



Request for Proposal (RFP)

Readiness Evaluation of Seagrass Ecosystems and Blue Carbon Finance in Inhassoro, Mozambique

Rare Mozambique.

Rua Beijo da Mulata, Nr 188
Business Center 41
Maputo,
Mozambique

Introduction

Purpose

This Request for Proposals (RFP) outlines the consultancy services required to conduct a readiness evaluation of seagrass ecosystems for blue carbon finance in Inhassoro, Mozambique – within and surrounding six proposed marine community-managed fishing areas and reserves in Inhassoro. These activities form part of Rare's grant portfolio funded by the COAST Facility for the period FY 2026–2029.

The Vendor's proposal submitted in response to this RFP will be incorporated into the final agreement between Rare, Inc. and the selected Contractor. The recommended proposal format is as follows:

1. Executive Summary
2. Approach and Methodology
3. Project Deliverables
4. Project Management Approach
5. Detailed and Itemized Pricing/Budget by Batch
6. Appendix 1: References (three references for similar work)
7. Appendix 2: Project Team Staffing (or Individual)
8. Appendix 3: Company Overview (if applicable)

Executive Summary

Rare is a non-governmental organization leading on behavior-centered conservation, with a mission to increase ecological resilience and improve ecosystem health for local communities. For over 50 years, Rare has empowered coastal communities and local leaders to become stewards of their natural resources, to protect, restore, and manage the coastal waters and habitats on which we all depend. To date, Rare has led blue carbon market pre-feasibility studies in the Philippines and Mozambique in collaboration with technical experts and advises on global policy efforts on international climate policy including NDC ambition and blue carbon finance (carbon market and non-market). As a global organization, Rare has offices in 11 countries, including in Mozambique, the Philippines, Indonesia, Honduras, Brazil, Colombia, the Pacific Islands (Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia), Germany, and the United States.

The COAST project is running until September 2029, and focused on strengthening coastal governance, ecological health, climate resilience, and economic stability in Inhassoro and Inharrime. The core goals include formalizing seven fisheries co-management agreements for 7 Community Fishing Councils (CCPs), establishing over 40,000 hectares of community-led marine areas, and reducing illegal fishing through community monitoring. The project also aims to increase preparedness for climate shocks, through enhancing early warning systems and providing technical support for CCPs to increase fisher safety during severe weather events. Economic resilience activities will formalize and provide seed funding for at least five community micro-enterprises benefiting 1,800 families, whilst promoting microinsurance options.

To achieve these goals, Rare seeks the services of a qualified consultant to conduct readiness evaluation of seagrass ecosystems for blue carbon finance in and around the six proposed community-managed fishing areas and reserves (CMFA+R) to be established with support from a COAST Facility grant, within three nautical miles, benefiting artisanal fishers and coastal communities in Inhassoro, Inhambane province.

This work will serve as the baseline for the project and must be completed no later than **October 31, 2026**

The consultant must demonstrate proven expertise and solid understanding of:

- Blue carbon ecosystem assessments, specifically with regard to seagrass ecosystems
- Soil carbon assessment in seagrass meadows (and other blue carbon ecosystems like mangroves)
- Marine biodiversity and taxonomy for seagrass species
- Blue carbon finance instruments
- Ecosystem assessment including underwater survey results and related ecological indicators
(Note: this consultant will be required to review and engage with other consultants who are conducting the broader ecosystem assessment and underwater survey in the area for relevant information to the seagrass evaluation)

Business Overview & Background

About Rare

Rare inspires change so people and nature thrive. We unlock the power of people to protect nature, fight climate change, and build resilient communities — strengthening lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems through community-led solutions. Ours is a distinctly human approach. Only by unleashing the best of human nature can we ensure an abundant future on our shared planet.

In Mozambique, Rare's approach focuses on reducing human-driven threats to marine and coastal ecosystems through rights-based fisheries management, as established under Fisheries Act 22/2013 of November 1st and the Regulation for Maritime Fisheries (REPMAR), Decree 89/2020 of October 8th. Under these frameworks, local fishing communities, organized through Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs), create Community Managed Fishing Areas (CMFAs) and designate Reserves (Resource Recovery Areas) to restore and protect critical habitats.

As of 2025, Rare operates in 18 coastal communities across six districts of two provinces:

- Nampula Province: Memba, Nacala, Ilha de Moçambique, Mogincual
- Inhambane Province: Inhassoro, Inharrime

These interventions are implemented through Rare's flagship Fish Forever program, which promotes sustainable fishing practices and community-led marine conservation.

Current Program Context

In Inhassoro and Inharrime, Rare's work is supported by a multi-year UK COAST Facility grant (2025–2029), enabling Rare's return to these districts after a brief recess in Inhassoro and a gap of at least four years in Inharrime. Rare's interventions are carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (MAAP), other central government entities, and local authorities at provincial and district levels. This consultant will only focus on work in Inhassoro.

Table 1. Geographic Areas

| District | Community | CMFA | Reserve | Type of Assessment from Ecological Survey – Development underway, to be utilized for this report |
|-----------|-----------|------|---------|--|
| Inhassoro | Vuca | yes | Yes | Comparative analysis CMFA vs R; New Baseline |
| Inhassoro | Petane | yes | yes | |
| Inhassoro | Fequete | yes | yes | Comparative analysis CMFA vs R; Comparative analysis with historical data |
| Inhassoro | Nhagondzo | Yes | No | New Baseline |
| Inhassoro | Mucocuene | yes | No | New Baseline |
| Inhassoro | Tsondzo | Yes | No | New Baseline |

Table 2. Blue Carbon Finance Reports **

| Province | District | Report |
|----------|--------------------|---|
| Nampula | Angoche | Pre-feasibility (PFA) assessment of blue carbon market readiness (2024) |
| Nampula | Ilha De Moçambique | |
| Nampula | Larde | |
| Nampula | Memba | |
| Nampula | Moma | |
| Nampula | Mossuril | |
| Nampula | Nacala | |
| Nampula | Nacala-A Velha | |
| Zambezia | Pebane | |

** To build on findings from PFA in Nampula province, noting the deliverable for this RfP will focus on seagrass ecosystems in Inhassoro.

Program Objectives

As part of our program interventions, Rare aims to:

1. Increase ecological resilience within CMFA+R areas by sustaining critical habitat cover and improving fish abundance and diversity, which support ecosystem health and buffer climate change impacts.
2. Improve ecosystem health in CMFA+R areas to increase or maintain fish and invertebrate abundance, size, and diversity within established Reserves by the end of the project period. Over the long term, this approach has demonstrated spillover effects that benefit the entire CMFA area.

To achieve these objectives, Rare will allocate part of the UK COAST Facility funds to cover the consultancy scope for a readiness evaluation for seagrass ecosystems for blue carbon finance in and around six proposed CMFA+Rs, located in Inhassoro: Vuca, Petane, Fequete, Nhagondzo, Mucocuene, and Tsondzo.

Detailed Specifications

Assignment

The selected consultant will be responsible for developing a readiness evaluation for seagrass ecosystems in Inhassoro District to better assess blue carbon finance opportunities to support ecosystem conservation and local livelihoods. These areas are located within marine waters up to three nautical miles from the coastline and will serve as the baseline for the project.

The consultant will conduct primarily desktop research and utilize the ecological assessments being conducted in parallel. Additionally, previous ecological assessments were conducted in 2017/2018 and 2021 in one of these communities:

- Fequete (Inhassoro District)

Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for developing a readiness evaluation for seagrass ecosystems to better assess blue carbon finance opportunities in Inhassoro District to support ecosystem conservation and local livelihoods. The final deliverable will include the readiness evaluation report, with sub deliverables including: a detailed outline of the report, draft report, presentation of the findings, and final report.

- **Workplan** to outline planned approach to establish a comprehensive report on seagrass ecosystems and related potential blue carbon finance options
- **Outline** of the report to include, but not limited to the following categories:
 - Overview of seagrass ecosystems: area extent, seagrass species, other biodiversity reliant on seagrass meadows, soil carbon potential
- **Draft report** to Rare for feedback
- **Final report** on the evaluation of seagrass ecosystems for blue carbon financing options
- **Presentation** to Rare staff and partners

Core Competences

An individual or a small team of blue carbon finance and/or seagrass experts shall meet the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated good knowledge of blue carbon ecosystem science and policy, with focus on seagrass ecosystems but also mangrove and salt marsh.
- Demonstrated good knowledge of the Fish Forever program.
- Demonstrated knowledge of blue finance instruments relevant for seagrass ecosystems
- Practical experience in utilizing information from seagrass monitoring reports, including species composition, percent cover, shoot density, and canopy height.
- Ability to identify dominant seagrass species and associated benthic fauna.
- Familiarity with environmental parameter collection, such as water depth, substrate type, and clarity.
- Familiarity with soil carbon in mangrove and seagrass sediments including sampling, processing, interpretation of laboratory results and reporting.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Contractor

