

PILOT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (PPCR) OF THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (CIF)
Samoa Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities Project

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Title:	Strengthening of marine and coastal ecosystems as an adaptive measure to safeguard biodiversity and enhance resilience – targeting Aleipata Districts and Falealili District (Upolu Island)
Consultant Position:	Marine Technical Specialist

A. INTRO/CONTEXT

The *Enhancing Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities (ECR)* project under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) is managed by the Government of Samoa through the Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Climate Resilience Investment Coordination Division (CRICD) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Overall, the project aims to reduce the vulnerability of Samoa’s population and natural environment to climate risks, and enhance the capacity of natural systems and coastal communities to recover from impacts (chronic and acute) associated with climate change and extreme weather events.

The project will develop and implement immediate and urgent project-based activities to adapt to climate change and climate variability; protect life and livelihoods of the people, infrastructure and environment; incorporate adaptation measures and goals into national and sectoral plans; and increase awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation activities in communities, civil society and government. The implementation of appropriate responses will be supported by the program through site specific design of interventions that address the identified climate risks and vulnerabilities and will be led by government agencies and village communities at the national and community level.

The outcome of the CIM Plan consultations emerged some of the immediate climate risks that needs’ to be addressed due to its severe impact not only on the natural environment but also communities. Therefore, the aforementioned project for Aleipata Districts and Falealili focusing on improving community and ecological resilience of marine ecosystems was conceived from the CIM Plan consultations the need to design climate resilience intervention to address the climate risk issues targeting the Aleipata Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the Vaovai Mangrove in Falealili District.

B. BACKGROUND PROJECT

During the Community Integrated Management (CIM) Plan consultations back in April 2017 covering Falealili and Aleipata Itupa i Luga and Aleipata Itupa i Lalo districts, it was noted from discussions with the communities of the two districts the need to revive their Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Mangrove conservation initiative. Representatives from these districts expressed concern about the degraded conditions and status of their MPA especially the increase in invasive species such as the crown of thorns making it difficult for women to do fish gleaning along the coral reef area, as well as some villages experiencing coral bleaching attributed to the increase in temperature and warming of the sea surface. It was clearly noted from concerns raised by representatives the need to revive their

MPA's especially rehabilitating their coral reef ecosystems a major natural resource that support most families' livelihood from tourism activities to fishing.

Similarly, the communities in Falealili district, specifically the village of Vaovai expressed the need to rehabilitate and implement a clean-up of their mangrove ecosystem that covers half of their coastal land area. The village indicated that it was after the tsunami 2009 and Evan 2012 that the water flowing from the mangrove flushing out into the sea is stagnant and at a very slow base of discharge compared to the seawater coming into the mangrove. They made this request since the update of the CIM Plan is focussing on climate change and they feel the deteriorating status of their mangrove is due to climate change if possible to implement a clean-up of their mangrove ecosystem and implement activities that will rehabilitate and improve species breeding within the mangrove such as crabs which is something that the community depended on for livelihood.

The ecosystems located within the marine protected areas (MPA) were amongst Samoa's best remaining examples of coral reef, mangrove and lagoon environments. The people of Aleipata and Falealili are coastal communities, and they depend heavily on the marine environment and resources for subsistence fishing. With increasing population size and improved fishing techniques the local fisheries are severely stressed. Recent surveys show slow coral reef recruitments at the heavily impacted southern Lalomanu area whereas other moderate impacted areas show significant coral recovery and live coral coverage.

The establishment of the Aleipata MPA is to provide for the protection and sustainable use of threatened coastal marine biodiversity within its core and multi-use zones. It is a community based initiative that aims at empowering the people and communities of the district to effectively protect and manage marine biodiversity and help them achieve sustainable use of marine resources. The MPA is an umbrella that enables the district to decide the best way to both use and conserve marine resources to ensure their sustainability and hence their livelihood and also as means of natural adaptation and resilience mechanisms in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

The District directly manages the MPA. The District Committee (DC) has been established which is the executive decision making body of the MPA and is composed of highly respected chiefs one from each village of the district. The primary role of the MNRE is to be the government focal point and to provide the counter parting requirements and administrative assistance. MNRE-DEC's on-going role is to provide technical advice, help secure additional resources and be a supporting agency for the MPA.

C. OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The key objective is to enhance ecological resilience of the marine and coastal environment to withstand adverse impacts of climate change on coastal marine biodiversity in Samoa and support community livelihoods, a pilot project - targeting the Marine Protected Area in the two Aleipata districts and reverse the deterioration of the largest mangrove ecosystem within the district of Falealili.

D. ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Marine Technical Specialist are to:

- a) Lead the overall management of the set project titled: Strengthening of marine and coastal ecosystems as an adaptive measure to safeguard biodiversity and enhance resilience – targeting Aleipata Districts and Falealili District (Upolu Island);
- b) Provide technical support in the field and office on the implementation of key tasks within the project work program to enable completion of the project within the 12month period.

