



PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OCEANSCAPE PROGRAM
Grant Number: **D023-4P**
Forum Fisheries Agency

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(REOI)

Consulting Assignment Title: Midterm Review Consultant

Ref. No. FFA/PROP/C20d

Location: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Duration: Inputs of approximately 30 days over a period of three (3) months

Start Date: Mid-October 2018

1 BACKGROUND

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) (hereinafter called “Borrower”) has received a loan/grant financing from the World Bank International Development Agency (IDA) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP), and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under this Contract. PROP is a series of projects which includes separate, but complementary, national projects in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, and a regional project implemented by FFA in collaboration with other regional agencies.

PROP has a total grant funding of up to SDR2.7 million from IDA and up to USD2.19 million from GEF. The project started on 29 January 2015 and is due to finish on 30 September 2020. PROP’s Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend. This will provide the basis for sustainable and increased economic benefits to the participating Pacific Island countries (PICs) from these resources.

In mid-2018, in consultation with relevant PROP partners, the World Bank restructured three PROP projects to improve performance. These projects are the RMI, Solomon Islands and FFA. The restructured projects each have revised project activities. For FFA, the main change under the restructure is under Component 4, described under PROP’s four main program components below.

Component 1: Sustainable Management of Oceanic Fisheries. This component aims to help participating PICs strengthen the management of the region's purse seine and long-line tuna fisheries. Towards this objective, the component includes activities to: (i) strengthen the capacity of national and regional institutions to sustainably manage Pacific Island tuna fisheries; and (ii) ensure an equitable distribution within PICs of the benefits of sustainably managed tuna fisheries. FFA is currently implementing activities under this component through provision of technical support, research and training to FFA and its relevant stakeholders.

Component 2: Sustainable Management of Coastal Fisheries. This component aims to support participating countries to sustainably manage defined coastal fisheries and the habitats that support them, focusing on those with the greatest potential for increased benefits. That is, coastal fisheries such as bêche-de-mer (BDM) that (i) can generate export earnings for the country, and/or (ii) support livelihoods, food security and dietary health. Towards this objective, this component includes activities to: (i) empower stakeholders to sustainably manage targeted coastal fisheries in participating countries; and (ii) link sustainable coastal fish products to regional markets. This component will provide climate change co-benefits by supporting adaptation in the form of better management of coastal fisheries and natural defences.

FFA is implementing activities under Component 2 with the Pacific Community (SPC), through its Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems. PROP FFA has provided funding to SPC to engage technical expertise to review, conduct data collection, research and develop mechanism for the sustainable management of BDM resource.

Component 3: Sustainable Financing of the Conservation of Critical Fishery Habitats.

This component aims to help identify revenue streams to sustainably finance the conservation of critical habitats that underpin oceanic and coastal fisheries in the region. Towards this objective, the component includes activities to establish: (i) Pacific Marine Conservation Development Financing Mechanisms to support the growing number of large Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the region; and (ii) establish a Regional Ocean Finance and Governance Program for PICs. The aim of this component is to provide the catalytic upstream finance needed to identify, develop and achieve consensus on the mechanisms to deliver such financing, and then to help secure this financing from other funding sources. FFA is implementing component three with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC). Through component three, PROP is providing funding to the Pacific Ocean Finance Program to increase the amount and efficacy of financial investments into Pacific Ocean Governance.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation. In the PROP original design, FFA's PSU is required to provide regional coordination, implementation support and program management to the other four PROP country programs – Tuvalu, RMI, FSM and Solomon Islands. The role also includes management of procurement and M&E. This arrangement was found to be ineffective for smooth project implementation, hence the restructure, to cater for the design issues. As a result, the regional coordination role has been removed from FFA, with the PROP countries now managing their own programs and FFA concentrating on managing and implementing its PROP activities.

Component 4 now focuses on providing project support to ensure a coherent approach to program implementation and wide dissemination of results and lessons learned; as well as implementation support and training as needed for the program to achieve its objectives. Each country and the FFA

are responsible for their own project implementation arrangements. Towards this objective, this component includes activities to: (i) support a program support unit within each implementation agency for project implementation and management; (ii) share knowledge and outreach globally; and (iii) support national project management, monitoring and evaluation.

2 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Mid Term Review (MTR) Consultant will provide support to the FFA for the PROP FFA MTR. The Consultant will prepare a MTR Report for the PROP FFA Project (in the format set out in Annex 1) for submission by FFA to the World Bank prior to the Bank's formal MTR Mission in February 2019.

The Consultant will also participate as part of the FFA team in the Bank's formal MTR Mission to be conducted in February 2019. An outline of the MTR Process is at Annex 2.

The MTR Report shall contain an assessment of the efficacy and effectiveness of the project design, relevance of the implementation modality, and overall project performance against the original project plan. The report should also identify if any opportunities for improvement exist in these areas and recommend corrective actions for addressing them.

