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REQUEST FOR CONSULTANCY

WWF-Pacific, with support from the Bezos for Earth Foundation, is seeking expressions of interest for the preparation of a report on **Tailoring a Systems-based Approach for Mangrove Centric Nature Based Solutions in Small Island Developing States: Fiji Case study.**

Background:

The UN Decade of Action calls for increasing the pace and scale of actions in order to achieve SDGs by 2030. Several global fora planned for 2021 are looking at how to set and meet ambitious goals for biodiversity, food security, climate or oceans. Central to achieving such ambitious goals are: securing political will and commitment; incentivizing financial investment beyond BAU; and ensuring target stakeholders have the capacity to understand, secure, and implement sustainable solutions. At a global scale, attention paid to “building back better” and the importance of integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is increasing with a particular focus on climate adaptation. A lot of this attention has included basic principles of restoration ecology: restoring ecological processes that were fundamentally altered by past development approaches that control instead of embrace nature. Importantly, and more recently, an emphasis on integrating principles of community resilience and inclusive conservation for successful NbS is gaining recognition.

While at global scales there is increasing recognition of the role of NbS, there is an imperative to dive deeper into specific geographical, socioeconomic and cultural contexts in order to tailor development and implementation of NbS. Indeed, now that NbS principles are recognized (IUCN) there is an urgent need to leverage momentum and provide guidance for policy makers, grant and financial institutions, and communities themselves to ensure effective and lasting impacts. Nowhere in the world is providing such guidance more important to people and nature than in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific.

Small Island Developing States have a number of unique characteristics relative to larger, landlocked countries. These include among others, small markets limiting realization of economies of scale, fragile ecosystems, extreme vulnerabilities to changing climates and a fundamental dependence on coastal ecosystems. Coastal and mangrove ecosystems are particularly important in SIDS for the provision of food, fisheries (small-scale artisanal) and wood necessary for cooking and construction. Additionally mangroves have provided invaluable protection from floods, sea level rise, and natural disasters, all factors that are becoming more urgent due to climate change.

Scope of Works

Key objectives of the report include:

1. Articulation of a systems-based approach specific to Pacific SIDS and NbS for both high-islands and atolls.
2. Necessary enabling conditions for successful design, implementation and monitoring of coastal NbS with an emphasis on mangroves, including:
 - a. Ecosystem(s) criteria and consideration for appropriate technology.
 - b. Policy and regulatory conditions to enable NbS implementation.
 - c. *Financial and economic considerations*, including potential for bankability of NbS.
 - d. Necessary capacities for coastal communities to successfully secure and implement NbS projects.
 - e. Necessary capacities in Government agencies to promote and scale NbS and ensure NbS are valued and show up on National Accounts.
3. A stepwise approach to developing, financing, and implementing NbS with emphasis on mangroves.
4. An inventory of potential donors, with a focus on multilateral and bilateral opportunities.
5. Survey of mangrove based NbS projects relevant to SIDS, including successes and failures (annex).
6. 2-4 page brochure.
7. Succinct Power Point Presentation presenting overview of study.

How to Apply?

Interested parties are requested to submit a brief proposal outlining approach, activities, timeline, budget, and relevant qualifications with the subject line **Consultancy: Report on systems-based approach for mangrove centric NbS in Small Island Developing States: Fiji, a case study** to: ppo.hr_recruit@wwfpacific.org

Other Requirements:

1. Taxation or exemption Certificate (if eligible)
2. Taxation Number
3. Names of 2 referees to confirm credibility of past engagements

Timelines:

Deadline for applications: 4.30pm (Fiji ST) on Thursday 30th September, 2021 Work is expected to begin no later than October 15th, 2021. The expected end date for completion of the report is no later than the end of December 31st, 2021.