Tender Document

Technical assistance on improving flood resilience in the Sundarbans, West Bengal, India

An invitation to tender in accordance with the European open procedure for the procurement

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Definition of terms

Contract	The written agreement between the Contracting Authority and the Contractor in which the conditions of the assignment are recorded.
Contracting Authority	The State of the Netherlands, represented by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, who concludes the Contract with the Contractor on behalf of the Contracting Authority.
Contractor	The party with whom the Contracting Authority concludes the Contract.
European Single Procurement Document	A statement in which the Tenderer declares his compliance with the requirements specified in this document.
Exclusion Ground	A circumstance applicable to the Tenderer or a person affiliated with the Tenderer that results in exclusion of the Tenderer from participating in the tendering process.
General Government Terms and Conditions	General Government Terms and Conditions for Public Service Contracts 2018 (ARVODI-2018: *Algemene Rijksvoorwaarden voor het verstrekken van Opdrachten tot het verrichten van Diensten*).
IUC-EZK	The Procurement Office (IUC) – part of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl), which in turn is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK) – will serve as process manager during this tendering process.
Memorandum of Information	A document containing all questions asked and answers given, in anonymised form and, if applicable, additional information. This includes the questions and answers submitted via TenderNed.
Most Economically Advantageous Tender	The Tender that achieves the highest definitive total score based on the best price-quality ratio.
Public Procurement Act	The Public Procurement Act 2012 (*Aanbestedingswet 2012*)
Suitability requirements	The requirements with which Tenderers must comply in order to be eligible to win the Tender.
Tender	A quotation submitted by the Tenderer in response to this Tender Document.
Tenderer	An entrepreneur or entrepreneurs who have submitted a Tender or is/are planning to submit a Tender. In this document, the word 'you' is taken to mean the Tenderer.
Tender Document	This document and all of its annexes.
Tendering authority	The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

1. Introduction

The Tender Document at hand contains information regarding this invitation to tender conducted in accordance with the European open procedure for technical assistance on improving flood resilience in the Sundarbans, West-Bengal, India.

You are hereby invited to submit a Tender based on this Tender Document.

1.1 Tendering Authority and IUC-EZK

This tendering process is being conducted on the instructions of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands (EZK). The procurement office of EZK (IUC-EZK) will act as process manager during this tendering process.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) helps entrepreneurs and organisations to invest, develop and expand their businesses and projects. Both in the Netherlands and abroad. It is a government agency which is part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. RVO supports entrepreneurs, NGOs, knowledge institutes, policymakers and organisations. It improves collaborations and strengthen positions through its funding and networks. By sharing its know-how, RVO helps entrepreneurs and organisations move forward doing business abroad.

1.2 Reason for this invitation to tender

The Partners for Water program (PvW) in India is seeking interested parties to provide technical assistance to the Government of the state of West Bengal (GoWB), India on improving flood resilience for the Sundarbans coastal area. PvW is commissioned by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management on behalf of the Dutch Interdepartmental Water Cluster.

1.3 Time schedule

The schedule below applies to this tendering process.

5 December 2023	Issuing of publication, start of tendering period.
15 December 2023	Closure of round of questions: deadline for the Tenderer to submit questions regarding this Tender Document, the Contract (including the general terms and conditions) and/or proposals for textual amendments to the draft Contract (including the general terms and conditions).
5 January 2023	Issuing of 1st Memorandum of Information
19 Januari 2023, 17:00h CET	Deadline for the receipt of Tenders and opening of new Tenders by the Tendering Authority.
23 February 2024	Announcement of the award of the Contract.
14 March 2024	Deadline for asking questions and/or filing an application for a preliminary injunction in relation to the announcement of the award of the Contract.
4 March 2024	Deadline for the winning Tenderer to provide the evidence requested by the Tendering Authority.
22 March 2024	Starting date of Contract.

If – in the opinion of the Tendering Authority – circumstances provide cause to do so, the Tendering Authority is entitled to amend the specified period(s). In such a case, timely notification of the new period(s) will be provided digitally.

2. Description of assignment

2.1 Summary

In The Partners for Water program (PvW) India is one of the deltacountries, and the Netherlands offers support to the government of West Bengal to improve the water security of the Sundarbans. The GoWB has requested to provide Technical Assistance (TA) on improving flood resilience in the reclaimed parts of the Sundarbans. In response to this request, PvW worked with the GoWB to develop the present assignment. The assignment offers technical support to IWD in all phases of the construction process of civil works. The following phases can be identified:

Task 0: **Inception phase:** This assignment starts with a 2-months Inception phase in which the Contractor familiarizes itself with the project, visits the site(s) and build a trusted relationship with the Irrigation & Waterways Department (IWD) of the State of West Bengal;
Task 1: Design phase. The assignment provides technical support to IWD helping the IWD to improving the design of flood protection and anti-erosion works (including Nature-based-Solutions (NbS). This activity is expected to complement to the support already provided by the Dutch Risk Reduction (DRR-)team and the two follow-up assignments on dike design and application of (NbS) to enhance coastal protection of the reclaimed Sundarbans in 2023. The completion of the design and design drawings itself remains the sole responsibility of the IWD;
Task 2: Construction preparation phase: Support IWD in the construction preparation and logistics process of a civil works project, including review of technical specifications and standard tender documents of IWD and propose recommendations following International FIDIC standards or other applicable standards;
Task 3: Inspection & Maintenance phase: In this phase, the Contractor shall prepare a preliminary inspection & maintenance plan helping IWD to adopt a more structured approach to perform maintenance of flood protection assets. The Contractor will accompany IWD in site visits during construction works and share practical insights on robust construction methods and construction logistics with IWD under this activity.

The main purpose of the assignment is to provide technical hands-on support to IWD in all phases of the construction process. The scope of activities is selected based on information available at the time of writing, but may require adjustments should priorities of the IWD change, which will be captured in the revised workplan to be prepared during the inception period. For this reason, the Contracting Authority finds that the most important Qualification requirement for this assignment is the experience of the experts used for this assignment. The Contractor is invited to propose the best team, at least covering the following four key-expert positions:

- Team leader
- (coastal) Construction engineer
- Hydraulic & morphological expert
- Nature-based Solutions expert

Because of the possible changes in the deliverables and/or the scheduling of the deliverables two extension options are included in the contract.

Below you will find a short introduction of the context of the assignment, a description of the local situation, an elaboration of the tasks, and finally an overview of stakeholders and (possible) pilot regions.

2.2 Introduction

This assignment is financed through the Partners for Water Program, executed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), part of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. The Partners for Water Program is commissioned by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management on behalf of the Interdepartmental Water Cluster.

The Netherlands is internationally well-known for its expertise on water management, which is therefore one of the cornerstones of the bilateral relationships the Netherlands maintains. Through the Netherlands International Water Ambition (IWA), more intense relationships with other countries are aimed for, which are fostered through strategic partnerships with seven so-called delta countries. Under the NIWA, several ministries are involved: Foreign Affairs (BZ), Agriculture,

Nature and Food Quality (LNV), Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) and Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W). The ultimate aim is to increase water security and water safety in the world of humans, plants and animals, and optimize the Dutch contribution to this aim.

In the Partners for Water programme, India is one of the 'Delta-countries' which means that we will support India on water related issues more specific in the states of West Bengal and Kerala and the Namami Ganga basin.

The government of West-Bengal has requested the Government of the Netherlands for support on flood risk management. In April 2022 a Dutch Risk Reduction (DRR-) mission visited the reclaimed areas of the Indian Sundarbans and the Sundarbans National Mangrove Reserve. The aim of the DRR-team deployment was, together with the design engineers of the West Bengal Irrigation & Waterways Department (IWD), the locally based Executive Engineers and Experts in Mangrove Development and Extension Services, to examine the situation, and to provide advice on what can be done both short- and long-term to improve flood resilience and water security. The mission identified two major focus points for improving the flood resilience of livelihood in the Sundarbans: (1) reconnection of the Sundarbans with upstream river systems, and (2) enhanced protection of the coastal area of the Sundarbans. This Terms of Reference focusses on the consulting services to support the Government of West Bengal with the second focus area: ensuring flood protection of the coastal area of the Sundarbans.

Key to the development of a sustainable and safe Sundarbans is to ensure water security by developing resilience against floods, the creation of a freshwater environment on the islands and restoration of fresh water to the Sundarbans Delta. The DRR report presents a roadmap (see Figure 1) for the development of the Sundarbans, which will form the basis for the consultancy services described in this Terms of Reference.

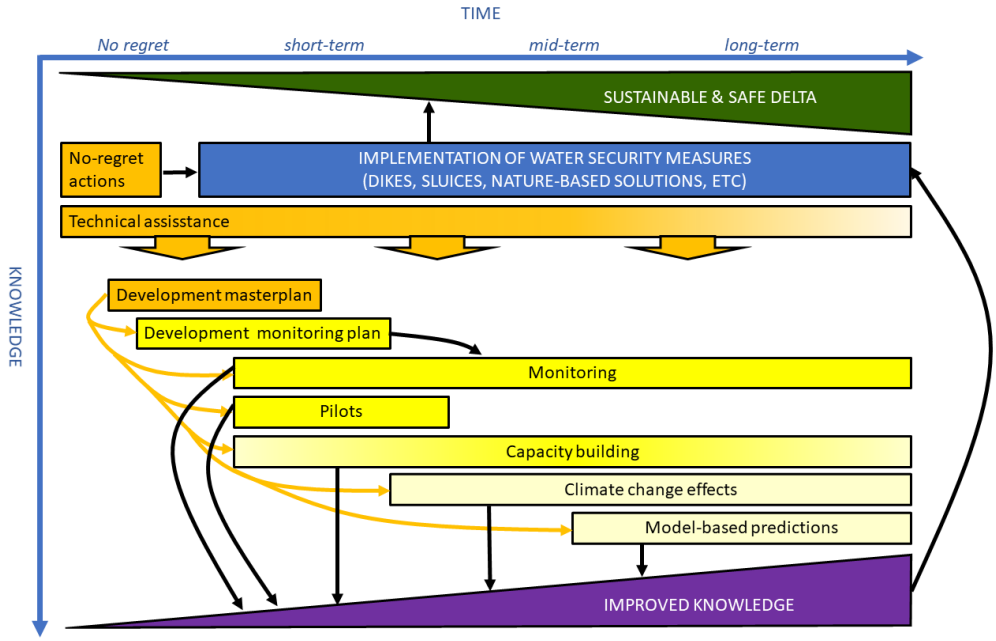


Figure 1: Roadmap for Development in Sundarbans

In September 2022, a Partner for Water mission took place to gain insight in the needs of the Government of West Bengal with regards to improving water security of the Sundarbans area. The mission has led to the action plan "West Bengal – The Netherlands" on cooperation on water security and integrated water resources development. This action plan has been approved by both parties in November 2022.

