

## Terms of Reference for

### Review of the “O le Pūpū Puē National Park Ramsar Site Management Plan”

#### **A. BACKGROUND**

The O le Pupu Pue National Park was established in 1978 as the first National Park in the South Pacific region.

- *The Park is the second Ramsar Site designated in Samoa in 2016 and officially listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention as site number 2313 globally in 2017, the 9<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site in the Pacific Region.*
- *The Park also granted the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) accreditation as launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in 2015 with the vision of creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects that marks Her Majesty The Queen’s service to the Commonwealth and conserves indigenous forests for future generations.*

It extends from the highest points of Upolu Island down to the rugged Le Pupū lava cliffs on the island’s south coast. The Site is home to two montane herbaceous marshes as well as parts of Mataloa River and Vaalega River, all good representatives of such ecosystems in Samoa. The Park includes large tracts of forest dominated by native plants, and is considered as the island’s best-preserved remaining tropical forest. It includes parts of the Togitogiga water catchment, the main water source for four villages, and also boasts waterfalls that are a prime tourist attraction. The Site is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area as well as one of the eight terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas of Samoa. Its diverse habitats support four of the eight globally threatened bird species of Samoa including the critically endangered tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the endangered mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*), whose populations have severely declined in recent years. Very little is known about the freshwater biodiversity of Samoa; it is likely that the freshwater ecosystems in the Park support significant biodiversity. Several management actions are being undertaken to address the vigorous spread of invasive plants after the cyclones of 1990 and 1991 caused extensive damage to the lowland forests.

In light of the above, the Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Management of Critical Landscapes project under the Land Management Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment supports the review and formulation of an updated OLPP MP to deliver its outputs under Outcome 1, Activity 1.2.2.1 “*Reforestation of degraded land, reforestation of cleared areas and restoration of areas covered with plant invasive species, as well as mangrove areas*” and Outcome 2. Sub Output 2.2.2 ‘*developing and implementing multi-sectoral approaches to Key Biodiversity Area management planning and implementation*’ The review of the Management Plan ensures effective implementation of ecological restoration & rehabilitation program as emphasized under and also strengthened the importance of KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) promoted by the project ensuring the safeguard of natural biodiversity, different vegetation types and established habitats that are part of the NP. On the other hand, the review will also address degraded land areas of the Park resulted from unsustainable farming practices from farmers around the Park. The encroachment problem is increasing and the lack of understanding needs to be addressed of

the surrounding communities on the importance of practicing sustainable land management techniques to farm their land reducing impacts to the NP areas and resources.

The review will also assess the status of the other existing projects that are currently operating such as SCS/MNRE C-offsets project and the Two Million tree planting campaign to name a few in terms of trees planted and areas restored, labour expended, costs incurred and level of community participation and commitment. The review will also assess the potential for upscaling the project in order to restore the OLPP National Park in particular the major forest gaps and those areas covered with *Merremia peltata* vines and other invasive species.

## **B. SCOPE OF WORK**

The main objective of this consultancy is to provide a Five Year Management Plan of OLPP National Park Management Plan in consultation with the key communities involved and the MNRE to support the village-based management through an “integrated conservation and development program approach” for safeguarding biodiversity and to explore income generating opportunities for sustainable development and management of the area. The scope of works for this consultancy will include, but are not limited to the following;

- Review the existing management plan of OLPP National Park 2010-2015 including additional information, plans, reports, publications etc produced so far about the O le Pūpū Puē National Park.
- Re-map all key topographic features, biodiversity and cultural assets and land use across the O le Pūpū Puē National Park Ramsar Site Management Plan.
- Upon completion of the information review, determine and re-define management zones and their requirements to address threats and challenges to improve the conditions and resilience of natural habitats of the site.
- Presentation to local community of draft management plan analysis indicating percentage of overall achievements from previous management plan including short-term goals for each zone of the site.
- Discuss with project team and staff of Forestry Division and prepare a range of proposed adaptive management actions required in order to achieve each priority goal.
- Propose adaptive management actions to the local communities of Falealili, discuss and agree on them.
- Draft the first version of management plan.
- Discuss with local community and with MNRE the first version.
- Integrate comments and finalize the management plan.
- Endorsement by local community and MNRE.

## **Methodology and Approach**

The Expert will be required to execute this work following, but not limited to, the techniques below:

- Desk review: document analysis and literature review.
- Information surveying and check listing: zoning areas, mapping of key topographic features, ecological character through conservation and wise use of wetland resources, and cultural assets including land use in the O le Pūpū Puē National Park Ramsar Site.
- Field visits and focused consultation, interviews and workshops.
- Consultative meetings and interviews with key stakeholders (eg. MNRE, MWCSO, STA, Private Sector) related.