E. SCOPE OF SERVICE

The Marine Technical Specialist will provide technical implementation support and advice when needed specifically focusing on the following tasks:

1. Review and update the existing Aleipata MPA district management plan and integrate climate change issues impacting the MPA into the management plan and consider climate resilience interventions;
2. Develop a Management Plan (English and Samoan) for the Falealili Mangrove Ecosystem (Poutasi and Vaovai) focusing on climate change impacts and resilience interventions;
3. Lead and facilitate community participatory consultations and workshops with Districts/ villages (Aleipata Districts / Falealili villages) to engage their perspectives on assessing the gaps and strengthening the updated management plan for Aleipata MPA and newly established management plan for Mangrove Area in Falealili;
4. Design and implement a marine biodiversity rapid assessment for the Aleipata MPA— mapping the status of marine species diversity, invasive species (COTs), coral reef ecosystem, mangrove habitats and impact from climate change (coral bleaching). Include village communities in the implementation of the marine biodiversity rapid assessments and DEC staff;
5. Mapping of the Aleipata MPA with identified suitable areas for No-Take-Zones demarcation and giant clams and/or trochus restocking activities;
6. Design and implement a training for village communities within the Aleipata MPA on the removal of COTs from the inshore area;
7. Design and implement with the Marine Section of DEC-MNRE and the communities, a COTs control operation and giant clams and/or trochus restocking within the Aleipata MPA
8. Conduct with support of the Marine Section of DEC MNRE technical trainings for communities within the MPA, the implementation of coral gardening activity at 3 selected pilot sites and the demarcation of identified No-Take-Zones;
9. Develop a monitoring program and conduct training for community representatives to monitor coral rehabilitation within the MPA coral reef ecosystem and inshore marine species diversity now and beyond the life of the project and demarcation of No-Take Zones. ;
10. Design and implement a mangrove biodiversity audit in accordance with the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood (MECAL) methodology and in collaboration with the Marine Section of DEC-MNRE for the Aleipata and Falealili Mangrove Areas with emphasis on climate change issues and identified resilience interventions for an adaptation program – include village participants from Aleipata and Falealili District in the implementation of the mangrove audit;
11. Mapping of Mangrove Areas for Aleipata and Falealili, with identified boundaries and known area coverage (size);
12. Design and implement restoration and rehabilitation activities for mangrove areas mainly replanting and a post tsunami 2009 and cyclone Evan 2012 massive clean-up of the Aleipata and Falealili Mangrove area, removing large debris clogging the flow of water within the mangrove areas;
13. Liaise closely on the implementation of activities within this project with the Principal Officer of the Marine Section (immediate Project Manager) and the Project Coordinator who will be providing backstopping support through-out the duration of the project.

F. DELIVERABLES

Upon submission and approval by the ACEO of the Division of Environmental and Conservation (DEC) of MNRE of the following:

1. A presentation (after 2 weeks of contract signing) to include detailed work plans and budget for the duration of the project (12 months) including dates for deliverables to be submitted;
2. Produce bi-monthly reports on update status of project implementation progress to regularly inform DEC and also for reporting to the Climate Resilience Steering Committee (CRSC) through the ACEO DEC and CEO MNRE,
3. Key milestone deliverables on a bi-monthly basis include:
 - a. Management Plans for the MPA and Mangrove Areas (English and Samoan);
 - b. Technical Report on the Marine Rapid Assessment for Aleipata MPA;
 - c. Map of the MPA and/with No Take Zones;
 - d. Physically demarcated No-Take-Zones on site;
 - e. Technical Mangrove Biodiversity Audit Reports for Mangrove Areas;
 - f. Maps of Mangrove Areas;
 - g. Implementation reports on:
 - coral gardening activities;
 - reef restocking;
 - restoration and rehabilitation activities for mangrove areas;
 - COTs control operation;
 - h. Monitoring Plan for the MPA and Mangrove Area to be an active document used even after the life of the project;
 - i. A brief Manual of instructions in Samoan and English on the removal of invasive species – COTs;
 - j. A user friendly monitoring report system for selected village representatives who will be assigned to monitor coral rehabilitation, COTs and stocktaking of marine species within the MPA;
4. Produce a final report on lessons learned and achievements of the project focusing on climate change issues and climate resilience interventions;
5. Prepare a presentation on the overall project implementations highlighting key lessons learned, achievements and recommended way forward to be presented to DEC-MNRE as part of final deliverables end of contract.

G. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

The Marine Technical Specialist can be an ‘individual consultant’ or an ‘individual nominated as part of a firm’ and this consultant should provide information demonstrating the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The criteria for selecting the individual include:

(i) Qualifications

- Bachelor degree in marine / environmental science or equivalent with relevant physical, environmental or social sciences background (a high academic merit Master’s in Marine Science / Policy is an advantage);

(ii) Specific experience relevant to the assignment

- Minimum 5 years relevant working experience in marine environmental conservation and management, project management and marine resources experience;
- Demonstrated experience in project design, management and implementation of work that cuts across the marine sector;
- Must be a certify open water diver;

(iii) Experience and language

- Proven experience of working in close coordination with Government agencies, civil society, private sector, communities and development agencies;
- Client focus and commitment to results,
- Proven ability to mentor and build capacity of stakeholders including government and village communities;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to make clear, structured presentations to a broad range of audiences; and
- Very good command of both Samoan & English and excellent writing skills and the ability to prepare clear, concise reports in the English and Samoan language.
- Experience in tropical island situations is preferred with very good command of Samoan village protocol (Faa-Samoa) and the Samoan community consultation processes.

H. BEHAVIORAL ATTRIBUTES

The project to which this position relates is a high profile effort by the Government of Samoa to tackle key strategic risks arising from climate change and natural hazards. Samoa has been a pioneer in the Pacific in introducing best practices into its operations; it is essential that team members continue to reflect this approach in all their activities.

The successful applicant will demonstrate their suitability to build relationship and rapport with all levels of staff and partners, and work as part of the team, and provide advice, mentoring and training to colleagues.

I. IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is the lead implementing agency for the PPCR-ECR project and works closely with other key implementing agencies of Government.

The Marine Technical Specialist will be based in MNRE and will be responsible to the ACEO-DEC through the Principal Marine Conservation Officer. The project is under the oversight of the Climate Resilience Steering Committee chaired by the CEO MOF.

J. DURATION

The contract will be on a time-based intermittent basis within 12 months where time input is 132 days. The contract is subject to a probationary period of six (6) months. The position may be extended for another 12 months if needed and agreed between Parties.