Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Region

A wide range of Short Term Consulting Opportunities

Fiji – Vanuatu - Tonga
Eco-Consult Pacific is a partner in a consortium that has been shortlisted for the above project. Hence, we are seeking specialists with relevant experience for short term consultancies for Pacific sub-regional project on climate change adaptation. Please see TORs below.

For those interested, please submit a brief Expression of Interest that highlights your expertise and skills in relevant areas and indicates for which tasks you wish to be considered for, a short CV and an indication of your fee rate to:
Wilco Liebregts
Eco-Consult Pacific Limited
Suva, Fiji
Email: ecoconsult@connect.com.fj; with a copy to: ecoconsult@gmail.com
The deadline for applications is 10 January 2010.

Background:
The Pacific-German regional programme Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPIR) aims to build and strengthen the capacities of Pacific member countries and regional organizations, to adapt to, and mitigate climate change impacts in the agriculture, forestry, and land management sector. The programme is based with the SPC Land Resources Division (SPC-LRD). The project will focus activities in Fiji, Vanuatu, and Tonga.

Owing to their small size and low height, the Pacific island states are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (storms, floods and droughts) and the rise in sea level are threatening the sustainable development of this region, which is heavily dependent on its natural resources. Physical infrastructure, human settlements, farm land and freshwater resources are under particular threat. The rise in temperature and lack of precipitation are impacting directly on agriculture, human health and biodiversity. The combination of low adaptation capacity (core problem) and intensive climate impacts is threatening the region's sustainable development. The project is designed to strengthen the capacity of SPC Member States to adapt to current and future climate impacts and to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions as part of the sustainable management of land-based natural resources.

The project's overall objective is thus as follows: `The capacities of SPC Member States to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and to avoid deforestation are strengthened as a fundamental element of the sustainable management of land-based natural resources'. One element is to support countries to develop and subsequently implement efficient and effective national adaptation strategies utilizing the services and knowledge provided by SPC as a regional knowledge hub.

The project requires a wide range of skills to implement a number of different tasks and themes and includes all advisory levels from regional through national to local level.
The project will focus on two key areas:

A - With regard to national adaptation strategies:
1. Analysis of governance architecture and stakeholders to identify, discuss and establish a steering structure to develop a Draft National Climate Change Strategic Adaptation Plan for land-based natural resources, taking into consideration existent agreements and structures between partner governments, SPC and the SPC/GTZ programme (see point 2)
2. Preparation of ToR for national steering structures and drafting structures
3. Review of existing frameworks, policies and strategies on climate change adaptation related to land based-natural resources (forestry, agriculture and land use as well as cross-cutting fields like water, disaster risk reduction, environment and others) and related fields of other sectors if appropriate in order to identify entry points for adaptation mechanisms and formulate relevant activities
4. Identify gaps and information needs related to climate change data, impact and V&A assessments and prioritization of adaptation measures and carry out necessary research on available data and information and proper studies
5. Conduct national consultations with all relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local level (generally including research and learning institutions, CSO, NGO and private sector). Consultations processes should be as participatory as possible and address assessment and prioritization of vulnerabilities, adaptation options, entry points and consideration of implementation and integration into development planning.
6. Draft preliminary National Climate Change Strategic Adaptation Plans on land-based natural resources (until the end of 2011).
7. Involve as much as possible SPC-LRD capacities in the consultation and drafting process
8. In strong partnership with SPC-LRD evaluate the processes in the 3 countries and capitalize lessons learnt and good practices for further use by SPC-LRD

B - With regard to climate change databases
Underlying principles for designing and establishing climate change databases are:
• All databases should be based on demand arising from the overall needs for climate change adaptation within the context of the SPC/GTZ programme (parallel structures should be avoided).
• Should build on and strengthen any existing database where appropriate
• All databases must be designed economically efficient, easy to apply (not too technically complex), and be easily accessible to targeted user groups
• Responsible partner institutions should define and allocate budgets for its maintenance and functioning (after its launching)

