Date: 19 June 2017  Reference: EOI: 17/053

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Exploring opportunities for land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation and climate change resilience in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories

The Pacific Community (SPC) would like to invite interested consultants to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to carry out tasks as outlined in the terms of reference for the exploring opportunities for land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation and climate change resilience in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories.

The selected consultants will then be invited to submit a more detailed proposal through a restricted request for proposal process.

To guide you in the preparation of the EOI, please find enclosed:
   a. Annex I: Terms of reference
   b. Annex II: Instructions to bidders
   c. Annex III: EOI Proposal submission form

Yours sincerely,

Akhilesh Prasad
Manager, Procurement, Grants, Risk and Assets
Terms of Reference
EOI 17/053
Exploring opportunities for land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation and climate change resilience in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories

A. Consultancy title

Exploring opportunities for land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation and climate change resilience in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories

B. Background

The RESCCUE project (www.spc.int/resccue) is implemented by the Pacific Community and funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Global Environment facility (FFEM) over a five-year period (2014-2018). The overall goal of RESCCUE is to contribute to increasing the resilience of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in the context of global changes. On its seven pilot sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu, RESCCUE:

- Strengthens integrated coastal management and adaptation to climate change;
- Strengthens the use of economic analysis for integrated coastal management;
- Ensures economic and financial sustainability of integrated coastal management;
- Facilitates learning, dissemination and replication of experiences gained from pilot sites.

At the regional level, RESCCUE undertakes a number of capacity building and experience sharing activities on key topics of relevance to its pilot sites. This consultancy on land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation and climate change resilience is part of the regional programme of activities.

C. Scope of work

Pacific Island Countries and Territories are facing a strong decline in biodiversity due to habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, pollution, overexploitation, and climate change. Given the relatively small size of land areas in PICTs, these global and local pressures are particularly acute for terrestrial ecosystems. This in turn hinders populations’ resilience to climate change.

While high endemism and strong dependency of communities to ecosystem services make the values of biodiversity in PICTs incommensurable, reaching ambitious conservation objectives is hampered by several factors including small and under-resourced government environment
departments, limited data, and a strong political push for rapid economic development with ever more industrial, mining, agricultural and tourism projects being developed.

Ecosystem protection and restoration are among Pacific stakeholders’ stated priorities for combatting climate change and adapting to its impacts. However, the relatively low level of funding currently attributed to biodiversity protection, together with ongoing losses, mean that efforts must be made to find new approaches that are both innovative and pragmatic.

Land acquisition and land-based rights such as conservation easements or concessions have been advocated and used internationally by NGOs as well as both public and private stakeholders as effective mechanisms for conservation. Meanwhile, they also triggered vocal criticisms, the main one being that these types of mechanisms may promote an inequitable sharing of biodiversity benefits and tend to hinder local development by taking development opportunities away from communities.

While these mechanisms have been implemented extensively in many region and countries (e.g. USA, UK, Australia, France, Peru, South Africa etc.) with mixed success and under various forms, sometimes coupled with “green” fiscal incentives, their potential seems to be relatively unexplored in PICTs.

The present assignment aims at taking stock of international and regional experience on land acquisition and land-based rights for conservation to examine the opportunities to use such mechanisms to help PICTs reach their biodiversity national and international commitments and climate change resilience objectives.

D. **Exact scope of services**

This consultancy will take stock of recent developments in land acquisition and land-based rights for conservation in the Pacific, bring experience from other regions and lead to a thorough review on the use of such mechanisms and opportunities they may hold for the PICTs. The review shall more specifically:

1) Identify, classify and list the different types of mechanisms used internationally and regionally with selected illustrative examples;
2) Conduct a critical analysis on the effectiveness and challenges met in practical use of such mechanisms, with a particular focus on PICTs examples;
3) Examine the political, legal, socio-economic, cultural and technical feasibility of the development and implementation of such mechanisms in PICTs. Particular attention will be paid to legal issues and traditions as well as to specific socio-cultural patterns (e.g. existing national laws, customary land rights etc.);
4) Provide recommendations to foster the development and implementation of such mechanisms in PICTs as appropriate, including through the development of future pilot projects.
E. Institutional arrangement

SPC and the consultant will sign a performance contract. The RESCCUE project coordinator at SPC will supervise the assignment. The RESCCUE project operates under the supervision of the Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability.

F. Duration of the work

All activities shall be completed by 30 September 2018 at the latest.

G. Duty station and travel

The assignment will be carried out from the consultant’s office and will include travel to SPC headquarters in Noumea and various PICTs as deemed appropriate.

H. Qualifications of the successful consultant

The consultant will offer the services of a team with internationally recognised expertise in all aspects of land acquisition and land-based rights mechanisms for conservation. Experience both within and outside the Pacific region is a requirement. Fluency in English and French is compulsory.

I. Technical and financial proposals

Short-listed consultants will be requested to provide detailed technical and financial proposals at a later stage.
Annex II
Instruction to Bidders
EOI 17/053
Land-based mechanisms

1. Preparation of EOI

The EOI must comprise the following documents:

(a) EOI Submission Form
(b) Letter of interest including brief description of the company as well and its expertise area, a list of referees to be contacted (maximum 2 pages), and a brief description of the proposed project (maximum 6 pages).
(c) Any official document certifying the legal registration of the company.

2. Submission of EOI

3.1 Expression of Interest shall be emailed to SPC at procurement@spc.int before 4.00 pm Noumea time, 17 July 2017. Any EOI received after the submission date will be rejected.

3.2 SPC may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of EOI, by notifying all prospective bidders in writing. The extension of the deadline may accompany a modification of the solicitation documents prepared by SPC at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective bidder.

3.3 For additional information, clarification or any communication relating to this EOI, bidders may write to procurement@spc.int.
EOI Submission Form
EOI 17/053
Land-based mechanisms

1. Background

1.1 Contact

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1.2 Legal Registration (if any)

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<th>Place of registration &amp; registration No.</th>
<th>Date of Incorporation</th>
<th>Directors’ names</th>
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2. Previous experience

2.1 Geographical coverage and experience working with international organisations

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<td>Geographical list showing where work has been conducted in the past three years</td>
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<td>Previous experience in working with SPC</td>
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<td>Previous experience working with other international organisations.</td>
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2.2 Outline of five assignments relevant to this present EOI that were completed by the Bidder within the last three years.

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<tr>
<th>Name of client and contact details</th>
<th>Consultancy description (Include title of consultancy and a brief statement describing the nature of the assignment)</th>
<th>Consultancy value euros</th>
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2.3 Details of current consultancies in progress

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<th>Name of client and contact details</th>
<th>Project description (Include title of consultancy and a brief statement describing the nature of the assignment)</th>
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3. Personnel

List the qualifications and experience of key personnel proposed for administration and execution of the consultancy. (Curriculum vitae for personnel proposed for this consultancy should be submitted with the EOI).

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
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4. Certification

I, the undersigned, warrant that the information provided in this form is correct and, in the event of changes, details will be provided as soon as possible:

Name _____________________________________________

Functional Title _____________________________________________

Signature _____________________________________________

Date __________________________

Company Seal/Stamp (if any)

[Stamp Image]