In December 2022 and February 2023, a follow-up mission took place to West-Bengal with a focus on providing technical handholding to the Irrigation and Waterways Department (IWD) in their efforts to prepare two pilot locations for improved coastal protection. The experts provided hands-on and site-specific advice on most pressing dike construction issues and application of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)[1] to strengthen the coastal foreshore. IWD has informed RVO that based on the recommendations provided by the Dutch expert team[2] the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for two pilot locations can be finalized and construction works can start in the construction season 2023-2024. The locations concern Patibunia and Gobindapur Adab (See **Fout! Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden.** & This information can be found in).

2.3 Situation

The north-eastern shores of India and Bangladesh are home to the Sundarbans, the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest. The Indian Sundarbans is spread across approximately 9,630 square kilometers, of which 5,363 square kilometers is reclaimed area and 4,267 square kilometers are protected mangrove forests. A further 6,000 square kilometers of protected mangrove forests are spread across neighboring Bangladesh. The Indian administrative region of Sundarbans lies within the State of West Bengal. The entire area is a conglomeration of river channels, creeks and about 102 islands. Currently 54 islands are inhabited while the remaining 48 islands remain forested.

The Sundarbans delta faces tremendous pressure by a bourgeoning human population that is economically, educationally, and socially unprivileged and inhabits an area that is mostly inaccessible due to poor infrastructure facilities. There are approximately 5.2 million people living in and around the Sundarbans delta. In the absence of any industry, most of the local population in the Indian Sundarbans depends on agriculture. However, due to lack of irrigation facilities and fresh water as well as basic infrastructure, agricultural practices are primitive and dependent on seasonal rainfall, yielding poor crop and acts as an erratic source of livelihood. Both landless as well as land owning people supplement their income by exploiting the mangrove forests, fishing, collecting, and farming tiger prawn seeds in its waters, the latter particularly causing large scale damage to marine biodiversity.

The Sundarbans Delta's geomorphology is dynamic, and its landforms are threatened by coastal erosion and sea level rise. The eastward migration of the Ganges River over the past 200 years has affected rivers in parts of the West Bengal Sundarbans. Interventions in the northern delta (e.g., Farakka Barrage) have reduced freshwater and sediment flow, and many small distributaries of the Ganga/Padma have broken away from the main channel. As a result, the estuaries are dominated by tidal flows. Reductions in sediment supply, land subsidence and sea level increases have given rise to tidal amplification, coastal erosion and the resultant loss of land. It is reported that an area of around 4.5 km^2 is lost per year due to these processes. Rising sea levels and salt-water intrusion negatively impacts drinking water supplies, reduces the potential for agriculture, and threatens biodiversity by changing aquatic conditions (and reducing the suitability for freshwater flora and fauna – such as mangrove forests and freshwater fish). Figure 2 shows areas of accretion and erosion across the Indian and Bangaldesh part of the Sundarbans, demonstrating the dynamic nature of the landscape.

In the Sundarbans, coastal protection can be achieved through a balance of NbS and hard infrastructure. NbS could include the expansion of mangrove forests to protect vulnerable areas against coastal storm surges and trap sediment to reduce coastal erosion and promote accretion. Efforts to protect coastlines will also require investments in "hard" or "grey" infrastructure such as sea walls, embankments, and groynes in erosion hotspots. When NbS and hard infrastructure measures are combined, they are referred to as "hybrid" measures. The deployment of NbS should be coupled with efforts to revise the alignment of coastal embankments and their design, with a focus on aspects such as appropriate technical standards, construction material and logistics and

[1] NbS are interventions that work with the natural systems to protect, sustainably manage, or restore ecosystems, and simultaneously address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security. NbS can also be instrumental in long term disaster risk reduction and adaptation, while providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

[2] An assignment to RHDHV is currently ongoing and will be completed before the end of 2023.

maintenance schedules. In some locations, this may mean managed retreat, and in others, rehabilitating or constructing new infrastructure.

The following key challenges were identified for the Sundarbans;

- **Riverbank erosion** causing direct loss of cultivable land as well as posing a potential threat to critical infrastructure (bridges, roads, schools, temples and other critical buildings) and loss of mangrove forest reserves.
- **Pluvial flooding**: direct rainfall and surface run-off causing flooding of low-lying polder areas and waterlogging due to lack of sufficient drainage capacity.
- **Fluvial flooding (breaching and overtopping):** Failure and overtopping of embankments lead to inundation of polder areas behind the embankment.
- **Protecting and restoring mangroves and water sensitive eco-systems –** rehabilitation of mangroves and former wetlands or connecting existing wetlands, disconnected from the river by embankments or shifting/damming of river courses.
- **Saltwater intrusion –** flooding with salt water may deteriorate the soil quality and pollutes fresh water sources. The lack of fresh water coming from upstream tributary rivers cause a shift in the salt-fresh gradient, affecting the less salt tolerant mangrove species.

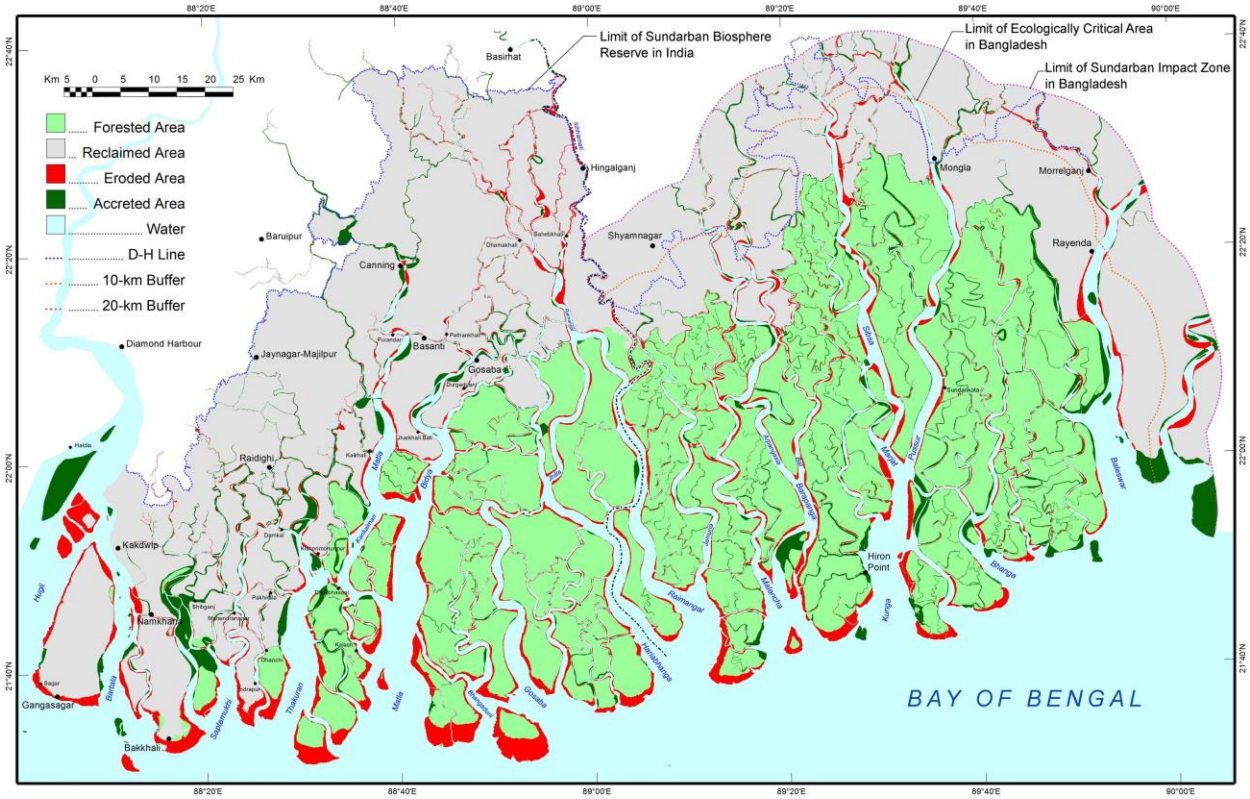


Figure 2. Map showing areas of erosion and accretion within the Indian and Bangladeshi Sundarbans (between 1901–23 and 2013–15) [3]

2.4 Specifications

Scope

The objective of this assignment is to assist the Irrigation and Waterways Department (IWD) of the Government of West Bengal (GoWB) in hands-on technical assistance to improve their capacity in *planning*, *design, construction preparation and logistics* and *monitoring* of flood resilience interventions in the Sundarbans Delta. This (TA) assignment aims at providing IWD engineers improved knowledge on conventional (hard) and application of Nature-Based Solutions for flood protection and anti-erosion works in the Sundarbans delta.

