



Annex 1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF DESIGN, OPTIMIZATION AND EXECUTION OF PLASTIC MATERIAL RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION SERVICES IN CABO VERDE

Objective of the Assignment

This assignment has the following objectives:

General:

Implement a comprehensive plastic material recovery and transformation service, including the design and establishment of an effective and functionally optimised recovery system, in the following target sites across **Cabo Verde: Santiago, Sal, Boa Vista, São Vicente, and potentially the nearby uninhabited island of Santa Luzia.**

While Santiago hosts a waste treatment center, significant logistical challenges persist in the collection and transfer of waste from other islands to Praia. In Sal, Boa Vista, and São Vicente, plastic pollution is steadily increasing driven by tourism-related pressures. Santa Luzia, although uninhabited, is also heavily impacted by marine plastic debris, with cleanup efforts currently led by NGOs from São Vicente. The proposed service must therefore include the design and establishment of an effective and operational plastic recovery system tailored to the geographic and socio-economic realities of each location.

Specific:

- 1) Develop a preliminary baseline report on the current state of plastic waste and pollution management in Cabo Verde, with emphasis on key actors, informal sector dynamics, island-specific challenges (e.g., waste transfer constraints from others sites to Santiago (Praia); tourism-driven pressure in Sal, Boa Vista, and São Vicente; and the accumulation of marine debris on the uninhabited island of Santa Luzia), stakeholder needs and expectations, access to material recovery or recycling facilities, current pricing structures, and potential areas for system improvement.
- 2) Identify and engage key stakeholders in the plastic waste value chain, including but not limited to national and local agencies (e.g., municipalities, Direção Nacional do Ambiente), formal and informal waste collectors, recyclers, and civil society. Maintain inclusive, participatory stakeholder engagement to ensure long-term ownership and sustainability of project actions.
- 3) Design and operationalize the “PlastiNetwork”, an efficient, decentralised plastic material recovery system tailored to Cabo Verde’s insular and logistical realities, comprising strategically located collection points for acquisition or collection of material from informal waste sector actors and other sources, adaptable to fluctuations in waste generation and tourism seasons.
- 4) Facilitate the timely acquisition and installation of infrastructure, including collection bins, signage, weighing equipment, personal protective gear (PPE), and necessary materials at designated PlastiNetwork sites in urban and rural zones, in alignment with municipal solid waste plans. Where applicable, explore integration with existing municipal collection systems.
- 5) Recruit, hire and train local community members, giving preference to youth and women, to manage the PlastiNetwork collection points, reinforcing local ownership and socio-economic inclusion.
- 6) Mobilise networks of formal and informal waste sector actors to ensure regular collection and delivery of materials to the PlastiNetwork, incorporating existing micro-enterprises and cooperatives where possible.

- 7) Develop and establish a protocol for beneficiary tracking, capturing data on livelihood improvement (linked to national goals), and reach through awareness raising, capacity building, and other activities under the IslandPlas Project in Cabo Verde.
- 8) Integrate digital and manual tools within the PlastiNetwork for transparent tracking and verification of plastic material flows, beneficiary engagement, and performance monitoring across the islands and the waste value chain.
- 9) Develop a standardised quantification protocol, including disaggregation by polymer type, for plastic waste collected, recycled, or upcycled, aligned with Cabo Verde's national waste and circular economy strategies, ensuring accurate data recording, categorisation, monitoring and transparent reporting.
- 10) Implement a time-efficient, environmentally sound and safe logistics system, including transport and routing efficiency, movement and storage of high-quality valuable recyclable plastic materials from mixed waste streams and other sources and of non-recyclable plastic material.
- 11) Implement plastic waste pre-treatment and transformation of recyclable plastic materials, through the establishment of a functional material recovery facility (MRF) and/or upgrade of an existing facility using context-appropriate technologies. This will potentially include logistical support for shipment of recovered plastics to recyclers/offtakers.
- 12) Liaise with relevant authorities to identify and secure land for decentralised hubs, transfer stations, MRFs or storage facilities, ensuring accessibility for informal workers and logistical feasibility in island contexts. Where such land spaces are made available by the service provider, it must be ensured that all applicable local norms, regulatory requirements and environmental laws are fully adhered to.
- 13) Develop and deploy a standardised method to quantify the number of informal actors whose livelihoods are sustained and improved (in alignment with national targets), while also tracking the number of individuals engaged under this initiative.
- 14) Develop and implement standard rate cards for use against all purchase/sale waste categories to be displayed at the collection points, at the MRF gate, and in the facility to assist informal sector actors (waste pickers/reclaimers), citizens, scrap dealers to walk in and sell their waste.
- 15) Manage environmentally sound storage or repurposing of non-recyclable waste and by-products generated during the recovery process. All applicable local standards, regulatory requirements, and environmental laws must be fully respected, while ensuring alignment with existing waste disposal systems.
- 16) Contribute to the development or enhancement of site-specific plastic action plans, aligned with Cabo Verde's national waste management strategy and circular economy goals. This may include, but not limited to, contributing to discussions on the design and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, circular economy strategies, and other relevant policy instruments aligned with national priorities and the IslandPlas project.
- 17) During implementation of the project, identify pertinent capacity gaps across the waste value chain stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, waste workers, SMEs) and deliver appropriate training to address such gaps, e.g. material identification/classification, material quality, cleaning, sorting, safe handling, etc, and where applicable, propose and recommend to IUCN on priority areas for further capacity development and training.
- 18) Ensure full compliance with environmental and safety regulations, adhering to national legislation and international standards, including ISO 15270 on plastic waste management.