The consultant is expected to:

- Review the progress of the Project to date against the Financing Agreement, Grant Agreement, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Operation Manual (POM), Annual Work Plans, Budget, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Procurement Plan and performance against the Results Framework as well as the recently prepared Restructuring Paper and accompanying Amended Legal Agreement, POM, ESMF and Restructuring Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet;
- Visit the FFA's headquarter in Honiara and meet with the FFA's PROP project team and relevant FFA officials, country PROP officials and meet with key stakeholders including the Solomon Islands Government's Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECCDMM);
- Consult with MIMRA, NORMA, TFD and World Bank on implementation effectiveness and efficiency during the life of the regional PROP program and FFA project, in particular, on the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the program and project to date.
- Consult with the sub-regional implementing agencies (the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) in Marshall Islands, the Pacific Community in Noumea and the Pacific Ocean Commissioner's office in Fiji). This may involve teleconferences and/or face to face meetings with the stakeholders to document their views of the project and suggestions for improvements;
- Identify successes and constraints, and present recommendations for opportunities/options to improve project implementation toward achievement of the Project Development Objectives;
- Ensure the final report expresses the views of the Implementing Agency, FFA;
- Participate as part of the FFA team in the Bank's formal MTR Mission in February 2019.

3 OUTCOMES

The Mid Term Review Report will summarise the following four key areas:

A. Progress to Date

Review the progress of the Project to date against the Financing Agreement, Grant Agreement, Project Appraisal Document, Project Operation Manual, ESMF, Annual Work Plans, Budget and Procurement Plan and performance against the Results Framework and the aforementioned restructuring package.

B. Performance Analysis

Undertake an overview assessment through consultation with FFA and all project counterparts of the following:

- Original design of FFA project and design of restructured project
- Outputs from all technical assistance procured under the PROP FFA;
- The efficacy of FFA's PROP Program oversight, coordination and national project implementation support, in particular in the areas of safeguards, M&E, Financial Management and Procurement as well as project implementation and management for each of the 4 national projects. This should include, among other things, efficiency of collaboration with other agencies (MFMR, MIMRA, NORMA, TFD); internal processes; structure and composition; and all management functions (M&E, procurement, safeguards, supervision of staff and consultants etc.).
- Quality, efficiency and effectiveness of fiduciary systems and processes.

C. Constraints Analysis

Identify and analyse main constraints encountered which are/were impacting on project performance. This should include a discussion of the relevance of different project components and activities given:

- possible changes in context since the beginning of project implementation, in particular the restructure of the project implemented in 2017/18
- implementation performance to date; and in this context
- possible implications for a change in the project delivery arrangements in the time left up to project closure, if appropriate.

D. Options and Recommendations

In the light of the analyses undertaken above, identify and describe the options and opportunities for FFA to improve project performance and achieve successful completion of the project.

The latter could involve: possible changes to the legal (grant and financing) agreements; resource allocation (budget); project management functions; technical assistance inputs; implementation support; procurement activities; and timelines for activities.

Consideration should also be given to how the team implementing the project may be supported or modify their processes/activities to improve implementation results.

These options will need to be discussed with FFA, the World Bank and the consequences explored.

4 DELIVERABLES

Deliverables	Due date (TBC)	Payment
Inception Report outlining the proposed work plan for developing the MTR report and including the detailed consultation plan and summary of desk review of project documents	1 Nov 2018	10%
Draft MTR Report for consultation with stakeholders	1 Dec 2018	30%
Final MTR Report delivered to FFA	30 Dec 2018	30%
Assignment completion report at conclusion of MTR Mission (not more than 5 pages)	15 Jan 2019	20%
Participation in the MTR Mission	4 – 8 February 2019	10%

5 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE

- University post graduate qualification in Economics, Business Administration, Financial Management, Natural Resource Management or equivalent.
- Minimum 10 years of satisfactory experience in monitoring and evaluation and project management preferably in developing countries, including in project review, preparation and design and management.
- Experience in evaluation of World Bank or other donor financed projects.
- Experience in the Pacific Region or Small Island Developing States is desirable.
- Essential requisites include the ability to:
 - make meaningful, rapid and independent assessments through hearing stakeholder views and through astute observation,
 - prepare succinct and clear reports,
 - communicate findings effectively to both donor and government representatives.

6 DURATION, LOCATION, AND CONDITIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS

This Terms of Reference is for a short-term consultant for the FFA PROP Project Implementation Team.

The duration will be for part-time inputs of approximately 30 days over three (3) months. The consultant is expected to spend approximately 75% of the assignment in country.

The recruiting Agency will provide all the existing project documents, legal agreements, reports and materials related to the project. While in country, the FFA will provide office space, general office supplies and office equipment including printer and photocopier, but excluding a computer.

This will be a lump sum contract, with payment against key deliverables. The timing of all inputs and deliverables will be agreed with the FFA's Director for Fisheries Development Division. The amount of the contract will be negotiated based on evidence from previous assignments. The consultant is responsible for any tax liability in his or her country of domicile

Return airfares to visit FFA in Honiara, Majuro, Pohnpei, Funafuti, Noumea, Sydney (to meet with WB in person if deemed necessary or this can be done by phone and VC) and Suva shall be reimbursed in accordance with FFA policies for airfare, accommodation and per diem, subject to agreement that such travel is necessary.

Accommodation and per diem allowances during the review mission will be paid to the Consultant as per applicable FFA rates.

The consultant is responsible for the cost of local transportation (to/from local accommodation to the meeting places for the review).

Travel to the other islands, other Pacific Countries or local travel away from the base office, if required, shall be supported from the budget for operating costs under the project as per applicable FFA policies for airfare, accommodation and per diem.

7 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FFA now invites individual consultants to express their interest in undertaking the assignment. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the above required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the assignment.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants as set out in the Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 as Revised July 2014.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time.

Expression of interest and Curriculum Vitae (CV) must be delivered to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax or by e-mail) on or before 4:30pm, 19 September 2018.

Forum Fisheries Agency

Attention: Coordinator

Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program

Honiara, Solomon Islands

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