



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy for the analysis of information on standards relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms

BACKGROUND AND MANDATE

The *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* is an agreement adopted in the context of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. It aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. It was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003.

Article 18 of the Protocol addresses the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs. It requires LMOs that are subject to transboundary movement to be handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety. Paragraph 3 of Article 18 provides that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP), the governing body of the Protocol, consider the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices, in consultation with other relevant international bodies.

At the last meeting of the COP-MOP, Parties adopted decision BS-V/9 in which they requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to commission a study to analyse information on existing standards, methods and guidance relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms, so that it may be made available for consideration by the sixth meeting of the COP-MOP. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad, India from October 1st to 5th, 2012.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Description of required services: scope, methodology and deliverables

In accordance with paragraphs 1(a) and (d) of decision BS-V/9, the consultant is expected to:

- (a) Review and update information on existing standards, guidance and methods relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs;
- (b) Consider whether there are gaps in existing standards, guidance and methods and, on this basis, whether there is a need for the elaboration of standards for handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs;
- (c) Address guidance on the use of existing international regulations and standards; and
- (d) Suggest ways to facilitate cooperation with relevant organizations.

It is expected that the consultancy will primarily take the form of desk research to review relevant information. The Secretariat will provide some relevant background materials from previous activities in this area (e.g. issue 1 of the Biosafety Technical Series, [“Standards for Shipments of Living Modified Organisms: Outcomes of an Online Forum”](#)).

The deliverables for the consultancy will be an interim report and a final study. The Secretariat will provide comments and feedback on the interim report to assist in the preparation of the final study.

Competencies

The consultant should have:

- Demonstrated experience with research and analysis of national and international regulations and standards;
- Excellent writing and editing skills, including the ability to explain and compare technical and regulatory information in a clear and concise manner;
- Attention to detail and respect for timelines;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Prior experience on the subject of living modified organisms is an asset.

Duration and timeframe for delivery of services

The interim report should be submitted by 16 April 2012 and the final study should be delivered by 15 June 2012.

Respect for timelines will be critical in order to make the study available to the Parties for their sixth meeting.

Terms of Payment

A lump sum payment will be made available in installments for undertaking the work specified under 'required services': 20% upon receipt of an inception report, 30% upon receipt of a satisfactory interim report and the remaining 50% after submission of the satisfactory final study and completion of the work.

Applications

Applications should contain:

- a cover/motivation letter;
- a completed [personal history form](#) (P11);
- a CV or company profile;
- a writing sample; and
- a 1-2 page initial outline and implementation schedule for the work including key steps foreseen in the execution of the tasks, the general approach proposed for the consultancy and a cost estimate for the work to be undertaken.

Selection criteria

The consultant will be selected based on relevant experience and demonstrated capability.

Please send all applications electronically to secretariat@cbd.int before 24 February 2012.