that explore and disseminate the introduction of green and sustainable technologies on the island providing climate change-resilient “tools” and good practices. The action will facilitate the access to seaweed farming as a highly sustainable farming technique that will assist producers in increasing production and diversifying their operations. Fertilizer and mulch obtained from seaweed farming will reduce water loss from the soil surface (which will maintain soil moisture) and will make crops more water scarcity-resilient. Seaweed will enable farmers to limit their dependence on pesticides, as its macro and micro minerals help aerate the soil it and foster pest control. Globally, this action increases and diversifies agricultural production contributing to food and nutrition security in a sustainable and inclusive manner. This characteristic will help tackling erratic rainfalls in general, and in turn will allow farmers not only to grow new and highly nutritive crops, but also to produce and disseminate the extraordinary benefits of edible products obtained from *Ulva lactuca*.

The development of farming lines and trainings on seaweed farming are considered as core activities in project R.I.S.E. and will be conducted to promote the creation of a new sustainable crop by the beneficiaries. The construction of floating rafts for *Ulva lactuca* cultivation, the spread of know-how on seaweed farming among the local communities, as well as data and information collected through the action, will support R.I.S.E. tea, in the overall objective of developing climate-change resilient strategies in the coastal area of southeast Mauritius.

According to the description of the Action, **three (3) floating structures for seaweed farming** will be created and used by the participants. These structures are intended to foster a harmonious, mutually beneficial relationship between people and the sea, ensuring that the materials used are as sustainable as possible. In accordance with the Ministry of Blue Economy, three strategic locations have been selected to host the collective farms (see technical specifications below for further details).

Each of the three structures will be composed of single frames or modules to guarantee easy access for fishermen and maximize growth, as the overall covered area will be limited. Each modular structure shall include ropes or other systems for integrating seaweed fragments.

GENERAL REFERENCE

a) Publication reference

FED/2023/442-087 Ref. 3/2024, 09/10/2024

b) Procedure

Single Tender Procedure for Supply

c) Programme

- EU Grant Contract – External Actions of the European Union
- SANOI PROGRAMME (Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle Océan Indien) – Support for actions to promote sustainable agriculture and nutrition awareness

d) Contracting authority

EPCO (Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisation), Mauritius

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

e) Description of the contract

Contract for the supply of **three (3) structures/rafts for seaweed cultivation**, designed to support project activities including the farming and harvesting of seaweed at sea. This is part of the implementation of the action entitled: *Resilient Island Endeavour (R.I.S.E.): The Application of a Seaweed-Based Multipurpose Agricultural System to Combat the Effects of Climate Change in Mauritius*.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

