

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Consultancy on Preliminary Study of Open Burning in Sri Lanka

1. The State Ministry of Environment invites proposals to obtain the above consulting services to identify gaps in existing knowledge on open burning and practices in Sri Lanka and recommend suitable measures to control air pollution from open burning. More details on the required services are provided in the Terms of Reference attached herewith.
2. A consultant will be selected from an interview from shortlisted consultants who fulfill the minimum qualifications according to the evaluation criteria attached herewith.
3. The proposals should be submitted on or before 21st September 2015, providing the information indicated below.
 - (i) Curriculum Vitae giving details educational and professional qualifications, research studies conducted and past experience including similar consultancy assignments carried out by the consultant. (Consultancy organizations should provide the CV of leading consultant assigned to the task)
 - (ii) A description of approach, methodology and work plan.
4. This RFP includes following attachments.
 - Annex1 – Consultant Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria
 - Annex2 – Terms of Reference
5. For further clarifications please contact Ms.Upamali, Programme Assistant, Air Resource Management and International Relations on 0112888248.

Secretary
State Ministry of Environment

Consultant Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria

1. Expertise Required:

The consultant should meet the following requirements.

1. Should have at least Master Degree in Physics, Chemistry, Statistics or any other relevant field.
2. At least 10 years of experience in Air Resource Management or any other relevant field.
3. Having successfully completed at least 2 similar assignments.

In case of consultancy organizations, the qualifications of the leading consultant assigned to the task should meet the above requirements.

2. Selection Criteria and Method:

Shortlisted consultants who meet the requirements stated above will be invited for the interview. Marks will be given according to the marking scheme given below and the consultant or consultancy organization obtaining the highest marks will be selected to award the contract.

In case of consultancy organizations, the qualifications of the leading consultant assigned to the task will be evaluated.

3. Making scheme for the interview:

- Additional Academic Qualifications (maximum 20 marks)
- Additional research studies conducted in relevant areas (maximum 30 marks)
- Additional experience in similar consultancy assignments not less than three month duration (maximum 30 marks)
- Approach to the work, methodology and work plan (maximum 20 marks)

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Consultancy on Preliminary Study of Open Burning in Sri Lanka

1. Background:

“Open burning” can simply be defined as “any outdoor fire that does not burn within a container equipped with a chimney or stack.” This includes uncontrolled combustion of clinical and municipal waste, construction craps, agricultural residues etc. in an open yard or in barrels. These conditions result in incomplete combustion, and as a result, harmful air pollutants (Dioxins, Furans, etc.) are released directly into the ambient air without passing through an adequate stack, duct or chimney.

These pollutants, such as fine particulates, PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons), heavy metals, and dioxins have been linked to such significant health impacts as decreased lung function, neurological disorders, cancer, and heart attacks and other non communicable diseases. According to the World Health Organization, about 3.7 million people die prematurely from outdoor air pollution. Those most at risk are children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory problems. A recent study funded by US National Science Foundation has concluded that trash fires produce emissions equivalent to as much as 29 percent of officially reported human-related global emissions of small particulates (less than 2.5 microns in diameter), as well as 10 percent of mercury and 64 percent PAHs. If such a large source of air pollutants is not taken into account, the air pollution countermeasures put in place may not be effective in controlling air pollution. Therefore, there is a strong need to identify contribution of open burning to the total level of air pollutants in Sri Lanka. It is also important to identify the sources and their relative significance in order to introduce regulations to control open burning. In this view, the State Ministry of Environment has recognized the importance of introducing measures to control open burning in Sri Lanka.

The consultant is expected to carry out a review of existing literature on open burning and identify gaps in existing knowledge, as well as make recommendations on actions to be taken in order to introduce regulations to control air pollution from open burning.

2. Objective:

Identify gaps in existing knowledge on open burning and practices in Sri Lanka in order to recommend suitable measures to control air pollution from open burning and to prepare set of guideline and policy directions.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant's efforts shall address the following requirements.

- a. Propose suitable definition for open burning.
- b. Review existing studies on sources of open burning and pollutants emitted from each source in Sri Lanka.
- c. Review studies related to health and environmental impacts caused due to emissions from open burning.
- d. Examine / Analyze relative importance of various sources with respect to emission of air pollutants and contribution of open burning for the total emission of each air pollutant identified above.
- e. (i) Identify existing knowledge/ literature (through a literature survey) on open burning.
(ii) Identify gaps in existing knowledge and practices on open burning.
- f. Propose suitable studies to be conducted on open burning.
- g. Make recommendations for suitable measures, and prioritize them to minimize the air pollution from open burning.

4. Reports and Schedule of Deliveries:

1. The assignment should be completed within three (03) months from the date of award of the contract. Process milestones of this assignment will include the following:
2. Submission of an inception report demonstrating understanding of the assignment and showing a proposed methodology and work schedule within 2 weeks from the date of award of contract.
3. Submission of interim report including literature survey on local studies, and literature survey on global/ regional studies with identified gaps and proposed studies with the relevant action plan within 6 weeks from the date of award of contract.
4. Presentation on the findings of the gaps in knowledge and practices and proposed studies to the stakeholders within 8 weeks from the date of award of contract.
5. Submission of a final comprehensive report covering the requirements that are mentioned in the 'Scope of Work' within 12 weeks from date of award of contract.

The reports should be written in English and should be submitted in 5 copies along with the soft copy of the report.

5. Payment Schedule:

The total value of this contract is Rs.150,000.00 Payments shall be made according to the following schedule: Payments shall be made according to the following schedule:

1. Rs.30,000.00 will be paid upon the submission of the inception report.
2. Rs.50,000.00 will be paid upon the submission of interim report.
3. Rs.40,000.00 will be paid after the presentation of the interim report to stakeholders.
4. Rs.30,000.00 will be paid after the final comprehensive report.

10% reduction will be applied for each installment per every week of delays from the stipulated the deadline.

6. Institutional arrangements and conditions:

1. Ministry has the total ownership of the study and right to change the content.
2. Soft copy (MS Word) and hard copies of the report should be submitted as requested in end of section
3. The consultant shall report to the Director and Assistant Director of Air Resource Management and International Resources Division of the State Ministry of Environment.
4. Consultant should interact with relevant officers of the division to identify the requirement of the Ministry during the study.