The TA program aligns with the preparation activities of the World Bank *Strengthening Coastal Resilience & Economies Project* (SHORE) in the Sundarbans. SHORE will promote coastal resilience,

[3] Bandyopadhyay, S. (2019). Sundarbans: A review of evolution and geomorphology. World Bank Group. Washington, DC, 36.

with a particular focus on nature-based solutions for increased resilience and protection of coastal areas. The project will support (I) institutional strengthening, including the development of shoreline management plans (II) investments to strengthen the Blue Economy such as infrastructure and support for sustainable livelihoods, and (III) reducing coastal vulnerability through the management of natural assets.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)
India has adopted a government-wide approach to sustainable development, emphasizing the interconnection of the SDG's across environment, economic, social and environmental pillars. The India approach to achieve the SDG's is to 'put people first' and to ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

In this project there is attention for the topics related to the following SDG's:
SDG 6: Clean Water and sanitation.
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
SDG 13: Climate action.

Tasks
The Contractor is expected to build on the findings from the DRR-mission under the Partners for Water program in India, as well as follow up work done by the DRR team in providing handholding in design of flood embankments and NbS for foreshore stabilization. This resulted in two reports, which are publicly available to the Contractor and will be provided as part of the tender package.

The assignment is composed of three interconnected technical tasks and an inception phase. The technical tasks follow the logics of the implementation cycle of civil works, starting with the *Design phase*, then the *Construction preparation* phase and finally *Inspection & Maintenance* phase:

Task 0: **Inception phase:** This assignment starts with a 2-months Inception phase in which the Contractor familiarizes itself with the project, visits the site(s) and build a trusted relationship with the Irrigation & Waterways Department (IWD) of the State of West Bengal;
Task 1: Design phase. The assignment provides technical support to IWD helping the IWD to improving the design of flood protection and anti-erosion works (including Nature-based-Solutions (NbS). This activity is expected to complement to the support already provided by the Dutch Risk Reduction (DRR-)team and the two follow-up assignments on dike design and application of (NbS) to enhance coastal protection of the reclaimed Sundarbans in 2023. The completion of the design and design drawings itself remains the sole responsibility of the IWD;
Task 2: Construction preparation phase: Support IWD in the construction preparation and logistics process of a civil works project, including review of technical specifications and standard tender documents of IWD and propose recommendations following International FIDIC standards or other applicable standards;
Task 3: Inspection & Maintenance phase: In this phase, the Contractor shall prepare a preliminary inspection & maintenance plan helping IWD to adopt a more structured approach to perform maintenance of flood protection assets. The Contractor will accompany IWD in site visits during construction works and share practical insights on robust construction methods and construction logistics with IWD under this activity.

Detailed Activities and Deliverables
Below find further details on the Inception phase and the three technical tasks under this assignment.

<u>Task 0: Inception and site inspection of proposed pilots</u>
This assignment starts with a 2-months Inception period aiming at providing the Contractor a comprehensive understanding of the project, the sites and building a trusted relationship with the IWD. The Inception period offers an opportunity to update the work plan based on findings from the mission and desk study. Among others, the following activities are part of the Inception phase:

- The Contractor will review technical documents prepared by the Government of West Bengal for the pilot sites, supported through previous technical assistance by RVO and the World Bank and other documents prepared under previous PvW assignments, to familiarize with

the situation. The pilot locations concern: pilot 1 – *Patibunia*, pilot 2 - *Gobindapur Abad* (Figure 3 & 4), pilot 3 – *Atapur – Minipur*, pilot 4 Deulbari- Debipur and two more locations not yet selected for which the design will be prepared by IWD (see chapter 2.6 for more information).

- The Contractor will prepare a (virtual) kick-off meeting with the GoWB and RVO to discuss the workplan and methodology for this assignment. The Contractor will prepare an inception note and presentation, which includes an updated methodology and workplan (including details of team, work approach, milestones and timelines for the proposed visits). The kick-off meeting will also include the Contractor's recommendations and findings on the technical documents shared with the Contractor, to ensure continuance of the learnings from earlier phases of technical assistance by RVO and the World Bank.
- For maximum results, it is required that the Contractor makes a reconnaissance visit to West Bengal to familiarize with the local field conditions, understand cultural factors impacting TA outcomes, and establish a strong, trusted relationship with the IWD team.
- Based on the findings of the review, meetings with the GoWB and World Bank team, the Contractor will conduct a needs assessment, outlining the specific technical support required to meet the governments specific needs.

The Inception phase will be used to seek the right balance in providing technical support to IWD on the design of proposed pilot sites, and support on other deliverables as mentioned under subsequent tasks based on priorities of IWD and emerging issues that require technical hand-holding. The decision will be made in collaboration with RVO and IWD.

The revised workplan, planning and findings from the field visit and needs assessment will be captured in an **Inception note** (deliverable A0 - **Fout! Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden.**) as well as any other information deemed relevant to the Contractor for the satisfactory execution of the assignment.

Task 1: Design phase: Technical assistance on design of flood protection and anti-erosion works

Based on the findings from the DRR mission, the IWD has identified two pilot locations (Patibunia and Gobindapur Abad) that require urgent reinforcement of existing embankments and implementation of foreshore protection measures. The proposed measures involve constructing silt trapping measures for land accretion allowing subsequently planting of mangroves later. The IWD is highly interested in ongoing technical support regarding dike design, with a specific focus on incorporating nature-based solutions for foreshore development in these pilot locations, as well as for any other locations as requested by the IWD. The design for the first two pilot sites is reaching maturity with the technical support earlier provided through the RVO, PvW program.

The construction of the first two pilot locations will be fully coordinated and funded by IWD. IWD intends to start construction works for these two pilot locations in late 2023 – early 2024 and has requested support at all stages of the implementation process, namely: *planning, design, tendering, construction preparation (incl. logistics), construction & maintenance*. Earlier PvW assignments and assignments supported by the World Bank have so far mainly focused on the *design* aspects only.

The World Bank Shore project intends to implement civil works for two more pilot locations (pilot location 3 "ATAPUR – MONIPUR" and pilot location 4 "DEULBARI-DEBIPUR") and the design activities for these pilot projects are underway. IWD requested to add two more pilot locations to the scope of the assignment. This assignment intends to support IWD in the design of all 6 pilot locations. More information about pilot locations 1-4 can be found in chapter 2.6 below.

Task 1 involves providing on-the-job training to IWD engineers in all aspects of the design phase of flood protection works and anti-erosion works, with special attention to the design considerations to incorporating nature-based solutions for foreshore development. Among other, the following activities are included under task 1:

a. **Technical review and preparing technical recommendations** on the engineering design for targeted pilot locations. This activity is the core of this task and requires an iterative approach with different rounds of design revision and feedback to IWD, amongst others through sharing of relevant technical literature.

b. **Prepare a guidance note on the use of local construction material in flood defenses and NbS, including collection of key parameter for embankment design.** This guidance note aims to assess the current practices employed by the IWD (Irrigation and Waterways Department) in constructing flood defenses and provide recommendations for utilizing locally available construction material. It takes into account the availability and limitations of construction material compared to international standards, as well as the sustainability and construction lifetime vis-a-vis maintenance needs. Furthermore, it explores the possibility of replacing plastic geotextile with locally produced fibers such as jute or bamboo, while also considering the potential for establishing local production sites to support farmers in achieving more stable incomes. This document builds upon earlier work prepared by the DRR team and leverages the experience gained by the IWD. The Contractor must make efficient use of experiences gained from experienced gained with application of Nature-Based Solutions by Ecoshape or other global initiatives (World Bank (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) etc).

c. **Prepare a methodology to guide IWD in adopting a differentiation in safety level of flood defense structures in the Sundarbans area.** Not all areas of the Sundarbans require the same level of protection. Villages, people, livelihoods, farmlands need to be protected. Other areas, for example nature reserves or aquaculture fields are of a different order because impact of flooding to those areas is of a different order. When working with a differentiation in flood safety level, the spatial planning of embankments of the same safety level is important to ensure that flooding is not coming through the back door. The Contractor must make use of maps (satellite and other) to guide the process of prioritization of high-risk areas in terms of flood safety levels. The differentiation between vulnerable government owned and in inhabited islands of Sundarbans community owned embankments shall be taken into account when assessing the required protection level to avoid leaving areas unprotected. The contractor will also make site visits where embankment failure has taken place in Sundarbans in the past and identify patterns of such failure in the Sundarbans, including the key learning points to inform future embankment design. The contractor will also suggest the key hydrological parameters which need to be collected on a continued basis in context of Sundarbans for creation of a robust database for future.

In conclusion, the completion of these activities will play a vital role in strengthening the capacity of the IWD, enabling them to prepare effective engineering designs for flood protection and anti-erosion works, incorporate nature-based solutions, and adopt a comprehensive approach to enhance the flood resilience of the Sundarbans delta.

Task 1 will be closed with a **Technical guidance note on embankment design** (deliverable A1) informed by interim products prepared under this task, of which the use of alternative (local) construction material, methodology for differentiation of flood safety levels for the Sundarbans and other material prepared during missions).

Task 2: Construction Preparation phase

This phase outlines the provision of technical support to IWD, encompassing all aspects related to the preparation and planning of construction activities. The scope of this task will begin with improving the quality of tender documents and subsequently taking a deeper dive at the planning and logistics of civil works execution.

1. IWD has requested support in standardizing and modernizing their practices with regards to the preparation of technical specifications and tender documents for civil works. The Contractor is therefore tasked to review existing IWD tender documents and prepare a approach for improving IWD's tender documents to align with international standards - e.g. FIDIC (International Federation of Consulting Engineers) or other standards and good practices as considered relevant to the West Bengal context.

   The implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as a complement to traditional hard infrastructure works is a novel concept in West Bengal. This approach requires specific

requirements to ensure the effectiveness and durability of NbS projects over their lifespan. As the existing technical specifications may not currently address NbS adequately, it is essential for the Contractor to develop comprehensive specifications tailored specifically for NbS works and activities.