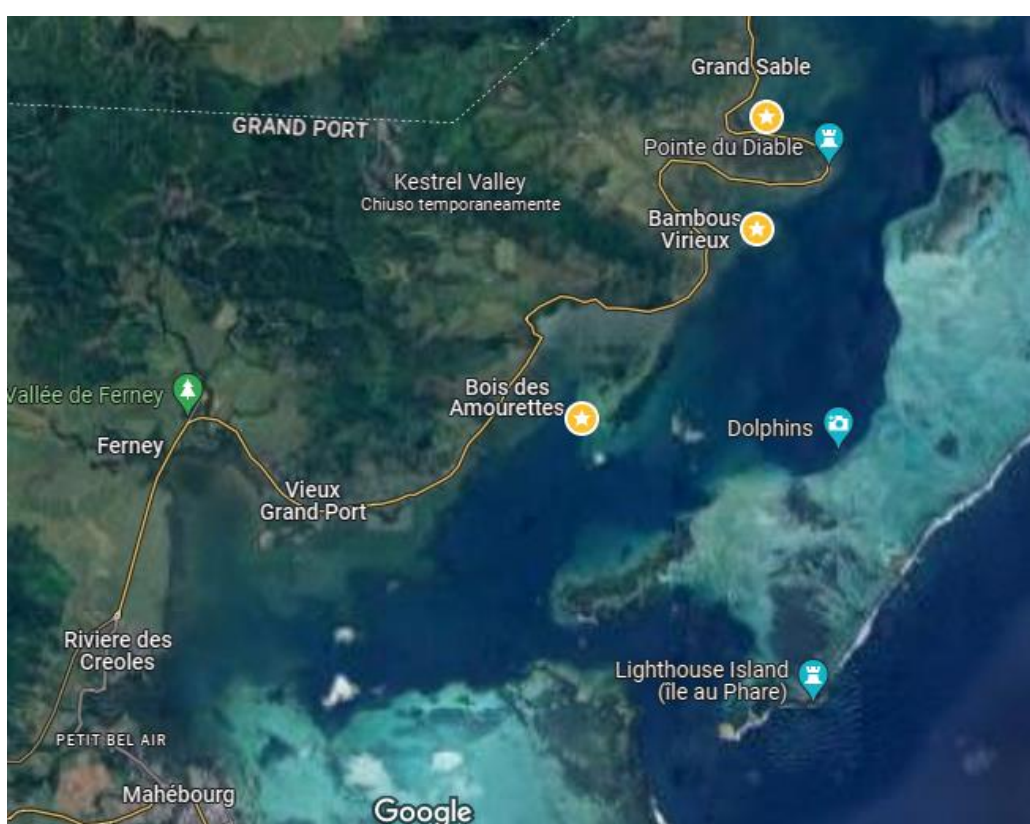
f) Sites' conditions and assessments

In order to proceed with the most suitable technical offer, tenderers are invited to take into consideration the following technical conditions:

- Rafts coordinates
- Sites' depth

Coordinates of the rafts:

No.	Raft Location	GPS Location
1	Petit Sable (Grand Sable)	Latitude: 20°19'52.56"S Longitude: 57°46'19.02"E
2	Bambous Virieux	Latitude: 20°20'36.8"S Longitude: 57°46'14.9"E
3	Providence (Bois des Amourettes)	Latitude: 20°21'51.3"S Longitude: 57°45'01.8"E



We remark that the seabed at the coordinates listed above is sandy.

Sites' Depth

No.	Raft Location	Date					
		17/07/2024		05/08/2024		28/09/2024	
		Depth	Time	Depth	Time	Depth	Time
1	Petit Sable (Grand Sable)	3.69 m	11.52	3.57 m	11.28	3.50 m	10.30
2	Bambous Virieux	1.50 m	12.47	1.86 m	11.55	1.50 m	10.09
3	Providence (Bois des Amourettes)	2.25 m	13.21	3.37 m	12.20	2.30 m	11.05

g) Scope of works

R.I.S.E. project is inviting submissions of tenders for a contract to provide the following:

Subject of supplying	Location of supply	Basic Characteristics	Additional Characteristics
<p>Quantity: Three (3) Rafts</p>	<p>Republic of Mauritius</p>	<p>Dimensions: 12.5 x 12.5 m approximately.</p> <p>Type: Modular</p> <p>Anchoring system: Ecological mooring pins or other type of eco mooring systems (no dead weight).</p> <p>Buoyancy Lighting System: Buoys with lights must be installed to demarcate the farms, ensuring safety in navigation.</p> <p>Materials: Durable, weather-resistant materials that can withstand marine conditions. Eco-friendly materials preferred.</p> <p>Buoyancy aids: Buoys or other floating system (for example, inflatable) must ensure the raft's weight capacity is maintained.</p> <p>Integration System: The raft must include a system for integrating samples of seaweed, as the seaweed will be cultivated for fragmentation. This may include features such as ropes or mesh/nets that facilitate the attachment and growth of seaweed samples, ensuring optimal conditions for fragmentation and regrowth.</p>	<p>Shape and Design: The shape of the collective farming structures shall be designed to maximize space and efficiency while minimizing the impact on territory.</p> <p>Accessibility: The raft must be designed for easy accessibility from the surface. It should allow fishermen to easily reach and harvest the seaweed crop without difficulty (i.e. floating or semi-sinking structures or cages).</p> <p>Weather Resilience and Stability: The raft must be constructed to potentially withstand cyclones and adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Maintenance: Consideration for easy maintenance and repair access.</p> <p>Predator Mitigation: protecting barriers, protective bags for seaweed, floating booms, mesh and netting or other systems of protection must be taken into consideration.</p>

Considering the conditions described above, bidders are encouraged to propose designs they deem most suitable, particularly as the three sites have varying depth conditions, which may render a single model unsuitable for all locations.

