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BF-Ouagadougou: EDF — technical assistance for WAEMU under the programme to support the 'parcs de l'Entente' (PAPE) — biodiversity conservation in the WAP complex

2010/S 236-358960

Place(s) of service provision: West Africa — Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger

Other: Togo may also be included in the programme at a later date

Service contract notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

Main object:

90712400 Natural resources management or conservation strategy planning services

Additional object(s):

98910000 Services specific to international organisations and bodies

90713000 Environmental issues consultancy services

1. **Publication reference:**

EuropeAid/130465/D/SER/Multi.

2. **Procedure:**

Restricted.

3. **Programme:**

9th or 10th EDF.

4. **Financing:**

Financing agreement.

5. **Contracting authority:**

Beneficiary: Regional Authorising Officer: West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

6. **Type of contract:**

Unit price contract.

7. **Contract description:**

The particular aim of this contract is as follows: to strengthen the regional institutional framework of conservation of protected areas for concerted and harmonised management of protected areas in the WAP complex (in particular) and West Africa (in general).

The results expected cover the institutional sustainability and economic viability of the WAP complex, namely: (R1) the concerted management of protected areas is facilitated by providing support for good governance and the general coordination of the programme; (R2) the economic viability of the conservation is facilitated (support for reducing costs through efficient management and economies of scale and increased revenue, whether from tourism, eligibility for the trust fund being set up or other sources); (R3) the regulations and practices regarding conservation are harmonised in WAEMU countries, with a view to including all ECOWAS countries (non-WAEMU); (R4) concerns about the sustainable management of natural resources are better integrated in regional development policies; (R5) the WAEMU Commission is strengthened in the implementation of its environmental policy in the field of management of protected areas and conservation of biodiversity; (R6) a

regional vision of nature conservation and joint reference system are drawn up and promoted; (R7) integration of the Oti Mandori park (Togo) in the PAPE project is prepared.

The technical assistance is based at the general coordination office for the 'Parcs de l'Entente' project on WAEMU premises in Ouagadougou (WAEMU).

8. **Number and titles of lots:**

The contract is divided into lots: no, 1 lot only.

9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 1 312 000 EUR.

10. **Additional services:**

Subject to the availability of funding, the contracting authority may decide at its own discretion to extend the duration and/or scope of the contract, without however exceeding the initial contract value and duration. Any contract renewal is subject to the satisfactory performance of the tasks by the contractor.

Conditions for participation

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open on equal terms to all natural persons and legal entities (irrespective of whether they are taking part as individuals or as part of a grouping (consortium) of tenderers) from the EU Member States and ACP countries, and also to international organisations, as authorised by the instrument applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also point 29 below).

12. **Application:**

Any eligible natural person or legal entity (as defined in point 11 above) or grouping of said parties (consortium) may apply.

A consortium can be a permanent grouping with legal status or an informal grouping created with a specific invitation to tender in mind. All the members of a consortium (i.e. lead company and all other partners) shall be jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the contracting authority.

Should an ineligible natural person or legal entity (as defined in point 11) take part, the application concerned will be automatically disqualified. If said ineligible party belongs to a consortium, the application from the whole consortium will be disqualified.

13. **Number of applications:**

Natural persons or legal entities may submit 1 application only, irrespective of whether they take part as a sole legal entity, or as a lead company or member of a consortium submitting an application. Should a natural person or legal entity submit more than 1 application, all the applications involving said party will be disqualified.

14. **Prohibition on alliances between shortlisted candidates:**

Tenders which include companies not mentioned on the application forms used to compile the shortlist will be disqualified from this restricted procedure. Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

Candidates must sign and enclose with their application the statement provided in the standard application form confirming that they are not in any of the exclusion situations described in point 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is permitted.

Maximum percentage of contract value that may be subcontracted: 30 %.

Activities that may be subcontracted: short-term expertise.

17. Number of candidates invited to tender:

Between 4 and 8 candidates will be invited to submit a detailed tender for this contract, on the basis of the applications received. If the number of eligible candidates fulfilling the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite those candidates fulfilling the criteria to tender.

Provisional timetable

18. Scheduled date for dispatch of invitations to tender:

20.1.2011.

19. Provisional start date for the contract:

1.6.2011.

20. Initial length:

Duration in months: 58 (from the award of the contract).

