

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)
SACEP Secretariat based in Sri Lanka
PLASTIC-FREE RIVERS AND SEAS FOR SOUTH ASIA (PLEASE) PROJECT
Grant No.: IDA -D6480**

Assignment Title: Communication Specialist

Reference: Procurement of a Communication Specialist to the Project Management Unit

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) received US\$ 37 Million as per the Financing Agreement signed on 8 June 2020 from the World Bank toward the cost of the Plastic-free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) - Grant# IDA -D6480, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Communications Specialist consultant will report to the PIU Project Director and work alongside the UNOPS Communications team. S/he will lead, plan, develop, implement and monitor the PLEASE project communication strategy, and align communications and promotional activities to enhance visibility of PLEASE project and SACEP as the implementing Agency.

Under the overall supervision of the Director General and the Project Director, and in coordination with the UNOPS communications team, the Communications Specialist will propose mechanisms and protocols for communications to ensure information sharing and coordinated communications approach among all project implementation entities, project beneficiaries, and external stakeholders (One Strategy – One Voice). The assignment is for 6 months and the start date of the assignment is on 1 February 2025. Composite TOR can be accessed by logging into; <http://sacep.org/consultancy-opportunities>

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) now invites eligible Sri Lanka nationals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide a CV including information that demonstrates that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Eligible candidates should have the following minimum qualifications, experience, and competencies:

The successful candidate will be a senior communication professional with a post-graduate degree in communication-related fields with a minimum of 10-12 years of experience in the field of communication and development projects/programs. S/he will have the ability to interact effectively across socio-political, economic, and cultural affiliations. In addition, the candidate is expected to have the following qualifications:

- Proven experience in designing and managing strategic public communication programs;
- Solid understanding of and ability to apply communication tools and techniques, including the ability to analyze and use research data;
- Strong management skills in planning and financial management of communication work;
- Educational background in communication, journalism, international relations, social sciences, public affairs, political science, psychology, and marketing;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills in English language;
- Demonstrated interpersonal and diplomatic skills, as well as the ability to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and to present ideas clearly and

- effectively; proven ability to work in a collaborative and multi-stakeholder team environment;
- Excellent knowledge, experience, and understanding of development issues, socio-political, economic, and cultural context of the South Asian countries;
 - Knowledge and/or experience in the field of environmental management is an asset;
 - Competency in computer literacy skills (MS Word, Excel, Power Point and other software).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraph, 3.17 of the World Bank's 'Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers' (Procurement in Investment Project Financing- Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 Revised November 2017 and August 2018), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment:

3.17 Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of being unable to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Borrower. Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, Consultants shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:

d. Consultants (including their experts and other personnel, and sub-consultants), that have a close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower, or of the project implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the Bank's financing, or any other party representing or acting on behalf of the Borrower, that is directly or indirectly involved in any part of:

i. the preparation of the TOR for the assignment;

ii. the selection process for the contract; or

iii. the supervision of the contract, may not be awarded a contract unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the selection process and the execution of the contract.

The individual will be selected based on the qualification and experience, in accordance with the procedures set out in the 'The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers- Procurement in Investment Project Financing- Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, Revised November 2017' and August 2018' as per the Financing Agreement of the project.

Applications must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by no later than **14.00, Sri Lanka time on 17 January 2025**.

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