2. The Contractor's role is to develop a comprehensive construction planning and logistics guideline that provides practical recommendations to enhance the capacity of IWD in managing the construction activities and streamline the logistics and assembly of construction materials. The objective is to mitigate the risks associated with incomplete excavated dike sections or shortages of construction materials during the onset of the monsoon season and be prepared to take remedial action should climate/hydraulic conditions abruptly change and pose a threat to the construction works.

3. Additionally, the Contractor will assist the IWD in creating a risk-based planning for design and construction activities linked to subprojects 1 and 2, taking into account all potential risks that may impact the timely completion of the construction works. This also involves planning of land acquisition activities in accordance with West Bengal standards and ideally incorporating World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) standards.

In conclusion, task 2 of this assignment aims at improving construction preparedness, optimizing logistics, and supporting the IWD in developing a risk-based planning for construction activities. This task will be closed with a **construction preparation guidance note** (deliverable A2**Fout! Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden.**) that captures all findings of activities undertaken under task 2 of this assignment.

Task 3: Inspection & Maintenance phase: Preliminary flood defense inspection & maintenance plan

(Visual) inspection is crucial to identity stability issues (cracks, seepage or other stability issues) in a timely manner that without intervention may lead to a potential failure of the structure. Maintenance is crucial to keep dikes at their design level and to extend the lifetime of the structure, thus saving costs for investments and preventing damaging floods to happen. Under this task, the Contractor will prepare a **preliminary inspection and maintenance plan** (deliverable A3). The plan includes protocols for monitoring and inspection of flood management assets and must effectively make use of international good practices in this domain. The plan shall address opportunities for community-based inspections, with protocols, training needs, communication, and dissemination to the circle level Disaster Risk Management Authorities. As indicated earlier the Contractor will also make site visits and share practical insights on robust construction methods and logistics with IWD in this regard.

Local visits

The technical assistance is centered around dedicated visits to West Bengal, with minimal remote support needed in between visits. Throughout the project, there will be a total of five (5) one- or two-week visits, involving the participation of two experts. These visits are crucial for building a trusted partnership with the government counterparts, understanding the unique situation, and tailoring this TA support to meet the specific needs and challenges of the IWD in West Bengal. Tasks 1 to 3 mentioned earlier will primarily be addressed during these visits.

Each visit will conclude with a mission report, addressing lessons learned, pressing issues and actions agreed with IWD to be completed before the subsequent visit (on both sides).

World Bank SHORE Project

One of the objectives is to assist the IWD in being better prepared when preparing the World Bank project, for which activities are expected to start from middle 2024. RVO's support to the IWD must therefore be aligned with preparation activities for the World Bank SHORE project. It should be noted that IWD remains the primary beneficiary of the support provided through this assignment. The Principal Secretary of the Government of West Bengal (GoWB) and main counterpart for RVO for this assignment, is also proposed Project Director of the World Bank SHORE project.

This assignment requires a certain level of flexibility to provide technical input and support to the IWD in their project preparation efforts, should opportunities arise. When planning mission travels, efforts should be made to align them with World Bank missions to the Sundarbans. The Inception phase will be used to update the workplan with relevant input coming from the World Bank program.

This assignment does not include (hydraulic/morphological) modeling support to IWD. However, the Contractor must be available to assist IWD with preparing a modeling plan as part of the preparations for the World Bank project.

Mission reports & Assignment closing report
The Contractor is responsible for preparing a **mission report** (deliverable A4) for each mission. The mission report is a concise note (max 5 pages main text) composed of a core text with an overview of tasks undertaken in the period prior to the mission, the mission itself and agreed actions going forward (both parties). The Annex section can be used to include technical background material and sub-deliverables prepared prior and during the mission.

The **Assignment closing report** (deliverable A5) offers a concise, high-level summary of all the pertinent topics covered during the assignment. This report, in conjunction with the accompanying individual guidance notes, functions as a repository for IWD, offering valuable guidelines and background materials for future work.

All reports must be consice, and written in accordance with international reporting standards, including an executive summary. The Contracting Authority retains the right to request updates to the report if the Contractor fails to meet the required standards.

The Contractor bears the responsibility to bring focus to the content provided in the guidance notes, ensuring that lengthy and unnecessary elaborations are avoided. This involves referencing existing standards, codes, and guidance documents without direct copying and pasting, in order to maintain the information's relevance and appropriateness.

All the presentation material Contractor uses throughout the assignment must be provided in ppt.format. The Contractor will provide access to an online platform to store all project related data during the course of the project and a minimum of 3 years after closing of the project.

Products overview
The following products/deliverables are expected under this assignment:

Table 1

Package	Deliverable*
A0	**Inception note**
A1	**Technical guidance note on embankment design**
A2	**Technical specifications, construction preparation & logistics guidance note**
A3	**Preliminary inspection & maintenance plan**
A4	**Mission reports**
A5	**Assignment closing report**

**the deliverables may be revised during the Inception period.*

External communication about the project
- A project summary (of this assignment) has to be delivered at the end of the project. This consists of a summary of activities, deliverables, project- and consortium partners (for Dutch partners: including KVK-number), impact on / connection with SDGs and a mention of the Partners for Water programme. The project summary should be delivered as a separate Word-file, in plain text, max. 1 page and written in English. RVO will publish this summary and (a

selection of) the above-mentioned deliverables on the website of the IATI-initiative, http://aiddata.rvo.nl.

- A set (minimum 2) of licence-free high-resolution images (photos and/or other visuals) related to the project, which are available for use in any project- and/or programme-related outreach, online and offline, including the IATI-website.
- Proactive delivery of at least two social media messages related to key activities or communication messages/outcomes, including media materials such as photos or videos. The Contractor may use the organisation's own social media channels with #PartnersForWater and mentioning @RVO_Int_ond or propose messages to be spread through the Embassy's and/or RVO and/or NWP social media channels.
- Short article (suitable for external, standalone, non-professional communication) or interview, which can be used for Partners for Water related outreach through www.partnersvoorwater.nl, general RVO/Government outreach and embassy communication. This output (e.g. article) preferably includes quotes from local counterparts and the consortium member(s) about the process and local impact. The RVO communication department may be involved in preparation and review of the article.
- Note: data/information generated during this project and deliverables that are part of the assignment, such as reports and other media, are (in principle, unless agreed otherwise) public information and will be made available through the IATI-website and/or the Partners for Water website. The Contractor's own reporting formats (incl. logo's etc.) may be used but should include a colophon that indicates the introduction text as presented under item 1 of this ToR and a reference to the Partners for Water programme and/or the Government of the Netherlands.
- Note: any other (=not defined above) project or project scope related communication initiated by the Contractor or Subcontractors needs to include a reference to the support by the Government of the Netherlands through the Partners for Water programme.

2.5 Key counterpart organisations

The following set of key counterparts are involved and/or connected to this assignment.

Organisation	Type of involvement and responsibility
RVO – Partners for Water	Main counterpart on contractual matters
	Technical supervision
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	Oversees the Dutch water activities in India at The Netherlands Embassy
Government of West Bengal	Project Director for West Bengal of the World Bank SHORE project and Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project
Government of West Bengal	Designated point of contact for day-to-day communication

2.6 Description pilot locations

This information can be found in annex 9 of this Tender Document

2.7 Lots

The invitation to tender has not been divided into lots, because the services are strongly intertwined and are highly dependent on each other. Therefore, division of the assignment would entail a great risk for a successful execution of the assignment.

2.8 Contract Period

The Contracting Authority intends to conclude a Contract for a period of 18 months, including two unilateral options for the Contracting Authority to extend the contract by a maximum of 6 months per extension. The expected starting date of the Contract is 1 March 2024.

The two extension options may be lifted by the Contracting Authority in the event that the deliverables and/or the scheduling of the deliverables changes due to advancing insight on the part of the GoWB.

2.9 Scope of the assignment

The assignment has a maximum contract value (including optional extension years) of EUR 250,000 (exclusive of VAT). This maximum value includes a fixed amount of EUR 175,000 (exclusive of VAT) for the initial contract period of 18 months and a maximum of EUR 75,000 (exclusive of VAT) for the two extension options together.

The maximum contract value is an indication from which no rights can be derived. This Tender Document was created using up-to-date knowledge and insights valid at the time of its formulation.

It is possible that the services specified in the contract may change in the event of political, budgetary, administrative or organisational developments within the Dutch government and the Contracting Authority's expansion or contraction resulting from this, or changes to the Contracting Authority's position within the government or to the targets that must be met. In the event such circumstances occur, the Contracting Authority will consult with the Contractor.

3. Requirements to this assignment

This section includes the requirements set by the Tendering Authority concerning the requested services and the prices and rates.

By submitting a Tender, you as Tenderer, explicitly consent to all requirements and conditions specified in this Tender document and declare that you will continue to comply with these throughout the entirety of the contract period. Furthermore, you confirm that you will comply with all of the specified prices and rates, including any agreed indexation. Failure to comply with one or more requirements will result in your Tender being disqualified from the assessment process and therefore excluded from the tendering process.

Requirements regarding specific work experience or language skills (paragraph 3.1 to 3.5) as well as the award criteria (paragraph 5.2.1 to 5.2.5) will be reviewed/assessed against the key experts' CV's. You need to include a concise CV (of no more than two pages A4 per expert role[4]) of each key expert that will take part in this assignment, in your Tender (paragraph 7.3.15). **Please be aware: if you use more than two pages A4 (per expert role), the extra pages will not be taken into account for the review/assessment.**

3.1 General requirements

3.1.1	For this Contract the team composition shall include at least the four key-expert roles as provided below (3.2 to 3.5).
3.1.2	The expert who fulfills a key-expert role must have international experience in their relevant field of expertise.
3.1.3	The expert who fulfills a key-expert role must have excellent writing and verbal communication skills.
3.1.4	The expert who fulfills a key-expert role must have the ability to convey technical information to a non-technical audience.
3.1.5	Contractor complies with all the requirements described in chapter 2.
3.1.6	Contractor is responsible for providing regular and timely information on the progress of the assignment to the responsible program advisor of RVO, team Partners for Water.