See *Annex 1* for examples of structures. Note: the images are purely indicative and do not represent mandatory technical specifications. For the technical specifications and requirements of this tender, please refer to section *g) Scope of Works* above.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

h) Eligibility criteria and rules of origin

Participation is open to all legal persons [participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers] which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

i) Selection criteria

1. The seaweed farming structures have to be built and operative within maximum one (1) month from pro-forma signature.
2. The construction sites have been officially and formally approved by the Ministry of Blue Economy and cannot neither be questioned nor changed.
3. The bidder must submit an indicative duration for the completion of the contract, which will be evaluated as an element of selection.
4. The bill of quantities (BoQ) or quotation submitted to the contractor must be comprehensive of any related expense/cost related; such as transport, installation and any potential contingency.
5. References from past contractors/employers will be an asset.

j) Award criteria

The following award criteria will be applied to tenderers:

- Cost-effectiveness
- Delivery timeline
- Compliance with specifications and general technical considerations (design, resilience capacity, mitigation strategies, quality and durability of materials, etc.)
- Previous experience and references: interested contractors with demonstrated experience in marine construction or familiarity with seaweed farming practices will be given special consideration

1. Price (60%)
2. Technical considerations (15%)
3. Time (15%)
4. Experience and references (10%)

TENDERING: SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal Submission: Proposals must be submitted sending an offer in writing to the following email addresses:

- daksh@epco.ngo
- e.gatteschi@cissong.org

Deadline for Submission: All proposals must be submitted by **22nd October 2024**.

Language of the procedure: all written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

Participation Requirements and Documentation:

Each proposal should include:

- A detailed description of the proposed rafts and their specifications: rafts' design and model, number of modules/frameworks/cages, expected quantity of seaweed samples or fragments per framework to be installed.
- A company presentation or profile, including experience and expertise in similar projects.
- A detailed pricing structure or Bill of Quantities, including all costs associated with materials, construction, delivery and installation.
- Proposed timeline for delivery.

Additional Supporting Documentation (optional):

- References from previous clients.
- Attachments and annexes with design and models proposed.
- Warranty and after-sales support information if present.

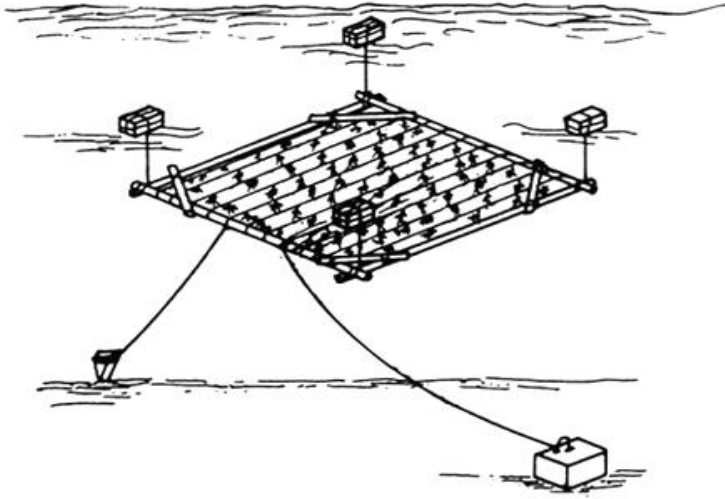
Contact information: For any inquiries or clarifications regarding this tender, please contact:

- daksh@epco.ngo
- e.gatteschi@cissong.org

Annex 1: Example of seaweed farming structures

Note: the images are purely indicative and do not represent mandatory technical specifications. For the technical specifications and requirements of this tender, please refer to section g) *Scope of Works* above.

Examples of single frameworks/modules:



Example of structure's shape composed of single modular frameworks:

