REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Service contract

Children’s assessment of impact of tourism

Costa Rica & Ecuador

January 2023– October 2023

Organisational Context

ECPAT International is a global network of organisations working together for the elimination of the sexual exploitation of children in all its manifestations i.e. exploitation of children in prostitution, online child sexual exploitation, sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and some forms of child, early and forced marriage. The ECPAT Network currently consists of 122 members working at national and local levels in 104 countries. The ECPAT Secretariat coordinates the global work of ECPAT and is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Overview

ECPAT International is seeking an organization with expertise, capacities and reach to organize activities with children and young people of all socio-ethnic background and genders to contribute meaningfully to the development of community-based and sustainable tourism strategies in order to improve their reach, impact and effectiveness.

Background and purpose

The ECPAT Secretariat is committed to ensuring rights-based and meaningful participation of children in matters that directly affect them. Tourism brings development opportunities but also brings imbalance of power between travellers and impoverished local communities. With communities financially struggling due to the Covid crisis, the environment has become conducive for both domestic and foreign child sex offenders to access victims more easily, online and offline. Children’s perspectives on protection against violence are critical to create more effective and relevant programs. Interventions often remain by-and-large adult driven or led strategies to address the issue for children, and not with children.

We are looking for an organization with the expertise, the infrastructure in terms of processes, safeguards, ethical approaches, the capacities of staff and associated personnel and the reach to engage with children and young people from the communities in Costa Rica and in Ecuador through participatory and child rights-based approaches to assess the impact of tourism on children’s lives and meaningfully engage them in sustainable strategies for the development of a tourism that is safe, ethical and sustainable.

Scope of Work

- Engage children and young people (age 12-18), which may include but is not limited to survivors of sexual exploitation, based on practices that are ethical, grounded on children’s rights, supported by strong safeguards
- Work with children to support their understanding of the spectrum of actions by governments, the private sector and CSOs to address sexual exploitation of children
- Engage children in participatory assessments of the strategies and interventions linked to tourism and affecting their rights, in particular to protection from sexual exploitation
- Support children in generating ideas and recommendations for planning more sustainable and rights-based interventions linked to the development of ethical tourism strategies and practices that are informed by the needs of local communities and the rights of children; and at the same time engage with local authorities and tourism authorities to ensure that the methodology developed as part of the project is uptaken for the development of the destination strategies
- Co-develop a report and related communication materials with children on their recommendations for action to be presented to the UN General Assembly in New York with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRVAC). And potentially support the participation of a number of selected children as representatives to support the launch of the report in person and/or virtually at the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

**Deliverables**
The total consultancy is estimated to last over a period of 10 months (January to October 2023).

- A detailed work plan and methodology
- Co-creation of the participatory tools and guidance
- At least 20 children and young persons engaged in participatory processes at local level as a focus group that will reach out to other children, and help develop for example questionnaires through which a broader group of children can be reached, including through social media
- Activities may include, among others for example:
  - 2 days planning sessions with groups of children in each country
  - Weekly meetings groups of children over 5 months
  - 2 days ideation workshop with children for recommendations
  - 2 days activities to co-create the report and related materials
  - Bi-weekly management calls with ECPAT to monitor progress
- A report and related communication materials, with recommendations co-developed by children
- Engagement with local tourism authorities and/or The Ministry of Tourism to ensure the uptake and use of the methodology developed at local or national level
- Children supported to participate in human rights advocacy activities, including the UN General Assembly in New York

**Organization profile**
- An established NGO with at least 10 years of experience in the country in working in partnership with the private sector to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in tourism
- Demonstrated capacities to work in participatory processes with children, including working with survivors of sexual exploitation
- Dedicated staff with experiences in working with children at risks or victims of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Previous and/or current experiences of engaging children in participatory processes, particularly on addressing child sexual exploitation, preferably linked to tourism
- Existing reach and engagement with groups and networks of children
- Existing cooperation/partnership with local authorities, in particular tourism authorities and Tourism Ministries, to ensure that the methodology developed as part of the project is endorsed and used at local/country levels, with the perspective of being replicated in other countries and regions
- The organization needs to demonstrate they have the management and technical capacities and processes in place to implement the activities and to integrate these activities in their ongoing participatory activities with children
Additional Information
- Budget estimated for this work is approximately 15,000 USD
- Expression of interest is only open to local Civil Society Organization established in the countries of implementation (Costa Rica and Ecuador)
- Individual applications will not be considered
- The organisation is expected to act at all times in a manner consistent with the values of ECPAT International and in compliance with the organisation’s policies and procedures including Child Safeguarding Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct. Safeguarding policies and procedures will be requested to ensure alignment with our own standards

Expression of interest of no more than 5 pages can be submitted in English or in Spanish to vacancy@ecpat.org

- Profile of the organization with related experiences
- Cover email
- A proposed work plan and methodology (4 pages maximum)
- Financial proposal (travel to New York should not be included)

Mention in the subject header: your name and “Children’s Assessment Costa Rica” or “Children’s Assessment Ecuador”

Deadline: 5 January 2023