WWF Pacific is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced consultant or company to develop a concept for establishing a Knowledge Hub for supporting the scaling of the Spawning Potential Survey Methodology (SPS) and mobile phone app/data platform under the OurFish OurFuture project.

A) Introduction:

SPS is a method to understand the status of the population of fish stock. It is used to support communities in developing strategies for priority coastal fish species for inclusion in local management plans. It is also a tool that can inform provincial and national level fisheries policies and management plans. The method was developed by Dr Jeremy Prince for data poor fisheries to find the size of maturity of priority species; by looking at the sex and size of fish to get the Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR).

WWF Pacific has been using this tool as part of its Community Based Fisheries Management planning programmes in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The SPS methodology is being introduced to communities to raise awareness on the urgency of the declining status of their coastal fisheries and as a tool to collect information that helps them to identify the minimum size limits of the priority coastal fish species. The information helps the community to identify management approaches which are then included in their CBFM plans. Communities can also use SPS at 2-3 year intervals to monitor the progress of fish stocks based on the management plans and to identify if the plans need to be modified. WWF has provided SPS training for fishers and community facilitators in communities in Fiji Great Sea Reef communities, as well as in Madang (PNG) and the Western Province of Solomon Islands. WWF with support from Dr Prince, has also trained provincial fisheries officers in several key provinces in PNG and SI.

With WWF Australia support, James Cook University (JCU) has built an Android app that will allow users to measure and photograph fish, and upload the information onto a database with an AI programme to detect species identities from target fish. JCU has also built a user interface that allows for manual verification, and for manual input of species identity. The system can be used to collect SPS data on any species of interest. Work is in progress on enabling the database to automatically produce SPS analysis outputs from software developed by Dr Jeremy Prince. The online platform can also serve as a knowledge hub for SPS users. WWF has been exploring the opportunity to support further development of the SPS App for fish recognition and hosting the online database including data analysis.

The WWF Pacific teams view the SPS methodology as an important awareness raising tool and entry point for communities to learn about fish species, the urgency for sustainable fisheries management, and to provide them with guidance for developing effective management strategies. However, there are a potential diverse range of stakeholders and
users of the SPS methodology and App from community level fisheries management committees through to provincial and national fisheries agencies as well as from the private sector, NGOs, research institutions, universities, and conservation practitioners.

There are also issues which need to be addressed that relate to the use of the SPS App and online database, community access due to lack of internet and power connectivity and time required for analysis of data submitted, and the potential for an SPS or fish data knowledge hub. In the meantime, WWF will continue SPS training as an integral part of CBFM for community awareness and planning.

Through two grants – Oak Foundation and the USAID OurFish OurFuture project - which are funding community based fisheries management in PNG and SI, WWF has been exploring the opportunity to support further development of the SPS App for fish recognition and hosting the online data base including data analysis. In addition, there has been discussion on the potential for developing capacity building curricula and an SPS community of practice and a knowledge hub. These objectives are shared by both the Oak and OurFish projects with the ambition to develop a concept for identifying actions necessary to move the ambition forward in 2023.

B) Objective for a Knowledge Hub:

WWF is planning to establish a knowledge hub that will incorporate the various tools Dr Prince has developed and the work JCU has been doing on the SPS app. The development of SPS online Learning Hub to focus on the expanded use of SPS app as a monitoring tool for use across the region was a component of the Pacific section of the Oak Foundation project. The range of collateral on Dr Prince’s website http://barefootecologist.com.au could form the foundation of content for a knowledge hub for practitioners at the government or community level. JCU has been delivering a lot of work in the Ridge to Reef Space https://www.pacific-r2r.org/capacity-development which would also form a great platform for the development of knowledge products for the SPS approach.

C) Consultancy outline:

This consultancy is intended to provide information that will aid WWF and its partners to formalize a “knowledge hub” aimed at socializing the SPS approach (including SPS App as a tool in the toolbox) initially with relevant stakeholders in three Melanesia countries (Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). A knowledge hub would capture and host products, data, resources, training tools, etc developed by multiple sources. Further, it needs to be linked to a clear scaling up strategy for the region, with wide support from diverse actors and additional partners and a pipeline of funding in place.

Potential sources for development of content for a knowledge hub include:

- Primarily materials from the Barefoot Ecologist Toolbox; and Jeremy Prince's long-standing experience with enhancing communities' learnings and triggering behaviour change;
- Inputs from CChange4Good Communications/outreach specialists to identify the stakeholders' needs and transform the resources;
This consultancy is aimed to undertake necessary research to inform development of a concept for a Knowledge Hub. The tasks required include:

1) Identify the scope of users and stakeholders including project partners;

2) Determine their needs for knowledge products, training materials, resources and data storage and analysis for using and scaling the application of SPS both as a manual and mobile App.

3) Explore the options for knowledge hosting and management that will meet the needs of the user and stakeholder group;

4) Identify decision support frameworks that would complement information sourced from SPS application for guiding fisheries management at community, provincial and national level.

5) Explore existing and potential modes for knowledge collection, management and access – consider different scales of scope: national; regional; provincial; local community level networks learning hubs; OurFish ECOP.

6) Identify channels (learning networks, platforms, fora) that would be hosting/relaying the resources (e.g. SPREP, SPC, JCU, national university if turned into a curriculum), and/or identify event e.g. SPS Forum for facilitating peer learning/exchange.

7) Map and take hub learnings from within the region by affiliated institutions that offer learning.

D) Deliverables

1) Develop a clear definition with articulated objectives that support the scaling of community-based fisheries management/ SPS methodology and tools.

2) Develop a Knowledge Hub concept for application within a Melanesian context addressing the needs of users and stakeholders, and recommended potential hosting institutions.

3) Prepare an indicative budget estimate for establishment and ongoing maintenance and management of a knowledge hub.

E) Expression of Interest requirements:

1) As part of the Expression of Interest; the applicant must provide a CV and demonstrate proven experience and capacity to achieve the deliverables outlined above;
• Provide at least 2 references or testimonials

• Provide a budget for the costs for undertaking the consultancy to achieve the deliverables including daily rate and expected number of days to complete the consultancy.

• Submit an expression of interest addressing the above requirements by COB Wednesday 1st November, 2023 to WWF Pacific (email: ppo.hr_recruit@wwfpacific.org)

Selection of the successful applicant will be based on the quality of the EOI, the experience and professionalism and cost effectiveness of the proposal.