Specific tasks
Specific tasks to be carried out are (not all tasks may be applicable in every country):
1. Defining the scope of climate change database in each country as well as within SPC
2. Assessing existing databases and needs for extension/upgrading/access or development of new databases
3. Elaborating a data sharing agreement between main stakeholder agencies
4. Developing and agree on minimum database requirement (nature of data, format,
5. Feeding in relevant data
6. Designing a user friendly and accessible database (including websites where required)
7. Proposing necessary equipment (hardware and software) to be purchased by GTZ or partner organisations
8. Establishment of appropriate hard- and software
9. Training of local staff for collecting, analysing, and processing data and overall database management

Consulting

Positions available:

• INTERNATIONAL SHORT-TERM EXPERT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AS COORDINATOR AND SENIOR ADVISER

a short-term expert (up to 5 person-months, with intermittent missions to Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu on a regular basis) is needed to provide consultancy services to all stakeholders involved in the processes with special focus on the policy level. The short-term expert should be an international expert with excellent spoken and written German and English and experience in the Pacific region.

Keys tasks of this position include:

• The international short-term expert is in charge of the planning, implementation and steering of the measures, under the responsibility of the GTZ Chief Adviser of the SPC/GTZ programme, and has the overall responsibility for the timely delivery of the outputs and services according to the present ToR
• Furthermore the international short-term expert is in charge of contracting and steering a pool of international, regional and national short term experts.
• Providing management and advisory services in the following core area:
  Policy advice on climate change adaptation and stakeholder coordination in close collaboration with GTZ team
  - Responsibility for carrying out checks on the use of funds and financial planning in consultation with GTZ's officer responsible for the contract and cooperation
  - Preparing and submitting regular reports: inception report eight weeks after the projects start, progress reports are to be submitted end of June and end of December every year based on the format for GTZ progress reports
  - Preparing and holding regular coordination and consultation meetings with SPC/GTZ team order to update and/or adapt the project design
  Coordinating stages of the project with key stakeholders and ensuring transparency for the partner
  Ensuring a monitoring and evaluation system is in place and linked to the overall M&E system of the SPC/GTZ programme

Required qualifications:

• University degree in social or environmental sciences or public administration
• At least 10 years experience in the field of policy analysis, integrated knowledge management and results based monitoring and evaluation systems
• At least 6 years working experience and knowledge in technical, institutional, socio-
economic and policy aspects of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
• At least 10 years working experience in developing country context and proven working experience in the Pacific
• Familiarity and up-to-date with international and regional climate change policy developments and with national climate change projects/programmes
• Familiarity with German technical development cooperation and its main implementation tools such as result based planning and monitoring; experience with capacity works is of advantage.
• Excellent command of oral and written English and German

The coordinator/senior advisor is (scheduled) to begin his/her assignment in 04/2010. The assignment is to be coordinated with GTZ and the partner. The project will be phased out in 03/2012.

INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHORT-TERM EXPERTS

We are developing a pool of international, regional and national short-term specialists (for a total of some 17 person-months of consultancies) with expertise in the areas below to support the two key areas of:
(A) strategy development and
(B) climate change databases.
Where appropriate, both tasks will be linked (e.g. feeding in information on the available information/knowledge from the work on databases should feed into the strategy development).
The technical and methodological core experiences to be covered are:
- Climate change adaptation
- Climate information (climate trends, impacts, vulnerabilities)
- Tropical forestry, agriculture and agroforestry
- Water resource management
- Rural land use planning and sustainable land management
- Coastal zone management
- Economics of climate change, forestry, agriculture, agroforestry and land use
- Data and information knowledge management, including for spatial data
- Database design and management, data networks
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Training on database development and management
- Stakeholder consultation and coordination in multilevel systems
- Strategy development

All technical expertise must have a strong linkage to the Pacific context.

All specialists must have the necessary socio-cultural skills, experience in public administration, environmental sciences, knowledge management and databases, process facilitation, moderation and documentation and at least 3 years of experience in their areas of expertise.
Client and partner orientation, efficient work practices, interdisciplinary thinking and training experience are mandatory.
All experts must have excellent spoken and written English. Pacific regional and national experts especially are invited to apply.

The short-term experts should be available from April 2010. The timing of any assignments will be determined in consultation with project partners.