



RFP No.: # RFP- FFPr Mauritania -20024 002

Question/Answer Period: 5/10/2024

## Responses to Questions and Requests for Clarifications Submitted Regarding the GIS and Remote Sensing Analysis RFP for the USDA Food for Progress Mauritania Project

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1. Is this limited to suppliers/businesses that are based in Mauritania?

**No.**

2. Is the installation of the products requested?

**Per the RFP: Ownership: It is expressly agreed that upon completion of the Custom Product, all rights, title, and interest in and to the Custom Product, including any associated intellectual property rights, shall vest exclusively in Buyer. The Custom Product will be accessible via internet to any interested parties once completed and approved.**

3. Is there a more detailed RFP document?

**No**

4. In the anticipated timeline table on page 5 of the RFP, under commercial farm analysis 'productivity assessment' is mentioned. Could you elaborate on that (e.g. biomass or yield) please?

**MT/hectare per crop**

5. In the same table, a time period has been indicated starting in June, while the deadline for proposals is end of May. Could you elaborate please on the decision-making process?

**The decision-making process will be completed at the beginning of June, and we intend to sign the contract during the same month.**

6. The RFP mentions encouraging finding innovative ways to work with local stakeholders such as higher education institutes, Government ministries, etc. Can we reach out to those institutions in this phase of the process already (or rather when implementation starts)?

**Yes, it is possible to reach out to local stakeholders in this phase of the process.**

7. Concerning the tariffs we propose to work with, are there any rules and regulations to comply with - such as a maximum height?

**Please confer with relevant GRIM officials for that information.**



8. Will the contractor be responsible for data collection, including: • Drones • Satellite imagery • Field data collection.

**If deemed appropriate for the proposal, offerors may undertake these activities.**

9. If the contractor is responsible for data collection, what types of data are expected to be collected? It would be helpful for the contractor to estimate the required level of accuracy and determine the sense or configuration for the drones to propose appropriate data collection methods.

**Offerors are encouraged to submit proposals within the technical requirements and budget indicated in the RFP.**

10. Could you please provide us with an estimate of the total land area (in hectares) that needs to be covered for drone aerial imagery?

**Offerors are expected to cover inland approximately 10 kms from the Senegal River on the north/Mauritanian side of the border. Due to geographic considerations this distance may be more or less, dependent on agricultural potential of the particular area assessed.**

11. We kindly request further clarification and specific details regarding the deliverables of the project.

**All deliverables are listed under Section C: Anticipated Timeline.**

12. In the regions mentioned, are there any areas that require special attention due to unique agricultural or ecological challenges, that you can mention?

**Offerors are encouraged to use their best professional and technical judgment in completing their respective proposals.**

13. Could you provide details on the agricultural or ecological specificities of the target regions which should be taken into account when developing the proposals?

**Offerors are encouraged to consider those details for their proposals.**

14. Please provide more details on the number of farms and/or targeted area in the 5 regions. Please include a ratio of large/medium/small farms taking into account your terminology (size I).

**Offerors will be responsible for this information themselves if they determine that it is relevant for their proposals.**

15. Collaboration with Local and Government Institutions: What level of participation or engagement is expected from higher education institutions like ISET in the data collection and analysis process? Are there specific expectations about their role or contribution?



**Per the RFP: Proposals should address ways to map small and medium sized farms using drones, soil samples, and ground verification. ISET, a higher education institution in Rosso is a key partner for conducting soil samples, drone analysis, and GIS. Firms are encouraged to propose innovative ways to work with local higher education institutions like ISET. Mauritanian Government Ministries also use GIS, and prospective bidders are encouraged to collaborate with the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, the Environment and/or Mines in developing their proposals and recommending a system within the GRIM for better coordination, access and collaboration on GIS assignments and ultimate products.**

16. Concerning collaboration with ministries, what are the modalities planned for the integration of their data and resources into the project? Are there any pre-existing protocols or agreements that bidders should be aware of?

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17. Specific Technologies and Methodologies: Can you clarify the technology preferences for remote sensing and GIS systems? Are there any technical prerequisites or compatibilities to be respected with systems already in place in Mauritania?

**Offerors are encouraged to present the most cost-effective product, given the guidelines within the RFP for technical content and budget, and conditions on the ground within Mauritania.**

18. For the collection of soil samples and their analysis, what level of detail and frequency of data updating is expected?

**Per the RFP: The GIS and remote [sensing] analysis should present a characterization of the agro-ecological zones of the project area. This will include soil types, weather conditions, and other key factors that determine horticulture productivity. Further soil sampling will not be required after the initial sampling and analysis.**

19. What are the key factors that will influence the evaluation of technical versus cost aspects in proposals? Is there an ideal balance between technical innovation and cost efficiency that you are aiming for?



