

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMUNITY STORIES TO SUPPORT CORAL REEF CONSERVATION IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-government organisation committed to working with communities, government, and other partners to safeguard Solomon Islands' biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources through integrated land- and seascape management. A critical focus of our work is protecting Solomon Islands' globally significant, diverse and resilient coral reefs and associated seascapes. The nation's coral reef ecosystems are critical to biodiversity, the economy and the livelihoods of its people. However, our coral reefs face unprecedented threats from climate change and local pressures including unsustainable fishing, coastal habitat destruction and unsustainable land management leading to pollution runoff.

The GEF funded Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities (GEF CRR) is a multistakeholder project that aims to safeguard globally significant coral reef ecosystems in the face of climate change and human induced threats. Solomon Islands is one of the six countries part of the GEF CRR global project.

To deliver conservation outcomes for Solomon Islands coral reefs and the socio-economic systems they sustain, there is a need for widespread awareness of the value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems to increase understanding and gain public support for their survival. The WCS, as the project National Technical Facilitator, supporting project implementation, is seeking a consultant to undertake participatory communication with community members to capture local and traditional knowledge and stories and develop narratives to share stories and experiences related to the impacts of coral reef ecosystem degradation and community-led conservation and management efforts. In addition, they will enhance outreach and awareness of the free online coral reef conservation courses by developing a promotional video to encourage enrolment and ensure a broader reach of interested learners.

The consultant will work closely with the WCS Solomon Islands team throughout the consultancy.

The overall objective of this consultancy to capture and share community perspectives that illustrate the impacts of coral reef degradation and demonstrate community-led conservation efforts.

Scope of work.

The consultant will conduct the following tasks:

1. Engage selected coastal communities (in consultation with the NTF) to document lived experiences of coral reef ecosystem changes, including ecological, social, cultural, and economic impacts.
2. Document community-led conservation actions, including traditional management systems (e.g., tabu areas), restoration efforts, governance structures, community-driven solutions and local innovations.
3. Capture qualitative evidence through interviews, focus group discussions, storytelling, photography, and/or short video documentation (as appropriate).
4. Ensure inclusive representation, including women, youth, fishers, marginalised groups and traditional leaders.
5. Utilize participatory approaches that promote local communities to share their stories and experiences through their own voice, ways of knowing and valuing.
6. Synthesize findings into accessible communication products (written and audio-visual materials) suitable for policy audiences, donors and communities.
7. Adhere to ethical standards, including free, prior, and informed consent and culturally appropriate engagement practices (including permission to reproduce and disseminate stories to a broad audience).

Deliverables

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

- Inception brief (methodology, community selection, workplan)
- 3 – 4 short community profiles or individual's stories (suitable for web publication)
- High-resolution photographs for each of the communities visited / stories captured (with appropriate consent documentation)
- 4 - 5 short (edited) video clips to capture local community members stories captured (with appropriate consent documentation)
- 1 short (edited) video to promote free online courses for coral reef conservation

Timeline

The consultancy will be engaged between June to November (duration to be confirmed upon recruitment). A detailed schedule of activities will be finalised upon signing of the contract.

Requirements and qualifications

The consultant will have the following minimum experience and qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience in developing communication materials.
- Strong understanding of Solomon Islands environmental context, traditional knowledge systems, and socio-cultural dynamics.

- Excellent writing, storytelling and visual communication skills.
- Experience working with Solomon Islands communities
- Experience in ethical community engagement and participatory approaches.
- Fluency in both English and Pidgin.

Submission requirements

The following must be submitted as part of the expression of interest:

1. Brief technical statement outlining previous experience relevant to the scope of work (one to two pages). Proposers are encouraged to submit examples of previous work or links.
2. Short financial proposal (note: any travel costs associated with this work will be covered by WCS)

Submitted rates are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Requirement. Any charge not stated in the Proposal as being additional, will not be allowed as a charge against any transaction under any resultant Contract.