1. Title: Short-term International Bird Expert Consultant

2. Background:

Late island is an isolated 6-km wide circular island about 55 km WSW of the island of Vava'u which rises to 565m. The island is an uninhabited 15sq km island which rises to 565m. It is volcanically active but has been dormant since 1854. Late has some of the finest forest to be found in Tonga and is a global stronghold of the threatened friendly ground-dove *Gallicolumba stairi* and the endemic Tongan whistler *Pachycephala jacquinoti*. A translocation attempt of the Tongan Megapode *Megapodius pritchardii* to Late was made in 1992. An initial positive report (1997) was not confirmed by searchers at the translocation site in 2003 and 2004. Late is also home to seven central Polynesian Restricted Range Species, as well as eleven species of seabird which are currently believed to breed on the island.

Fonualei is an isolated island about 65km north west of Vava'u. It is a round volcanic cone with a fumarolically active crater, approximately 1.5km across, which rises to about 195m. There are steep cliffs on all but the eastern side. Fonualei IBA comprises the whole island of Fonualei which supports a recently established population of the Tongan Megapode and another globally threatened species, the friendly ground-dove *Gallicolumba stairi*. The island is an isolated active volcano, approximately 200 ha in area and the megapodes lay their eggs in soil heated by volcanic ducts. The introducing of Polynesian Megapodes to Fonualei in the 1990s were successful as the result in 2003 shows a double in the population of Polynesian Megapode in the island.

The objective of the proposed project is improved conservation status of priority threatened species, consistent with selected outcomes set out in the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPOW). The project's outcomes are: (i) Improved conservation status of priority threatened species consistent with selected outcomes set out in the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPOW); (ii) Improved conservation status of priority threatened terrestrial ecosystems, consistent with selected outcomes set out in the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPOW); (iii) Improved conservation status of priority threatened marine ecosystems, consistent with selected outcomes set out in the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPOW); (iv) Improved information systems and processes are planned or are in place in relevant agencies, to support implementation of the IBPOW.

Under the overall guidance of the IIB project coordinator, the International Bird Expert Consultant is expected to work together with the key stakeholders for a very successful megapode survey.

3. Purpose & Scope of Work:

The Bird expert is anticipated to successfully deliver the output of the survey under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and in close collaboration with the GEF-PAS Integrated Island
Biodiversity TAG and SPREP, and also with other relevant stakeholders. The main contribution of this International Bird Expert Consultant will be to develop a suitable survey method, and implement the survey accordingly on Fonualei and Late islands in the Vava'u Group.

4. Key Output & Activity
The Bird Expert will be conducting surveys to establish status of species at different sites in the Vava'u Group like Late and Fonulei to assess fate of introduced populations of Tongan Megapode

5. Responsibilities
- Work closely with IIB Project Coordinator to facilitate the survey in Late and Fonualei islands.
- Develop survey methodologies, expected outcomes and key deliverables for the island survey.
- Act as the Activity Team Leader (ATL) for conducting two weeks survey in Late and Fonualei islands.
- Work together with survey team members to implement and guide the process of bird surveying in the islands.
- Meet contractual requirements in terms of data gathering, analysis, report writing and the extent quality of survey work.
- Deliver and submit draft and final report to the IIB project coordinator

6. Duration of the survey:
The International Bird expert consultant would be expected to spend 14 working days.

7. Qualifications, experience and Skills, :
- Degree or Master in Biology/ Ecology/ Environmental Science or other relevant fields;
- At least 5 years of experience in forest bird surveying and monitoring.
- Ability to take initiative and to work independently, as well as part of a team.
- Excellent knowledge about wildlife, birds etc.
- Relevant experience in Pacific Islands birds
- Strong interpersonal skills with ability to work under pressure and to establish and maintain effective work relationships with people of different backgrounds;
- Excellent communication skills, reporting with ability to express ideas clearly, concisely & effectively both orally and writing (fluent)

8. Terms and conditions: travel expenses (air fares, boat rental), food and accommodation will be covered by the project; a lump sum will be negotiated with the expert as a compensation for the work. Data collected in the field will be a shared ownership of the project and the expert: any data analysis (and publication) during the implementation of the project (survey report) and beyond the scope of this
project will have to be agreed by Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources (MLECCNR) / SPREP and the expert.

9. APPLICATIONS: applicants are kindly requested to send their CV along with a cover letter to this email to: anafekau@gmail.com by December 14, 2012. Please indicate in the cover letter the post reference clearly, otherwise your application may not be considered. Applicant's will be short-listed on the basis of their qualifications and work experience, and only the short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.