### **C. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES**

To achieve the overall objectives of the Management Plan consultancy, the following deliverables is expected:

- **Inception Report**

Within three days of contract signing the Consultant should produce an inception report outlining the assignment approach, and detailed work plan including draft layout of the Management Plan.

- **Meetings, Interviews, Workshops**

The Consultant will work in collaboration with the Forestry Division to prepare planning meetings, interviews and workshops with key MNRE partners necessary as part of information collation and review as well as providing a management plan detail outline, and presentation of the old management plan analysis and the draft 5-year Management Plan. The consultant is also required to organise a meeting with key stakeholders to further discuss on the draft 5-Year Management Plan before the Validation Workshop with the community.

- **Community involvement and participation strengthened**

An integral part of the project will involve local communities because of the key stewardship role they play in conservation and wise use of wetland resources. Due to the highest number of people encroached and depend heavily on the resources from the National Park, it is important to engage communities not only to raise awareness but to get their support and commitment to the activities of the project in particular the implementation of the key recommendations and actions that will arise out of the Management Plan. One of the strategies to engage the communities is through communication and awareness activities targeting the Falealili district. Visual and audio presentations, printed materials and seminars with the different community groups will be carried out to share information and findings from the project, including on the impact of climate change on forests, and also to gauge community views on ways to better conserve and sustainably manage their wetland resources.

- **Clear analysis of the level of implementation from previous management plan and recommendations based on practical experiences**

Based on previous management plan, implementation plan, baseline surveys, studies, specifically develop a clear analysis of the level of implementation against the previous management plan and outline priority values and threats to be addressed and recommend effective adaptive management strategies. A list of priority values and threats and management strategies must be developed based on its adverse to its minimal impact.

- **Ramsar listing criteria and Queen’s Commonwealth Canpoy (QCC)**

In 2017, the O le Pūpū Puē National Park Ramsar Site was listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention as site number 2313 globally, the 9<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site in the Pacific Region after the Government’s endorsement on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The site meets three of the nine Ramsar Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance. The consultant is required to reassess these criteria against the Ramsar Sites Criteria to see whether the site have met other criteria out of the nine criteria and provide justification.

Identify a list of tangible benefits for communities and the environment and demonstrate the very great value of Commonwealth nations working together towards a common outcome through Samoa’s participation in the Commonwealth Initiative.

- **Draft Management Plan including the implementation plan and five years budget as Appendix based on the recommendations drawn out**

The consultant is required to provide a Final Management Plan for OLPP National Park Ramsar Site including the draft Implementation Plan with a Five Years Budget based on the priority actions and recommendations.

The assignment will last 33 working days, and to be completed within a 4 months period.

#### **D. TIMING AND COSTS**

It is estimated that the deliverables involved in this consultancy will require a total of 35 working days spread over a period of four months (details in Table below). The work should commence around October 2019 and be completed by around January 2020.

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Preparation and submission of Inception Report	5	To be submitted to ACEO FD after 5 days of commencement of work
Document review	5	List of documents to be finalised with ACEO FD
Stakeholder identification and consultations	6	List of stakeholders to be agreed with ACEO FD
Production and submission of structure / outline of analytical paper	2	To be approved by ACEO FD
Production of draft Management Plan	10	To be submitted to ACEO within 28 days of commencement of work

Submission of Management Plan and incorporation of review comments	3	Review comments to be received by consultant within 2 days of submission of paper
Presentation of key findings to stakeholders	4	Include 2 days for workshop preparation and 2 days for finalising paper with comments from stakeholders
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	

### **E. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT**

The hired consultant will be under the supervision of the ACEO of Forestry Division. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the staff of the Forestry Division, DEC, Mapping and WRD Divisions of MNRE.

Reports and documentation will be shared with the ACEO Forestry Division in a timely manner.

### **F. DUTY STATION**

Home-based with time in Samoa. It is expected that the consultant will spend at least 75% of his/her time in Samoa. While in Samoa the consultant will be based in the Forestry Office at Vailima.

### **G. COMPETENCIES**

- Demonstrates commitment to the Government of Samoa mission, vision and values.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Focuses on result for the client and responds positively to feedback.
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude.
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities.
- Good inter-personal and teamwork skills, networking aptitude, ability to work in multicultural environment.

### **H. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR**

- At least a master's degree in natural resource planning and management, or other closely related field;
- Minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience in natural/wetland resource planning and management, sustainable development, and traditional knowledge management in relation to conservation research and applied knowledge and development of management plans for key biodiversity areas (KBA) or community conservation areas (CAs) and protected areas (PAs);
- Demonstrated experience and skills in coordinating and facilitating the process required for the formulation of Management Plans for PAs.

- Highly developed inter-personal, negotiation and teamwork skills, culturally sensitive and ability to work in multi-cultural environment.
- Experience working in the Pacific region is preferred.
- Fluency in English (oral and written) is a requirement, with sound written and presentation skills using plain English.