

TONGA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Expression of Interest

Species Survey and Development of Recovery Plan for Megapode in Tonga

Tonga Community Development Trust (aka Tonga Trust) built its foundation from the work of the Catholic Village Womens Development Program (VWD) in 1978. The organisation was formally registered at the Tonga's Magistrates Court in November 17, 1983 under the name Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific/Tonga (FSP Tonga). Two years later, the name of the organisation was changed to Tonga Community Development Trust in November 17, 1985. Tonga Trust is an affiliated member of the Foundation for the People of the South Pacific International (FSPI) based in Suva. Tonga Trust is also a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Its mandate continues to focus on alleviation of poverty in Tongan families and communities and fostering self reliance and sustainable community development. Tonga Trust is implementing a number of externally funded projects in the communities in the following focal areas: women in development, environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, disaster management, water, sanitation and health, democracy, good governance and voter education.

One of Tonga Trust projects aims to develop a model species recovery plan for endangered species in Tonga under the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. The project is focusing on the Endangered species of Polynesian megapode (*Megapodius Pritchardi*), locally known in Tonga as Malau ('o Vailahi). Malau is endemic to Tonga and its population was severely declined to only about 200 pairs in 1993. It raises an alarming concern and has been listed under the IUCN Species Red List as Critically Endangered. A successful translocation program of eggs downgraded the conservation status of malau from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2007. The current project raises the importance of engaging the local community in the effort to protect and recover the population of malau in their original habitat in Niuafou'ou.

We would like to invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified people with relevant experience to carry out the following tasks:

- * conduct a species survey at Niuafou'ou to estimate the current population of adult malau, map out their current distribution, behavior pattern, and ecological requirements;
- * conduct a scoping community survey in consultation with Tonga Trust staff, focusing on people's experience on eggs harvesting, attitude,

conservation values and significance of malau to their life;

* develop an implementable Model Species Recovery Plan for the malau in close consultation with Tonga Trust, Government of Tonga and people of Niuafu'ou.

Please forward expressions of interest in a covering letter with current curriculum vitae (highlighting relevant qualification and experience), name and address of two referees and a detailed schedule of fees and availability. Deadline for all expressions of interest must be submitted to the address below not later than 4.30 pm Wednesday 31, March 2010: Executive Director, Tonga Community Development Trust, Expressions of Interest, PO Box 519, Fatafehi Rd, Nuku'alofa. Ph: +676 2194 (w) or +676 7764876 (mobile). E-mail: s.fakaosi@tcdt.to. All enquiries can be directed to the same address.

TONGA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Terms of Reference

(Draft ToR)

Megapode Survey and `Development of Recovery Plan

Introduction

Tonga Community Development Trust (aka Tonga Trust) build its foundation from the work of the Catholic Village Womens Development Program (VWD) in 1978. The organisation was formally registered at the Tonga's Magistrates Court in November 17, 1983 under the name Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific/Tonga (FSP Tonga). Two years later, the name of the organisation was changed to Tonga Community Development Trust in November 17, 1985. Its mandate continued to focus on alleviation of poverty in Tongan families and communities and fostering self reliance and sustainable community development. Since its inception, TCDT has been governed by a Board of Directors.

Tonga Trust is one of Tonga's oldest non-for-profit and non government organisation working in partnership with development partners and government to empower communities to be self reliant.

Tonga Trust implements a number of externally funded projects in the communities in the following focal areas: women in development, environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, disaster management, water, sanitation and health, democracy, good governance and voter education. One of Tonga Trust project aims to develop a model species recovery plan for the Polynesian megapode.

Development of Megapode Protection and Recovery Plan

Tonga Trust has received grant under the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to develop a model species recovery plan for Polynesian megapode. Polynesian megapode (*Megapodius Pritchardi*), locally known in Tonga as Malau ('o Vailahi) is endemic to Tonga. According to archaeological findings, malau was existed in a number of different islands in Tonga. However, over the years, they disappeared from all these other islands except Niuafu'ou. Some of the research undertaken in the 1960s and 1990s saw a severe decline in the population of malau in Niuafu'ou. It raises alarm among researchers and scientists and was then listed under the IUCN Species Red List as Critically Endangered.

In 1993, the joint conservation program between the Government of Tonga and the German based Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation organised the translocation of 95 eggs and chicks to Founalei and Late islands in the Vava'u group. A decade later, Dr. Dick Watling paid a visit to the translocation sites and found it to be successful, especially in Founalei island.

The proposed project has completed a review of activities undertaken in the past to conserve Polynesian megapode, assess the current conservation status and threats to Polynesian megapode, identify other national supportive mechanisms, gaps and opportunities, common challenges and made recommendations for way forward.

Objective

The main objectives are:

- * to conduct a species survey at Niuafu'ou to estimate the current population of adult malau, map out their current distribution, behavior pattern, and ecological requirements.
- * to conduct a scoping community survey to assess existing trend of eggs harvesting, people's attitude, conservation values and significance of malau to their life;
- * to develop an implementable Model Species Recovery Plan for the malau.

Outcome

It is anticipated that at the end of this assignment:

- . a completed report outlining conservation status and communities attitudes towards malau.

. a completed Protection and Recovery Plan for malau, endorsed by relevant stakeholders.

Scope of Work

The consultant is engaged to:

- * train local government officers and community facilitators on species surveying and monitoring of megapode population;
- * consult with TCDT in drafting questionnaires for community scoping survey;
- * compile report on species survey and community attitudes;
- * develop model species recovery plan in consultation with TCDT and other stakeholders;
- * provide advice for TCDT staff in conducting stakeholder consultation to incorporate feedback and endorse the recovery plan;
- * Finalising species recovery plan

Tentative Schedule of Activities

April 2010 - train locals and prepare for megapode survey

April 2010 - commence megapode species survey and community attitude survey

May 2010 - complete species and community survey

May 2-10 - complete survey report (species and community attitudes)

June 2010 - draft species recovery plan

July 2010 - Stakeholder consultation (TCDT staff)

August 2010 - Finalising the Recovery Plan