The contractor must:

- Work with Rare's Director of Blue Carbon, Natural Climate Solutions who is based in Berlin, Germany and Rare Mozambique's Director, Program Implementation (DPI) through in-person and online meetings including email exchanges;
- Develop a reporting and feedback tool that will regularly inform Rare of the progress of the consultancy, which could be in the form of a weekly or biweekly meeting or progress update;
- If on site work is necessary, the contractor must work with each of Rare's site-based program implementation managers, and related community fisheries councils and local governments to understand the local knowledge on ecology for interpretation of results.

Key Deliverables timeline and Payment Schedule

Table 2. timeline by deliverable

| | <i>Feb 2026</i> | <i>Mar 2026</i> | <i>April 2026</i> | <i>May 2026</i> | <i>June 2026</i> | <i>July 2026</i> | <i>Aug 2026</i> | <i>Sept 2026</i> | <i>Oct 2026</i> | <i>Payment schedule</i> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Detailed work plan approved | X | | | | | | | | | 25% upon approval of work plan |
| 2. Outline of Readiness Evaluation approved | | X | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Draft Readiness evaluation for seagrass and blue carbon finance in Inhassoro submitted | | | | X | | | | | | 40% upon approval of draft evaluation |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 4. Monthly meetings with Rare staff on progress (May be twice per month, on occasion) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 5. Presentation to Rare team and potential partners based on final evaluation | | | | | | | | X | X | |
| 6. Final Readiness Evaluation of Seagrass Ecosystems & Blue Carbon Finance in Ihassoro | | | | | | | | | X | <i>35% upon approval of final evaluation</i> |

If the Contractor finds it necessary to make modifications to the deadlines here to align with the available budget or other local considerations, he/she must propose alternative dates, which shall be subject to discussion and approval.

Assumptions & Constraints

Logistics and equipment

The **contractor** shall have its own required permits, equipment and safety to ensure completion of the assignments within the project geographies and ecosystems (note: within 3 nautical miles of the coastline)

Working language

Portuguese and English

There are local languages in project sites, the contractor should be able to adapt and communicate in the local language as required by the local community, however reporting will be in English with Portuguese summaries.

Management and Coordination

The contractor shall work under the direct supervision of Rare's Director of Blue Carbon, Natural Climate Solutions. The contractor shall consult with the Director during the assignment and may be required to present progress and final report to selected audiences.

Location

The contractor must be based in Mozambique or surrounding region with strong familiarity of Mozambican context. The contractor will be primarily working remotely but may decide to travel to select sites, if the need or preference is identified in the workplan.

Terms and Conditions

Fees and Budget

- **Payment Terms:** In accordance with internal regulations, payments will be made based on approved deliverables.
- **Budget Details:** Please provide a detailed budget breakdown, including the following items. Note budget proposals should not exceed £17,400.
 - Professional fees
 - Travel expenses, if applicable
 - Other relevant cost categories

Selection Criteria/Evaluation Process of proposals

1. The evaluation of submitted proposals will be based on the following evaluation criteria listed in order of priority:
2. Completion of all required proposal responses in the correct format;
3. The extent to which Vendor's proposed solution fulfills Rare's stated requirements as set out in this RFP;
4. An assessment of the Vendor's ability to deliver the indicated service in accordance with the specifications set out in this RFP;
5. The Vendor's stability, experience, and record of past performance in delivering such services;
6. Availability of sufficient high-quality Vendor personnel with the required skills and experience for the specific approach proposed;
7. Overall cost of Vendor's proposal;

Rare may, at their discretion and without explanation to the prospective Vendors, at any time choose to discontinue this RFP without obligation to such prospective Vendors.

The distribution of weight on the selection criteria/evaluation process will be as follow:

- a) Possession of core competencies: 40%
- b) Possession of technical competencies: 20%
- c) Availability: 30%
- d) Proposed consultancy budget: 10%

Submission deadlines

All submissions for responding to this request must be submitted by email with a subject line **“Consultant: Seagrass Mozambique Application”** to lschindermurray@rare.org **no later than Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 23:59 CET.**

Submission of questions and clarifications

You may contact the following person if you have any questions or require clarification on any topics covered in this Request for Proposal: lschindermurray@rare.org