REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

BENEFICIARY COUNTRY: Lao People’s Democratic Republic

REFERENCE NUMBER: UNESCO BKK – PLAIN OF JARS PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: UXO clearance at selected archaeological sites, walking trails and land for food security in Xieng Khouang Province, Lao PDR, within the framework of the “UNESCO-Lao Project to Safeguard the Plain of Jars”

DEADLINE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EOI: 15 October 2006

Objectives and Scope

In 1998, UNESCO and the Government of Lao PDR initiated a multi-year phased programme to safeguard and develop the Plain of Jars, a vast archaeological landscape in northern Lao PDR that features on the Tentative World Heritage List. The goal of this “UNESCO-Lao Project to Safeguard the Plain of Jars” is to put mechanisms in place that ensure ongoing protection of the heritage resources linked to bringing socio-economic benefits for the local communities. One of the

Phase I-III of the programme were dedicated to the development of a precise GIS (geographical information system) of the Plain of Jars, in-field survey to compile a comprehensive and detailed cultural heritage inventory of all archaeological sites and their component features in the Plain of Jars, development and testing of a series of community based methodologies to address the issues, such as a community based site management methodology, a community based methodology for diagnosing and treating soil erosion problems at jar sites, community-assisted methodology for UXO clearance at archaeological sites that causes no harm to the heritage, or to humans or livestock, and provides for an enabling environment for socio-economic development, including community-based tourism and a methodology to monitor and mitigate current and emerging threats to cultural and biodiversity and negative impacts on socio-economic situations due to tourism developments.

Phase IV of the programme (October 2006 – September 2010) has the following objectives:
1. to create a sustainable inclusive pro-poor community based heritage tourism (CBHT) industry in Xieng Khouang Province; and
2. to establish an effective and sustainable participatory management system for the Plain of Jars Archaeological Landscape, Xieng Khouang Province.

The project aims to achieve the first objective through:
- Additional UXO clearance and training in erosion control measures at strategically selected sites to create safe and stable environments for CBHT development;
- Further academic research, consolidation and analysis of findings to firmly document the significance of the Plain of Jars needed for the production of site interpretive materials for visitors and eventual World Heritage nomination;
- Development of a suite of site interpretation programmes based on academically underpinned statement of significance;
- Building capacity and training of communities in development and management of community based heritage tourism products and associated livelihood opportunities;
- Setting up provincial guide service units and providing training for guides;
- Building further capacity to use the socio-economic and cultural and natural heritage CBHT impact monitoring methodology;
- Strengthening the capacity of the provincial authorities to oversee province-wide tourism operations.

The project aims to achieve the second objective through:
- Building awareness and capacity to fully operationalize the community based site management methodology;
- Establishing a fund to be used to finance site management operations and developing a mechanism to capture income generated through tourism;
- Nomination of the Plain of Jars for World Heritage inscription; inscription of the site will both ensure ongoing national and international protection as well as increased interest in the site leading to downstream
benefits in terms of enhanced livelihood opportunities through increasing visitor numbers and anticipated further investments in site maintenance and conservation.

- Within the framework of the abovementioned project objectives, the Contractor will be expected to undertake UXO clearance at (i) four selected archaeological sites, (ii) walking trails connecting sites with each other and other tourism attractions and (iii) land for food security in Xieng Khouang Province. UXO clearance at the archaeological sites should be done in close collaboration with the project’s archaeologists and deploy the Village-Assisted Archaeo-UXO Clearance methodology developed by this project during previous phases.

**Expected Procurement Components**

1. UXO clearance of four archaeological sites that form part of the Plain of Jars Archaeological Landscape and have been selected for community-based heritage tourism development
2. UXO surface clearance of walking trails that will be opened to visitors as part of the community based tourism development under this project
3. UXO clearance of land for food security in or around five villages selected for tourism development
4. Roving capacity to respond to community requests for emergency spot of surface clearance
5. Contribution to the further development, testing and documentation of the Village-Assisted Archaeo-UXO Clearance methodology

**Special Requirements for the Potential Suppliers**

1. The potential supplier should:
2. Have at least 10 years experience with international humanitarian mine action, including UXO clearance
3. Be authorized by the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR to conduct UXO clearance in Lao PDR
4. Have prior experience with clearance work at cultural heritage sites

**Special Procurement Conditions and Additional Information**

UNESCO invites suppliers capable of providing the works and services in above categories to submit their expression of interest.

In order to be considered as a potential supplier, interested enterprises should submit their Expression of Interest including the following information:

- brief presentation of your enterprise including number of staff, turnover, years in business
- reference list demonstrating your qualifications for participating in this possible upcoming bidding process
- contact information (full name and address, country, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, website and contact person)

The Expression of Interest and accompanying documents must be received by UNESCO no later than 15 October 2006 on the postal address below. Alternatively, Expressions of Interest can be sent by e-mail or fax (max. 10 pages). Please indicate Ref. No.: UNESCO BKK – PLAIN OF JARS PROJECT on all submissions. Kindly forward a confirmation copy of the EOI (w/o Annexes) to procurement.info@unesco.org.

This call for Expression of Interest does not constitute a solicitation. UNESCO reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. UNESCO also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final solicitation documents. Submitting a reply to a call for EOI does not automatically guarantee receipt of the solicitation documents when issued. Invitations to bid or requests for proposals and any subsequent purchase order or contract will be issued in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNESCO.

**UNESCO Contact Information**

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