United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organisation
(UNESCO)
Office for the Pacific States in Samoa
CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Pacific Heritage Hub Scoping Study

Introduction
The United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Office for the Pacific States in Samoa, is seeking expressions of interest from qualified and experienced individuals, teams and organizations to undertake a study regarding the establishing a Pacific Heritage Hub mechanism to support the Pacific Island countries in the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage[1] (World Heritage Convention).

The objective of the scoping study is to evaluate options and propose mechanisms to establish and implement a Pacific Heritage Hub mechanism for safeguarding heritage in the Pacific. The envisaged regional hub mechanism aims to provide ongoing support to Pacific Island countries in developing their capacity by resourcing locally based staff and infrastructure to build and enhance communication, training and funding from existing and developing networks in the region. The concept is consistent with directions that Pacific Island countries were taking at the 2008 and 2009 Pacific World Heritage Workshops and discussions on training, communication and funding for the Pacific Action Plan 2010-15.

Scope of Work
The hub would focus on Pacific cultural and natural heritage and facilitate networking across areas including biodiversity, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, arts and languages. It could be web-based and involve support for the expansion of related existing websites, and bring together regional practitioners and site managers as well as the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States (based in Apia, Samoa), SPC, SPREP, ICOMOS Pasifika, IUCN regional office, Pacific Islands Museums Association and the Pacific Arts Council.
Component parts could be supported by relevant organizations with a coordination mechanism to be established. The proposal involves supporting staff in existing regional organizations over two to three years to apply part of their time to Pacific Heritage activities. In the start-up phase an Interim Secretariat located in the UNESCO Office in Apia aims to facilitate the process. Key components of the hub may include:

- strengthening and increasing communication networks for heritage practitioners in the region including through an information portal that could provide a repository of world heritage and protected areas material and an interactive online forum.

- coordinating existing and/or tailor-made training relevant to heritage management for Pacific Islands countries. Given the traditional model of a UNESCO Category II Centre would not be appropriate for the Pacific, a pilot program could be developed to take a broad view of training opportunities including partnerships with universities and other course providers, and a mentoring program.

- bringing together donors and Pacific proponents to fund worthwhile heritage projects in the Pacific. This may include further work on the feasibility study on the ‘Sustainable Funding Mechanism’ and/or the implementation of an alternative model such as using the Pacific Heritage Network to match donors and projects while raising the profile of Pacific heritage issues.

**Terms of Reference**

The following Terms of Reference were drafted at the Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop, held in Cairns Australia in October 2008.

1. a) Identify and evaluate existing organizations and resources that could meet current and potential demand for the three core components of the Pacific Heritage Hub:

- networking and knowledge management,

- capacity building, and

- sustainable funding for Pacific heritage.

b) Identify key gaps in the resources available to meet this demand.
c) Identify the particular strengths of different regional/international organizations in addressing the core components.

2. Consider the potential scale and scope for the Hub framework and provide options with regard to the areas to be addressed, for example, World Heritage, maritime heritage, protected areas, national heritage, intangible cultural heritage etc.

3. Develop a coordinated, decentralized framework to address the core components, including by bringing existing resources together and suggesting new mechanisms to address gaps.

4. Analyze options for the governance structure and administrative arrangements, and make recommendations including roles and responsibilities of a steering committee, secretariat and partner agencies.

5. Develop an indicative budget including staff costs and identified essential start-up project costs, e.g. website, training coordination mechanism, information gathering.

6. Develop a full implementation strategy including timeline, milestones and responsibilities for the establishment or staged development of the hub.

7. Provide an outline of findings and recommendations on the above matters to Pacific countries through the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, by no later than 31 January 2011. Provide the final Pacific Heritage Hub Scoping Study to Pacific countries through the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States no later than 31 March 2011.

Reporting Requirements

The study will be provided in hardcopy and softcopy using MS Word.

The final report should be between 40 and 60 pages long and include any essential annexes. These documents will also include a list of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report and annexes. The structure of the report will guided by the 3 envisaged core components of the hub outlined in the scope of work above.

The Consultancy
Qualifications and experience

UNESCO is looking for a working team to carry out the feasibility study. It is advised that it includes individuals who have:

1) Knowledge about World Heritage-related issues and requirements in general, as well as those for natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritage conservation in the Pacific in particular.

2) In depth knowledge of technical requirements for web-based and state-of-the-art networking and knowledge management (including establishment of easily accessible online data and information depositories, developing ‘communities of practice’, hosting of web seminars)

3) Knowledge of national and regional initiatives aiming at training and capacity-building for identification, documentation and conservation of natural and cultural heritage in the Pacific

4) Knowledge of different funding arrangements for cultural/natural heritage conservation, and experience in establishing and/or managing such funding arrangements

Expressions of Interest

All Expressions of Interest containing CV of the Consultants and up to 1 written page indicating initial thoughts or directions for developing a Pacific Heritage Hub mechanism for safeguarding heritage in the Pacific, rates for services and availability to undertake the tasks must be received by UNESCO by 25 October 2010.

Short-listed candidates will be notified by 5 November 2010 at the latest.

Guidelines covering UNESCO’s contractual requirements will be provided to all short-listed candidates, in English.

Additional information can be obtained from Jan Steffen (j.steffen@unesco.org) or Akatsuki Takahashi (a.takahashi@unesco.org) or by calling the UNESCO Apia Office (+685 – 24276).
Expressions should be marked “Pacific Heritage Hub Scoping Study” and may be submitted by post, email or fax to the following address:

The Director

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