Background

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and around 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

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About the IslandPlas Project

The IslandPlas project targets seven African Islands, that is, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, and Zanzibar. Based on recent estimates, these Islands cumulatively generate an estimated two million tonnes of municipal waste annually. Plastic material constitutes an average 11 percent of the waste material, equivalent to 200,000 tons per year. Approximately 40 percent of the plastic waste is recovered through collection, leaving 118 thousand tonnes uncollected or mismanaged – posing the single largest source of plastic pollution in the marine environment. Once in the ocean, mismanaged waste negatively impacts the tourism sector, fisheries and aquaculture, shipping, and overstretches the budgets of municipal and national authorities responsible for waste management.

The project, running until end of 2026 envisions African Islands that are free from plastic waste in the environment, and that circular measures are in place to ensure zero plastics to the ocean. The project actions are designed to reduce and prevent plastic waste leakage into the environment through demonstrating effective, quantifiable solutions to addressing plastic leakage.

Among others, the project contributes to achieving the objectives prescribed in the Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference on the Blue and Circular Economy in the Island States of Africa and the Indian Ocean (September 2023), that advocates for a blue and circular economy, enabled through circular entrepreneurship, skills development, increased investment towards science, research and development, and legal and policy reforms. The project is designed to strengthen understanding of national plastic material flows and waste and pollution footprint, integrate and support informal waste sector actors and local communities, support local ventures for innovation to reduce plastic pollution using locally-appropriate solutions, strength institutional capacities (municipal, informal sector) to catalyse change, and explore potential for an inter-regional recycling hub to support multiple islands.

The project aims to achieve three main outcomes:

- i. Sustainable and **improved livelihoods** of informal waste sector actors engaged in a circular plastics economy (9,600 beneficiaries);
- ii. Quantifiable **regeneration of plastic waste material** through circular approaches, including through plastic material recovery (14,000 tons), recycling (5,600 tons) and upcycling; and
- iii. Strengthened **sector innovation and enterprise development** with new growth opportunities through direct capital investments to locally appropriate solutions (US \$2 million).

Country specific outcomes under this activity:

1. Sustainable and **improved livelihoods** of informal waste sector actors engaged in a circular plastics economy (**1,000 beneficiaries**);

2. Quantifiable **regeneration of plastic waste material** through circular approaches, including through plastic material recovery (**495 tonnes**), recycling (**198 tonnes**) and upcycling;
3. Strengthened **sector innovation and enterprise development** with new growth opportunities through direct capital investments to locally-appropriate solutions.

The project's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will be applied to this assignment are as follows, with the ones closely connected to this assignment highlighted in green:

Informal livelihoods	Circular innovation	Catalytic infrastructure investments	Circular systems	Resource leverage
Hrs of training	Start-up sustainability [%]	No. of projects supported	No. of plans created or strengthened	Co-financing leveraged
Changes in incomes [%]	Number of initiatives supported	Value of projects supported [\$]	Change in services per capita [%]	
Spend per worker [%]	Initiatives attracting funding	Value of projects completed [\$]		
Equipment support	Amount of funding attracted [\$]			

At the heart of the project is the engagement and collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including from government, private sector, informal sector and civil society interlinked in a vibrant collaborative network to co-generate and demonstrate demand-responsive solutions to plastic pollution. It is therefore important that the project integrates or fits into existing government or municipal sector management systems, working in coordination with the urban local authority bodies or municipalities in order to capture, understand and address systemic weaknesses and gaps and provide an opportunity to articulate intervention measures that are locally-appropriate and socially acceptable to ensure sustainability of project outcomes.