**Please see the Evaluation Criteria under Section D of the RFP.**

20. Are there any examples of previous proposals or projects that were particularly well received by POA? What elements of these projects could serve as a reference for a successful proposal?

**No.**

21. Do you have a specific template / proposal structure that you would prefer?

**Please see Section A: Proposal Application Format.**

22. Sustainability and Knowledge Transfer: What are the specific evaluation criteria for sustainability plans? How will these plans be monitored and evaluated over time?

**Please see the RFP: Lastly, the selected firm will carry out a sustainability plan for the continuation of GIS and remote sensing. It will also propose where data from this study will be stored and open access guaranteed for all interested parties once the assessment is completed and approved. USDA FFPr Mauritania intends to find multiple dynamic ways that data will continue to be generated past the life of the project. Proposals should include sustainability of the Analysis and data generation such as Government of Mauritania support, storage, access, costs, private sector buy-in, and private agriculture provider use of data.**

23. Concerning training and knowledge transfer, what is the level of detail and depth of training content expected? How do you envisage the integration of this training into the daily operations of the participating parties after the end of the project?

**Per the RFP training should meet these conditions: “The awarded firm will conduct capacity building with USDA FFPr Staff as well as relevant stakeholders such as government partners and cooperative members. Training sessions will cover how to interpret and use data generated from the Analysis. Capacity building sessions can be a remote, in-person, or a combination of both and should be done in French. Proposals should include examples of work increasing the capacity of local stakeholders.” Additional details on training are provided under Section C: Anticipated Timeline under the “Capacity Building” category.**

24. The financial evidence of the bidder is mentioned. Do you have a minimum requirement?

**No.**

25. The personalized product / Custom product - who exactly is the market aimed at? What are the supplier's product specifications, are they already available?

**In regards to the Custom Product please see the RFP: Development of Custom Product: GIS/Remote Sensing Study of Southern Mauritania (to include all or parts of Trarza,**



**Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimaka and Assaba regions): Vendor shall develop the Custom Product according to the specifications provided by Buyer.**

**Ownership: It is expressly agreed that upon completion of the Custom Product, all rights, title, and interest in and to the Custom Product, including any associated intellectual property rights, shall vest exclusively in Buyer. The Custom Product will be accessible via internet to any interested parties once completed and approved.**

26. Extent of Geographical Area for Mapping: We understand that the project involves mapping agriculture production areas, specifically along the Senegal River Valley. Could you please provide further clarification on the geographical boundaries of the area to be mapped? Are we focusing solely on the Hall area along the Senegal River, or does the mapping scope encompass additional regions along the river valley? Clarification on the specific areas to be mapped would greatly assist us in planning our data collection and analysis efforts accordingly.

**Please see the response to question #10.**

27. Resolution Requirements for Drone and Satellite Images: we would like to inquire about the resolution specifications for both drone and satellite imagery to be used in the project. Understanding the desired resolution parameters will enable us to optimize our data acquisition strategies and ensure that we deliver outputs that meet the project's requirements and expectations.

**All offerors are encouraged to develop their proposals within the technical constraints of the country and the financial constraints of the budget.**

28. Furthermore, we note that the project documentation emphasizes the importance of experience working with relevant Mauritanian stakeholders to map agriculture production. We are fully committed to fostering collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders and engaging them in the mapping process. If there are specific stakeholders or organizations that POA recommends we collaborate with, we would greatly appreciate your insights and recommendations in this regard.

**Please see the response to question #15.**

29. What is the total area that needs to be mapped?

**Please see the response to question #10.**

30. How many land use categories are there? (e.g., agricultural, residential, forest, non-productive)?

**Please contact the relevant GRIM authorities to respond to this question.**



31. Are there cadastral maps available for the regions that need to be mapped (Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Assaba, Guidimakha)? Cadastral data, especially digital ones, are important for land use purposes. This involves cartography, cadastre, ownership, etc.

**Please contact the relevant GRIM authorities to respond to this question.**

32. What are the specific challenges or obstacles in mapping these regions effectively?

**Offerors may be expected to answer this question in their proposals.**

33. What data sources will be used for the mapping project? Any digital sources, analog maps, etc.?

**Offerors are encouraged to be resourceful in identifying and accessing data sources.**

34. What are the expected outcomes or deliverables of the mapping project? Specific type of file?

**Please see all deliverables listed under Section C: Anticipated Timeline.**

35. Are there any specific requirements or preferences for the GIS and remote sensing tools/software to be used in the project?

**Offerors are encouraged to propose cost-efficient tools to complete the requirements listed in the RFP.**

36. Is there an established mapping methodology, or do we need to develop one ourselves?

**Offerors are encouraged to propose cost-efficient tools to complete the requirements listed in the RFP.**