3.2 Requirements relating to the team leader role

3.2.1	Demonstrable professional experience as a team leader in a technically complex project, in at least one of the following expertise fields: projects on flood risk management, coastal engineering, hydraulic & morphological analysis of coastal or deltaic systems, and/or Nature-based Solutions.
3.2.2	Relevant professional experience in at least four different countries of which at least two are outside the South Asia region.

[4] For example, an expert who fulfills two key-expert roles, may submit a CV of no more than 4 pages.

3.3 Requirements relating to construction/coastal engineer role

3.3.1	A minimum of 10 years professional experience in construction/coastal engineering, with a focus on coastal and deltaic environments.
3.3.2	Experience in preparing engineering designs for coastal protection schemes.
3.3.3	Experience with the use of (local/alternative/nature-based) construction material and preparation, and planning and logistics of construction works.

3.4 Requirements relating to hydraulic & morphological (modelling) role

3.4.1	A minimum of five years of demonstrable professional experience in conducting hydraulic and morphological analysis of coastal, estuarine, and deltaic systems.

3.5 Requirements relating to Nature-Based Solutions role

3.5.1	Demonstrable professional experience in the design of Nature-Based Solutions in coastal/estuarine, and deltaic systems.

3.6 Requirements relating to the prices/rates

3.6.1	The maximum total price for the initial Contract Period is EUR 175,000 excluding Dutch VAT and including foreign (outside European Economic Area) VAT and all others costs.
3.6.2	The Tenderer will provide an overview of the hourly rates applicable to this assignment by filling in Annex 3 - Rates.
3.6.3	The Contractor makes a concise proposal with the expected hours of deployment for each role and cost specifications for necessary travel and accommodation, including substantiation.
3.6.4	Contractor calculates its available hours only on the basis of the rates specified in Annex 3 – Rates.
3.6.5	The rate for 'All other roles' (Annex 3 – Rates) applies to all roles deployed for this assignment in addition to the four experts.
3.6.6	The Contracting Authority may propose other or additional deliverables to the extent that sufficient hours are available within the budget.
3.6.7	The rates must be all inclusive. In any event, they must include all of the following: wage costs, overheads (e.g. accommodation and wage costs for support staff), costs relating to the use of equipment and machinery during the assignment, insurance costs, any applicable costs for e-invoicing, and local travel and accommodation expenses.
3.6.8	The agreed (maximum) rates are fixed and invariable for the duration of this Agreement.
3.6.9	When carrying out parts of the assignment that require travel in the state of West Bengal, India, you may invoice local expenses for accommodation up to a maximum of € 100,- per day for Kolkata and € 64,- per day in all other cities in the state of West Bengal. The expenses must be based on the schedule of the proposal and needs to mention the two categories separately (accommodation – other costs). Reimbursement of 'accommodation' expenditures will be based on the costs actually incurred and

	requires hotel invoices to be submitted. Daily expenses for 'other costs' will be based on lump sum, based on the total duration of the mission(s). The maximum rates must be used in the financial proposal, based on the aforementioned maximum daily rates. The rates used and invoiced should match the aforementioned rates of the actual destination(s).
3.6.10	Receipts: invoices/receipts for flight tickets, accommodation, interpretation and other expected expenditures (if applicable) need to be sent to RVO, together with the intermediate and final invoices.

3.7 Tax-related requirements

3.7.1	The Tenderer will quote the prices according to the following structure: • the amount excluding Dutch VAT and any VAT due outside the EU; • the amount of Dutch VAT due (if applicable) and the amount of any VAT due outside the EU, and; • the amount including Dutch VAT (if applicable) and any VAT due outside the EU.
3.7.2	If the Tenderer indicates that no VAT is applicable, then he agrees to provide documentary proof of the grounds for this to the Contracting Authority within fifteen calendar days of the request to do so.
3.7.3	Contractor is liable for any extra costs for Dutch and/or foreign VAT due if Contractor incorrectly charges no VAT or an incorrect amount of VAT to the Contracting Authority. If applicable, Contractor is liable for accurate payment of VAT in the Netherlands and outside the EU, with the exception of the case stipulated in the following sentence. If the Contracting Authority procures a service from a foreign business and Dutch tax law considers the work to have been performed in the Netherlands, then the Contracting Authority is liable for the payment of VAT to the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration for this/these service(s) performed in the Netherlands.
3.7.4	You guarantee that the amounts specified in the quotation are inclusive of all taxes and levies (including amounts considered equivalent to taxes or levies), regardless of their description and wherever in the world they may have been levied.
3.7.5	Contractor indemnifies the Contracting Authority against any claims from any tax authority for any taxes, levies or contributions considered equivalent to taxes or levies, originating from either the Netherlands or outside the Netherlands.
3.7.6	Given the nature of this assignment, which includes development cooperation that exclusively benefits a developing country, a VAT rate of 0% applies to the amount specified on the quotation provided the Contractor is established in the Netherlands and his organisation is registered as an entrepreneur for VAT purposes. **For extra certainty in this matter**, you can request a declaration of exemption from VAT from the tax inspector. More information on this matter can be found within the decree issued by the Ministry of Finance on 21 September 2015 (no. BLKB/2015/76M). If Contractor submits a statement from the tax inspector within 60 days of the award of the Contract that specifies that a **different** VAT rate applies, then the contract price will be increased to include the applicable VAT rate. Contractor is liable for any costs (extra or otherwise) in the event that Contractor incorrectly charges no VAT or an incorrect amount of VAT to the Contracting Authority.
3.7.7	If you believe that your work is being taxed simultaneously (in part or in full) in both the Netherlands and a foreign country (outside the EU), then you agree to provide evidence from the foreign tax authorities in question that prove VAT has been levied on one of the services/amounts substantiated by you in the quotation. You will provide

	this statement in English. If the statement from the foreign tax authorities is not in English, then you agree to provide a sworn translation of this statement, the costs of which will be borne by you.

3.8 Invoicing requirements

3.8.1 The following payment schedule applies:

Payment time	Payment
After delivery of Inception note	EUR 35,000
1 July 2024	EUR 52,500
1 January 2025	EUR 35,000
1 July 2025	EUR 35,000
After acceptance of Assignment closing report	EUR 17,500

Any additional work (under the extensions) will be paid after acceptance of that work

3.8.2 Invoicing:

For companies established in the Netherlands only *E-invoicing* The general terms and conditions that apply to this contract contain a provision that invoices must be sent electronically (not in pdf). This can be done in 3 different ways: • The invoicing portal of the Dutch government; • E-invoicing with your own (accounting) software package through Peppol; • E-invoicing through a service provider.
For companies not established in the Netherlands The paragraph concerning e invoicing does not apply to companies located outside of the Netherlands.

4. Requirements concerning the Tenderer

4.1 Introduction

In this section, you can find the requirements set by the Tendering Authority to determine whether particular Tenderers are suitable to be awarded the Contract. For this purpose, Exclusion Grounds and Suitability Requirements have been set.

You can indicate whether or not the Exclusion Grounds apply to you and whether or not you are in compliance with the Suitability Requirements by completing the 'European Single Procurement Document'.

The 'European Single Procurement Document' is a PDF file that has been partially filled in for you. You must fill in the rest of the form, print it, legally sign it, scan it and submit it together with your Tender via TenderNed (see paragraph 7.3.15).

4.2 Exclusion Grounds

The following Exclusion Grounds are specified in Annex 2 - European Single Procurement Document:

- all Exclusion Grounds specified in Part III A and B;
- the Exclusion Grounds in Part III C of the 'European Single Procurement Document' that have been selected by the Tendering Authority by means of the tick boxes.

See Section 7 for information on how to submit a Tender in collaboration with other organisations. This section specifies who must provide a completed and signed European Single Procurement Document during the process of submitting a Tender.

The evidence relating to the Exclusion Grounds does not have to be submitted together with the Tender: it is only required once the Tendering Authority requests it.

Please note: The process of applying for a GVA (certificate of conduct) can take several weeks.

For information on types of evidence, see Section 2.89 of the Public Procurement Act.
http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0032203/2016-07-01

The evidence consists of:
1. Extract of Trade Register (no older than 6 months counted from the closing date of submission of the Tender);
2. 'Certificate of Conduct for procurement' ('Gedragsverklaring Aanbesteden' -no older than 2 years counted form the closing date of submission of the Tender);
3. Tax statement (no older than 6 months counted form the closing date of submission of the Tender).
The Tendering Authority, to which a Tenderer submits data in order to prove that the exclusion grounds referred to in Article 2.86 or Article 2.87 do not apply to the Tenderer, also accepts data and documents from another Member State, from the country of origin of the Tenderer or from the country where the Tenderer is established, that serve an equivalent purpose or that show that the exclusion ground does not apply to Tenderer.

Please refer to https://ec.europa.eu/tools/ecertis/search
eCertis is the information system that helps you identify different certificates requested in procurement procedures across the EU.

4.3 Suitability Requirements

The purpose of the Suitability Requirements is to assess whether the Tenderer is suitable to fulfil the Contract in the opinion of the Tendering Authority.

By signing the Annex 2 - European Single Procurement Document (which uses the term 'Selection Criteria' to refer to the Suitability Requirements), the Tenderer declares that he complies with the Suitability Requirements as specified in this subsection of the Tender document. These Suitability Requirements are further specified in the subsequent paragraphs in this section.

4.3.1 Financial and economic standing

By signing the 'European Single Procurement Document', the Tenderer declares:

a. That he possesses sufficient financial and economic capacity to fulfil the contractual obligations.
b. That the Tenderer is unaware of any possible claims against him that may compromise his organisation's financial-economic capacity or continuity, and that no investment is required during the Contract period that may have a similar compromising effect.
c. That the Tenderer has a sufficient level of professional, business and/or statutory liability insurance for the fulfilment of the assignment and that in the event of the Contract being awarded to him, will remain sufficiently insured throughout the duration of the assignment(s).