Duration of the Assignment

From **June 2025** to **November 2026**.

Key deliverables (Outputs)

The contractor will achieve the following deliverables:

No.	Deliverable
1.	Baseline report: a comprehensive report on the current context of plastic waste, pollution, and management practices in the target islands of Cabo Verde (e.g., Santiago, Sal, Boa Vista, São Vicente and Santa Luzia). The report should include mapping of stakeholders (formal and informal), infrastructure availability, challenges, pricing structures, and opportunities for strengthening the waste value chain.
2.	Design and operationalisation of the PlastiNetwork: a documented system design and implementation of a decentralised and functional PlastiNetwork, including location and setup of collection points, logistics system, flow of materials, operational procedures, and visual documentation of infrastructure deployed.
3.	Beneficiary engagement report : a disaggregated report capturing the total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries reached through the project, categorised by age group, gender, island/location, and type of support received (employment, training, awareness, etc.), aligned with national targets and IslandPlas indicators.
4.	Plastic collection report: cumulative data on the quantity (tonnage) of plastic waste collected over the implementation period, disaggregated by site, source, and collection method where applicable.
5.	Transformation report: a detailed report on recyclable and non-recyclable plastic material transformed or prepared for transformation, specifying technologies used, actors involved, market potential, material quality, projected income, and end-use of transformed materials.

6.	Non-recyclable waste management report: a documented record of the tonnage of non-recyclable plastic waste collected, disaggregated by source and type, including final management method (safe storage, reuse, energy recovery, safe disposal, etc.), and any innovative reuse strategies implemented.
7.	Plastic waste characterisation report: an analysis of waste composition and polymer types, with insights into recyclability and marketability, including visual representation and potential for upcycling or transformation.
8.	Policy and strategy engagement summary document: a summary of stakeholder engagements, contributions, and technical inputs provided in support of national and local strategies, legal frameworks, or action plans relevant to plastic waste management in Cabo Verde.
9.	Final project report and presentation: a final comprehensive report outlining results achieved, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and progress towards project objectives. The report should demonstrate impact on plastic waste reduction, transformation success, and livelihood outcomes. It must be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation (max. 30 slides) summarising the key findings and outcomes.

Reporting Schedule

The Timetable below summarises the chronological order of deliverables and indicates milestones at which IUCN will pay the Contractor.

No.	Deliverable	Deadline
1.	Baseline report	End of week 2 (after contract signature)
2.	Quarterly progress reports highlighting achievement of key milestones and (narrative and expenditure)	Every 3 months
3.	Final project report on project achievements and lessons	30 November 2026

Payment Schedule

The Timetable below summarises the chronological order of deliverables and indicates milestones at which IUCN will pay the firm.

Deliverable Date	Milestone payment
Baseline report - 25 July 2025	25%
Progress reports - 31 October 2025	10%
Progress reports - 31 January 2026	10%
Progress reports - 30 April 2025	10%
Progress reports - 31 July 2026	10%
Progress reports - 31 October 2026	10%
Final project report - 15 November 2026	25%

Skills and Experience

The firm must have within their staff or team, the following skills, education and experience as a minimum:

- Minimum 2 to 3 years of experience in plastic waste management, including in material recovery, recycling and other transformation, circular economy.
- In-house organizational expertise across the team on plastic waste, pollution management, material transformation, such as through, recycling and upcycling.
- Proven track record in engaging relevant sector stakeholders, including state agencies and municipalities with mandate on the waste and pollution management sectors, and ability to engage and communicate effectively with such diverse stakeholders.
- Experience working with local stakeholders, the informal sector, local communities, and familiarity and experience with international funding models will be an advantage.
- Knowledgeable of different environmental standards and norms in respective country, including prevailing policy and regulatory framework.
- Basic proficiency in quantitative and qualitative research methods, data collection, analysis, synthesis and interpretation.

- Skilled in preparing comprehensive technical reports, including situational assessments. Links to any such works and to other completed assignments is an asset.
- Equipped with equipment and infrastructure for plastic waste collection and transformation will be an added advantage.
- Fluency in English, French and/or the local native language relevant to the country is required, or as may be applicable in the target country.

Supervision and coordination

The firm will report to and work under the direct supervision of the National Project Officer, IslandPlas Project, located in Cabo Verde.