Selection and award criteria

21. Selection criteria:

Identical criteria for natural persons and legal entities.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. If the application is submitted by a consortium, these criteria will apply to the consortium as a whole.

1) Candidate's economic and financial capacity:

if the candidate is a public body, equivalent information must be submitted:

1. average turnover for the past 3 financial years (2007, 2008 and 2009) must be greater than 1 000 000 EUR;
2. average figures for cash and cash equivalents at the beginning and end of the past 3 financial years (2007, 2008 and 2009) must be positive.

2) Candidate's professional capacity:

1. in the current financial year (2010), at least 15 persons must be working for the candidate in fields related to this contract (environment, biodiversity, nature conservation, etc.);
2. in the current financial year (2010), at least 25 % of all the candidate's employees working in fields related to this contract must be on permanent contracts.

3) Candidate's technical capacity:

1. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 3 projects, each with a budget of at least 400 000 EUR, in the field of nature conservation or biodiversity management;
2. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 3 projects, each with a budget of at least 50 000 EUR, to devise or review national or regional policies on the management of natural resources or biodiversity management;
3. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 1 regional integration programme in Africa, with a budget of at least 50 000 EUR.

An economic operator may, if necessary and for a specific contract, make use of the capacities of other bodies irrespective of the legal nature of the connection between himself and said bodies. In this event, he must provide the contracting authority with proof that he will have the resources needed to carry out the contract by, for example, producing a written commitment by said bodies to make such resources available. These bodies, e.g. the economic operator's parent company, must observe the same eligibility rules, notably regarding nationality, as the economic operator.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the aforementioned selection criteria, then the strengths and weaknesses of these applications must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications.

Only the following criteria will be considered in this re-examination:

— firstly, the total sum of the budgets for the projects on which the candidate has worked successfully in the past 3 years to devise (only) national or regional policies on the management of natural resources or biodiversity management,

— secondly, the number of projects on which the candidate has worked successfully in the past 3 years with a budget of at least 100 000 EUR, whose beneficiary or awarding authority is an African regional economic community (WAEMU/ECOWAS/SADC/EMCCA/IGAD/African Union/IOC).

22. **Award criterion:**

Best quality/price ratio.

Application

23. **Final date for receipt of applications:**

11.1.2011 (12:00), local time.

Applications received after this deadline will be rejected.

24. **Application submission procedures and information to be supplied:**

Applications must strictly comply with submission procedures and the instructions of the standard application form, available on the Internet at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_fr.htm

Additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) enclosed with the application will not be considered.

25. **Procedures for dispatch of applications:**

Applications must only be sent to the contracting authority in French:

— either by registered post (official postal service), to the following address:

WAEMU Commission, 380, avenue du Professeur Ki-Zerbo, 01 PO Box 543, Ouagadougou 01, BURKINA FASO,

— or by hand delivery (including courier service) to the contracting authority itself, against a signed and dated acknowledgement of receipt, at the aforementioned address for the attention of Mr Malick Diallo (or Mr Ayih Atayi-Agbobly). Tel. +226 50328891 (or +226 50328865).

The contract title and publication reference (see point 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority. Applications submitted in any other way will be rejected.

26. **Amendments to or withdrawal of applications:**

Candidates may amend or withdraw their application by giving notice thereof in writing before the final date for receipt of applications. Applications cannot be amended once this deadline has passed.

Notice of amendments or withdrawal must be drawn up and sent as per the instructions given in point 25.

The word 'Modification' (amendment) or 'Retrait' (withdrawal), as applicable, must be written on the outside envelope and on the inner envelope (if applicable).

27. **Working language:**

All correspondence concerning this invitation to tender procedure and contract must be in French.

28. **Date of publication of the prior information notice:**

Date: 24.8.2010.

Notice number in OJ: [2010/S 163-249948](#).

29. **Legal basis:**

9th or 10th EDF: ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23.6.2000, amended on 25.6.2005 and in 2008 (Annex IV).

30. **Additional information:**

It should be noted that award of the contract is subject to the prior adoption of a financing decision and conclusion of a financing agreement.

This condition does not affect the elements of the invitation to tender procedure (in the case, for example, where the budget allowance initially planned is different or where the nature or condition of, or schedule for implementation are changed).

If this condition is not fulfilled, the contracting authority may withdraw from the contract or cancel the procurement procedure, without candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation.

31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

24.11.2010.