Evidence (do not submit together with the Tender – only submit it when requested to do so):
Proof of the economic operator's economic and financial standing may, as a general rule, be furnished by one or more of the following references:

a. Proof of sufficient level of liability insurance, and
b. the presentation of financial statements or extracts from the financial statements, where publication of financial statements is required under the law of the country in which the economic operator is established, or
c. a statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and, where appropriate, of turnover in the area covered by the contract for a maximum of the last three financial years available, depending on the date on which the undertaking was set up or the economic operator started trading, as far as the information on these turnovers is available.

If the data of the Tenderer's parent/holding company is used in relation to the aspect of financial-economic capacity, then the Tenderer must provide a statement from the parent/holding company that specifies that the parent/holding company unconditionally acts as a guarantor for the obligations to be undertaken by the subsidiary company and any debts arising from the Contract incurred by the subsidiary company. The statement by the parent/holding company must be signed by a legally authorised representative.

4.4 Professional/trade register extract

The Tendering Authority expects the Tenderer to be authorised to practise his trade. For this reason, the Tendering Authority reserves the right to ask the Tenderer to demonstrate that he is registered in the professional register or in the trade register referred to in Annex XI of EU Directive 2014/24/EU in accordance with the regulations applicable in the country in which he is established.
It is also vital that the signed documents included in the Tender have been signed by a legally authorised representative of the Tenderer. For this reason, the Tendering Authority can also ask the Tenderer who is awarded the contract to demonstrate the legal validity of the signature.

Evidence (do not submit together with the Tender – only submit when requested by the Tendering Authority).

In order to establish the legal validity of the signed statements, declarations and other evidence, it is vital that a recent and up-to-date (**max. six months old**, counted from the closing date of submission of the Tender) extract from the professional register or trade register is provided in compliance with the provisions stipulated in Section 2.98 of the Public Procurement Act. The extract must demonstrate the legal authorisation of the signatory.

If the signatory of the statements, declarations and other evidence is not featured on the extract, then authorisation of the signatory must be provided by one of the parties featured on the extract, in the form of a statement declaring that the signatory was authorised to legally bind the Tenderer at the time that he signed the documents.

In the event that the Tender involves a collaboration (consortium), then every member of this collaboration must provide the aforementioned evidence separately.

5. Award criteria and assessment

5.1 Introduction

This Section concerns the award criteria. The Tenders are assessed based on the award criteria. Your response to the award criteria must be included in your Tender. In your response, you must take into account the requirements set in Section 3.

A maximum of 100 points can be obtained for your response to the qualitative award criteria as described in 5.2.1 up to and including 5.2.5. The Tenderer must score a **minimum of 60 out of the 100 points** that can be obtained for these award criteria. **If the award criteria in total are valued with a lower score than 60 points out of the 100, the Tender is set aside and excluded from further participation in the tendering process**. It will not be further assessed on the prices/rates.

5.2 Award criteria

#	Award criteria	Maximum points available
5.2.1	**Team composition and approach** For this criterion, please describe: - The team composition for this assignment and the rationale behind the composition of the team in the light of the scope of this assignment; - Distribution of key expert roles (paragraph 3.2 to 3.5) across team members; - How you ensure that the approach is technically sound, whilst providing sufficient flexibility to respond to changing circumstances (mutually agreed and captured in the workplan). Your answer to this criterion should **not exceed 1500 words**. **Please be aware: if you use more than 1500 words, the extra words will not be taken into account for the assessment of this criterion**.	**30**
	Assessment basis Your answer will be assessed according to the sub criteria below:	
	- The extent to which the team is efficient, i.e. individual experts covering multiple roles of expertise.	16
	- The extent to which the team composition demonstrates a good understanding of the beneficiary's needs in terms of technical and organizational support.	7
	- The extent to which your proposal shows sufficient attention to the potential ad hoc needs of the beneficiary.	7
5.2.2	**Professional experience of team leader role** To demonstrate the expert's relevant working experience, please add a concise CV (no more than two pages A4) of the expert filling the team leader role (see also chapter 3).	**25**
	Assessment basis The CV will be assessed on how much the expert exceeds the minimum qualification requirements (paragraph 3.2) according to the sub criteria below:	

	- The extent to which the team leader has demonstrable professional experience as a team leader in a technically complex project, in one or more of the following expertise fields: projects on flood risk management, coastal engineering, hydraulic & morphological analysis of coastal or deltaic systems, and Nature-Based Solutions.	13
	- The extent to which the team leader has a proven track record in collaborating with multiple stakeholders, including local communities and government agencies international.	6
	- The extent to which the team leader has experience as a team leader/project manager in projects funded by international development partners such as the World Bank or Asian Development Bank.	4
	- The extent to which the team leader has experience working in South Asia, India, or the state of West Bengal.	2
5.2.3	**Professional experience construction/coastal engineer role** To demonstrate the expert's relevant working experience, please add a concise CV (no more than two pages A4) of the expert filling the construction/coastal engineer role (see also chapter 3).	**20**
	Assessment basis The CV will be assessed on how much the expert exceeds the minimum qualification requirements (paragraph 3.3) according to the sub criteria below:	
	- The extent to which the construction/coastal engineer has broad international expertise with the engineering design of coastal protection infrastructure, of which for instance, dikes/levees, riverbank stabilization works, embankments, groynes, breakwaters, and/or revetments.	12
	- The extent to which the construction/coastal engineer has experience with works preparation, planning and logistics of construction of civil works.	4
	- The extent to which the construction/coastal engineer has experience in preparing technical specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), and bid documents.	2
	- The extent to which the construction/coastal engineer has experience with the use of various types of (local/alternative/nature-based) construction material.	2
5.2.4	**Professional experience hydraulic & morphological (modelling) role** To demonstrate the expert's relevant working experience, please add a concise CV (no more than two pages A4) of the expert filling the hydraulic & morphological (modelling) expert role (see also chapter 3).	**15**
	Assessment basis The CV will be assessed on how much the expert exceeds the minimum qualification requirements (paragraph 3.4) according to the sub criteria below:	

	- The extent to which the hydraulic & morphological (modelling) expert has demonstrable professional experience in conducting hydraulic and morphological analysis of coastal and deltaic systems.	12
	- The extent to which the hydraulic & morphological (modelling) expert has experience with hydraulic and morphological modelling of coastal or estuarine systems.	2
	- The extent to which the hydraulic & morphological (modelling) expert has experience in preparing specifications for hydraulic and sediment sampling surveys.	1
5.2.5	**Professional experience Nature-based Solutions role** To demonstrate the expert's relevant working experience, please add a concise CV (no more than two pages A4) of the expert filling the Nature-based Solutions expert role (see also chapter 3).	**10**
	Assessment basis The CV will be assessed on how much the expert exceeds the minimum qualification requirements (paragraph 3.5) according to the sub criteria below:	
	- The extent to which the expert has experience with all aspects related to the design of NbS, the financing, sustainability (lifetime duration), community engagement, and livelihood aspects.	6
	- The extent to which the Nature-based Solutions expert is familiar with conducting hydraulic/morphological analyses as input for the design of NbS.	2
	- The extent to which the Nature-based Solutions expert has experience with construction supervision and performance evaluation of NbS.	2
5.2.6	**Rates** The price of your proposal is factored into the assessment based on your hourly rates. We use this to assess how many hours of commitment we can expect from you for the budget made available for this assignment. Your hourly rates are included in the assessment based on the weighted average hourly rate you specify in annex 3 Rates. The assessment method is described in paragraph 5.4.	*N.A. Please refer to paragraph 5.4*

5.3 Assessment method for qualitative award criteria

During the assessment, the assessment team will work in accordance with the following scale for the weighting of the quality criteria.

Quality of the response	Weighting percentage of the maximum points available per preference
Excellent, with great added value	100%
Very good, with some added value	90%
Good	80%
Ample	70%
Satisfactory	60%
Average	50%
Fair, not completely satisfactory	40%

Unsatisfactory	30%
Poor, insufficient	20%
Very poor, insufficient	10%
No response provided	0%

5.4 Assessment of rates award criterion

For this tender, the 'weighted price per point' method is used to determine the winner. The Tenderer who ends up with the lowest price per point has offered the most economically advantageous offer and is therefore awarded the contract. For this contract, quality is considered 80% and price 20%. The following formula is used to calculate the price per point:

$$price\ per\ point = \frac{Price^{0,2}}{Total\ score\ on\ qualitative\ criteria^{0,8}}$$

The Price is the weighted average hourly rate as mentioned in award criterion 5.2.6. The Total score on the qualitative criteria is the sum of the scores on criteria 5.2.1 to 5.2.5.

Only the achieved 'price per point' is rounded to four (4) decimal places.

Example

The table shows how the formula works in an example. In this example, three Tenders have been received and a total of 100 points can be scored on the qualitative award criteria. The percentages in this example are entirely fictitious and are not intended to provide guidance.

	Tender A	**Tender B**	**Tender C**
weighted average hourly rate	EUR 100 per hour	EUR 150 per hour	EUR 120 per hour
Total score on qualitative criteria	80 punten	90 punten	70 punten
Price per point	$100^{0.2}/80^{0.8} = 0.0754$	$150^{0.2}/90^{0.8} = 0.0744$	$120^{0.2}/70^{0.8} = 0.0870$
Ranking	2	1	3

As Tenderer B has offered the lowest price per point (i.e. 0.0744), this Tenderer is the winner of this tender procedure.

6. Assessment of the Tender

6.1 Assessment of the Tender's completeness and legal validity

The Tender will be assessed according to the following procedure. The Tendering Authority will check whether:

1. all required documents have been provided (see the checklist in the subsection 'Structure and content of the Tender' in Section 7);
2. the information is correct and complete, and no adjustments have been made to the documents provided by the Tendering Authority;
3. no provisos have been made by the Tenderer (e.g. specifying that the Tenderer's own terms and conditions apply);
4. the 'European Single Procurement Document' has been completed in full and has been legally signed.

In the event that the aforementioned requirements have not been complied with, the Tender will be excluded from assessment and further participation in the tendering process, unless rectification is permitted within the boundaries of public procurement legislation.

6.2 Assessment of requirements relating to the assignment

Subsequently, the Tender's compliance with the requirements to the assignment (see Section 3) will be assessed. Any Tender that does not comply, will be excluded from further participation in the tendering process.

6.3 Assessment of award criteria relating to the assignment

Subsequently, all Tenders not excluded from the tendering process, will be assessed according to the award criteria stipulated in Section 5.

Tenderers who do not meet the minimum total number of points of 60 on all the qualitative award criteria together are set aside and are excluded from further participation in the tendering process. They will not be further assessed on the prices/rates.

6.4 Determination of definitive total score

The Contract will be awarded according to the principle of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender. The Most Economically Advantageous Tender is the Tender that achieves the highest definitive total score based on the best price-quality ratio.

The Tenderer's definitive total score will be rounded to one decimal place. No scores will be rounded off until the moment that this definitive total score is determined. If two or more Tenderers have an equal definitive total score that would result in the Tendering Authority having to award the Contract to more parties than is desired, then the Tendering Authority will award the Contract to the Tenderer with the highest final score for the sub criterion 5.2.1 'Team composition'. In the event that the highest scoring Tenderers also achieve an equal score for this sub criterion, then determination of the Tenderer to which the Contract will be awarded will be made by drawing lots.

6.5 Assessment of evidence

At the moment that the Tenderer legally signs the 'European Single Procurement Document' and submits the Tender, the Tenderer is not (yet) required to provide any evidence, unless expressly asked to do so in this Tender document.

By signing the 'European Single Procurement Document' and submitting his Tender, the Tenderer agrees that at a later date, the Tendering Authority is entitled to request that the winning Tenderer provides the required evidence.

Upon awarding the Contract, the Tendering Authority will only request evidence from the winning Tenderer. The Tendering Authority is entitled to request this evidence at an earlier stage and from

all Tenderers if it believes such a course of action is necessary to facilitate the progress of the tendering process.

The evidence must demonstrate that the Tenderer indeed complies with the content of both the 'European Single Procurement Document' and the Tender. Following the Tendering Authority's request to provide the evidence, the Tenderer has up to and including 16 February 2024 to hand over the required evidence. If the Tendering Authority does not agree with the content and/or validity of one or more of the pieces of evidence provided by the winning Tenderer, then this could result in the winning Tenderer being excluded from further participation in the process. In such a case, the Tendering authority will inform every Tenderer of this situation. The Tendering authority will then determine the next Most Economically Advantageous Tender and subsequently the award process will be conducted again.

In the event a winning Tenderer does not qualify for the definitive award of the Contract, then all Tenderers will be notified of this and the consequences thereof concerning the award of the contract.

7. Submission procedure for Tenders

7.1 Statement of agreement

By submitting a Tender, including the 'European Single Procurement Document', the Tenderer explicitly consents to all requirements and conditions stipulated in this Tender document and the Memorandum of Information and declares that he will continue to comply therewith throughout the entirety of the contract period. Furthermore, the Tenderer confirms that he will comply with all of the specified prices and rates, including any agreed indexation. **Failing to comply with one or more requirements will result in his Tender being disqualified from the assessment process and therefore excluded from the tendering process.**

7.2 Schedule

See schedule in Subsection 1.3.

7.3 General procedure

This tendering process will be carried out in compliance with the Public Procurement Act. In this case, the 'open procedure' was selected. An announcement thereof was published on www.tenderned.nl and on Tender European Daily (TED).

In the event that a Tender is not submitted in accordance with the provisions and regulations stipulated in this section, the Tendering Authority can set aside the Tender and exclude the Tenderer from further participation in this tender procedure.

7.3.1 Communication

All communication relating to this tender procedure will be conducted via TenderNed (www.tenderned.nl), unless otherwise specified.

Once you have indicated your interest in this invitation to tender on TenderNed, you can send and receive messages about this tender process via 'My Tenders'. Any questions concerning the tender process can be sent to the Tendering Authority's contact person via TenderNed.
You will receive messages via TenderNed. Via your personal TenderNed settings, you can turn on automatic notifications, including notifications to your private email address. It is your responsibility to ensure that these emails are not blocked by your email provider's security system.
If the communication cannot be conducted via TenderNed, you can contact the following contact person: Thomas van Oudheusden via thomas.vanoudheusden@rvo.nl.

Attempts to directly contact parties other than the contact person(s) stated above in relation to this tender process are prohibited.

If you have any functional or technical questions regarding TenderNed, you can contact the TenderNed service desk on weekdays between 08:30 and 17:00 CET on 0800-8363376 or via servicedesk@tenderned.nl. You can also consult TenderNed voor ondernemingen | TenderNed or TenderNed for foreign businesses | TenderNed.

7.3.2 eHerkenning

All TenderNed users affiliated with a *Dutch* company registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce are obliged to log in and register using eHerkenning.
This obligation does not apply to companies not registered in the Netherlands.
Visit eHerkenning gebruiken voor TenderNed | TenderNed for more information about eHerkenning, including the terms and conditions. You are responsible for any consequences arising from the failure to register with eHerkenning in a timely manner.

7.3.3 Questions and additional information/changes

During the procedure, you have the opportunity to ask questions. Ask your questions as soon as possible. All questions will be answered anonymously. The Tendering Authority can answer your questions via TenderNed in two ways:

- Via one or more Memoranda of Information.
- By means of the TenderNed 'Questions and Answers' facility.

The deadline for submission of your questions is specified in the schedule (see section 1.3). In any event, all questions asked will be answered at least 10 days prior to the deadline for submission of the Tender.

Submitting a question to the Tendering Authority

Questions are to be asked via TenderNed. See Vragen stellen in aanbesteding aan aanbestedende dienst | TenderNed or English | TenderNed.All questions and answers will be published anonymously for all interested parties to view. If you have a compelling reason why you do not wish your question (and its answer) to be revealed to the other interested parties, then tick the 'Answer Individually' box. However, the Tendering Authority will decide whether or not to process your question individually.

Answers from the Tendering Authority

The Memoranda of Information are an integral part of this Tender document. The Tendering Authority assumes that all sections for which no questions have been asked have been clearly and fully understood.

7.3.4 Validity period and submission of Tender

The Tender must be valid for at least four months after the deadline for submitting the tenders. In the event that an application for a preliminary injunction is filed with the competent court in The Hague against the award decision, then the Tenderers must in any event ensure that their Tenders are valid until four weeks subsequent to the initial decision by the court.

7.3.5 Variants on Tender

Upon submitting a Tender in accordance with the Tender document, the Tenderer is not permitted to submit a variant of this Tender.

7.3.6 Costs of submitting a Tender

The Tendering Authority will not reimburse any Tenderers for any costs resulting from the drafting and submitting of a Tender, including any further information requested of the Tenderer.

Any costs or damage that (may) arise as a result of not awarding this Tender are for the account and risk of the Tenderer.

7.3.7 Termination of tendering process

Until the moment that the Contract is signed, the Tendering Authority reserves the right to partially, fully, temporarily or permanently terminate the tendering process. In such cases, Tenderers will not be entitled to receive compensation for any costs incurred by them in connection with this Tender, unless the Contracting Authority is of the opinion that a (small) contribution to the tender costs is appropriate in view of the circumstances.

7.3.8 Order of precedence of documents

In the event of inconsistencies between the Tender document and the Memorandum of Information, the Memorandum of Information takes precedence.
In the event that there are multiple Memoranda of Information, then the provisions in the most recent Memorandum of Information takes precedence in the event of inconsistencies between the different Memoranda.

7.3.9 Information about the Tenderer's obligations

The Tenderer must take into account his obligations relating to environmental, social and

employment law in compliance with article 2.81 paragraph 2 of the Public Procurement Act.

Information on obligations resulting from Dutch legal provisions with regard to taxes, environmental protection, occupational health and safety and terms of employment that will be applicable to the Tenderer's activities throughout the Contract period is available from the following sources:
Information on taxes: the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration: (www.belastingdienst.nl).
Provisions concerning environmental protection: the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (www.rijksoverheid.nl).
Provisions pertaining to occupational health and safety and terms of employment: the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment: (www.rijksoverheid.nl).

7.3.10 Guide Information security and Privacy for suppliers

Protecting information and personal data is the top priority for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK). That requires significant effort from our own employees, but also from our suppliers. You can read more about it in this concise guide.
Suppliers guide Information Security and Privacy EZK

7.3.11 Inconsistencies and objections

If the Tenderer is of the opinion that the documents contain inconsistencies, errors or matters that are unclear or if the Tenderer has any objections, then the Tenderer must report this to the contact person in writing, including substantiation.

7.3.12 Complaints procedure

If a Tenderer disputes a response given by the Tendering Authority to a question, request, comment or objection from the Tenderer, or if the Tenderer receives no response, then he can submit a complaint. More detailed information on this matter can be found in the 'Complaints Procedure' (Annex 5).

7.3.13 Dispute resolution

In addition to the provisions in the 'Complaints Procedure' subsection, any dispute arising from this tendering process can be presented to the Public Procurement Experts Committee (www.commissievanaanbestedingsexperts.nl) and/or to the competent court in The Hague. Dutch law applies exclusively to such proceedings.

7.3.14 Submission of the Tender

The deadline (date and time) for submission of Tenders is stipulated in the 'Time schedule' (1.3).

- In order to submit a Tender, you must register with TenderNed. One or more registered users must be connected and authorised to submit the Tender via TenderNed on behalf of your company.
  The Tendering Authority advises that you start the TenderNed registration process immediately rather than postponing it until the tendering period is coming to a close. Upon registering your organisation, you must add your tender via TenderNed's announcements platform.
- For more information on registering and establishing your organisation with TenderNed and digital submission of your Tender, visit TenderNed gebruiken als ondernemer | TenderNed or TenderNed for foreign businesses | TenderNed (also see: https://youtube.be/CrAj7VWFgXY).
- Only Tenders that have been submitted to the digital safe for this invitation to tender either prior to or on the day of the deadline (prior to the time of the deadline) will be processed by the Tendering Authority.
- The time and date as displayed on the digital countdown clock in TenderNed serves as the definitive deadline for the submission of Tenders.
- The Tendering Authority is only able to see the Tenders once the digital safe opens in TenderNed. This safe can only be opened upon expiry of the deadline for the submission of Tenders.
- In the event you have technical issues or questions regarding submission of your Tender via TenderNed, you can contact the TenderNed service desk via servicedesk@tenderned.nl or +31

(0)70-3798899. If you believe that the TenderNed service desk is taking too long to answer your question or comment, then you can contact your contact person within the Tendering Authority.
- Any risks resulting from late submission of the Tender and/or submission of an incomplete Tender is borne by the Tenderer.
- The Tendering Authority is neither responsible nor liable for any consequences resulting from a Tender that is submitted too late, incorrectly or incompletely.

The Tendering Authority will treat confidentional information provided by the Tenderer with due care.

7.3.15 Structure and content of the Tender

The Tender must be submitted entirely via TenderNed and the 'European Single Procurement Document' must be legally signed.

You can use the following checklist during the submission of your quotation.

Subject	Description	Action required from tenderer
Annex 2 - ESPD	European Single Procurement Document*	Fill in, legally sign and add to TenderNed
Award criteria	A separate response to each of the Tendering Authority's award criteria	Add to TenderNed
CV's	Concise CV's of the key experts that will take part in this assignment	Add to TenderNed
Annex 3 – Rates	Average weighted hourly rate	Fill in, legally sign and add to TenderNed

* See Subsection 7.3.17 in the event your Tender is submitted in collaboration with other companies.

7.3.16 Legally binding signature

A legally binding signature means that a document has been signed by a duly authorized representative.
If it is recorded in the professional or company register that two or more persons only have joint powers of representation, then the documents requiring a legally binding signature must be signed by those two or more persons. If any restrictions are in place regarding the authorization to represent the organization, then these must be taken into account.

Where a legally binding signature is required, the Contracting Authority accepts either an original handwritten signature, or the qualified electronic signature within the meaning of article 3: 15a of the Civil Code (or EU Regulation no. 910/2014, article 3, part 12).

Please note: it is not possible to sign the European Single Procurement Document with a qualified electronic signature immediately. You can provide the ESPD with a handwritten signature or you must make a digital PDF printout of the PDF form, after which the qualified electronic signature can be placed on this digital PDF printout.

The lack of a legally binding signature in principle will lead to exclusion from the tendering procedure. In that case, however, you will be given one single opportunity to correct it within 48 hours.

7.3.17 Submission of a Tender in collaboration with other organisations

If you cannot carry out the assignment independently, you can set up a collaboration with other organisations.

There are two ways in which you can submit a Tender in collaboration:
1) As a consortium in which each member of the consortium is jointly and severally liable for the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Tender as well as the fulfilment of the Contract.
2) In a principal contractor-subcontractor structure in which the Contractor is liable for the fulfilment of all obligations, including the obligations that will be subcontracted.

Tendering as a consortium
If a Tender is submitted by a consortium, then:

- Every member of the consortium must fill in and legally sign a separate 'European Single Procurement Document', which also includes a specification of who the consortium members are (see Part II of the 'European Single Procurement Document'). Indicate the role each member plays within the consortium. In the 'European Single Procurement Document', you must indicate who is in charge of the consortium (who is lead manager) and will act as its authorised representative.
- All organisations in the consortium accept joint and several liability for the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Tender and the eventual fulfilment of the Contract. If a consortium member relies upon the capacity of another entity in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements (see section 4 of this document), then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete a separate 'European Single Procurement Document', filling in parts II A, II B, III and IV and legally sign it (see the information under II C in the ESPD).
- Every member of the consortium, for their part, must provide the evidence requested for the Tender.

Submitting a tender as a principal contractor together with subcontractors
If a Tender is submitted by a principal contractor that does <u>*not*</u> rely upon the capacity of any subcontractors, then only the principal contractor is required to complete and legally sign Part II D of the 'European Single Procurement Document'.

If the principal contractor <u>*does*</u> rely on the capacity of subcontractors in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements, see section 4 of this document), then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete a separate 'European Single Procurement Document', filling in parts II A, II B, III and IV and legally sign it (see the information under II C in the ESPD).

The subcontractor on whose capacity the principal contractor *does* rely must provide the evidence requested for the Tender.

The principal contractor is fully liable for the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Tender as well as the fulfilment of the contract (if awarded). In addition, the principal contractor is liable for the fulfilment of the obligations for which he has hired the subcontractor(s).

All completed and legally signed 'European Single Procurement Document' forms must be added to the Tender.

7.3.18 Single Tender

All natural persons, legal entities and organisations may only submit a single Tender (either individually or in combination with other natural persons, legal entities and/or organisations). Tenderers who are mutually connected via a relationship of dependence (group link) are permitted to participate separately in this tendering procedure. However, this is on the express condition that they participate as competitors in this tendering process. For this purpose, they must demonstrate

that their mutual relationship has not influenced their behaviour within the scope of this tendering procedure nor has it restricted fair competition.

By submitting a Tender, the Tenderer in question agrees to this condition.

7.3.19 Violation of the fundamental principles of procurement law and restriction of fair competition

Any Tenderer whose actions violate a fundamental principle of procurement law (such as the equality principle), the result of which restricts or could restrict fair competition, will be excluded from this tendering procedure. This is also the case if the violation or the restriction of fair competition only comes to light after the announcement of the award of the Contract to all Tenderers. Prior to making the decision to exclude the Tenderer in question, the Tendering Authority will notify the Tenderer of this intention, at which point the Tenderer will be given the opportunity to demonstrate to the Tendering Authority that no violation of a fundamental principle of procurement law or restriction of fair competition has taken place.

By submitting this Tender, the Tenderer declares his awareness that actions contravening any fundamental principle of procurement law can result in the aforementioned consequences. The Tendering Authority can use all resources available to him in order to identify any violation of the fundamental principles of procurement law or the restriction of fair competition. A judicial decision will not be a necessary requirement in such cases.

7.3.20 Communication and language

During the tendering process, communication with the Tendering Authority must be conducted in English.

The Tender must be submitted in English.
Additional documents (such as informational materials etc.) can also be provided in English.

During the fulfilment of the contract, communication must be conducted in English.

7.3.21 General terms and conditions

The applicability of any of the Tenderer's general terms and conditions concerning delivery, payment and/or any other matters is explicitly excluded. The General Government Terms and Conditions (ARVODI-2018) apply to the Contract.

7.3.22 Contract conditions

The draft Contract and the corresponding General Government Terms and Conditions (ARVODI-2018) are included in the annexes. The Tenderers have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments and propose textual amendments.

The Tendering Authority is free to accept or reject the proposed textual amendments. The Tendering Authority will indicate whether or not the proposals have been accepted or rejected in the Memorandum of Information. By submitting the Tender, the Tenderer declares his consent to the (possibly amended) Contract. Only the definitive Contract will apply during the execution of the assignment.

7.3.23 Explanation and verification of the Tender

The Tendering Authority can request that the Tenderer explains his Tender in greater detail and/or provide substantiating documents. The Tendering Authority is entitled – although not obliged – to check the accuracy of all data and statements submitted within the scope of the Tender.

7.3.24 Request for supplementary information concerning the Tender

The Tendering Authority can ask Tenderers to provide supplementary information and/or clarification of their Tender.

7.3.25 Announcement of the award of the Contract

All Tenderers will receive a message simultaneously that announces the award of the Contract and substantiates its decision. All Tenderers are entitled to request further information regarding this decision from the Tendering Authority.

Standstill period
All Tenderers and stakeholders who dispute the award of the Contract and/or the verbal/written substantiation thereof can apply for a preliminary injunction at the competent civil court in The Hague. The summons must be served within 20 calendar days subsequent to the sending of the digital notifications concerning the award of the Contract. Upon expiry of this period, no more applications for a preliminary injunction can be submitted. In the event a Tenderer applies for a preliminary injunction, we kindly request that you send a copy of the summons to the Tendering Authority.

On the grounds of Section 2.129 of the Public Procurement Act the award of the Contract does not yet mean the Tenderer's Tender has been accepted. For the 20 calendar days subsequent to the sending of the digital notification of the award of the Contract, the Tendering Authority is not permitted to definitively award the assignment by concluding the Contract.

If a preliminary injunction is applied for during these 20 calendar days, then a waiting period will be required pending a judgement in the preliminary injunction proceedings. The judgement will serve as the basis for further decision making by the Tendering Authority.

If preliminary injunction proceedings are brought against the award of the Contract, then the Tendering Authority will notify the Tenderer of this fact. The Tenderer must ensure that his Tender remains valid for at least four weeks subsequent to the judgement in the preliminary injunction proceedings.

Interest in relation to the judgement
Tenderers who have an interest in the judgement in these preliminary injunction proceedings can only engage in these proceedings by means of intervention or joinder. The Tenderer cannot initiate separate proceedings or other judicial proceedings.

Annexes

The following annexes constitute an integral part of this Tender document. These annexes were published together with the Tender document.

Annex 1: Draft Public Service Contract
Annex 2: European Single Procurement Document
Annex 3: Rates
Annex 4: ARVODI-2018
Annex 5: Complaints Procedure
Annex 6: Integrity Code of Conduct for the Central Government Sector (*Gedragscode Integriteit Rijk*)
Annex 7: DRR-Team rapport Sundarbans
Annex 8: Technical Assistance Sundarbans