

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title	EbA ¹ - Ecosystem Ecologist - SPREP-USAID Choiseul EbA Project
Contract Type	Consultant - firm/individual
Duration	30 days over 6 Month (extendable up to 6 months based on availability of funds)
Duty Station:	Occasional travel to Taro Choiseul province and to the pilots sites.

Background

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting cooperation among Pacific islands countries and territories to protect and improve their environment and ensure sustainable development.

In March 2012 SPREP participated in a joint mission with GIZ, USAID and SPC to the Solomon Islands to discuss development of combined regional and international agency project approach to climate change adaptation with national² and provincial government leaders and officials, and partner organisations³. Previously the Solomon Islands Government articulated the need for a joint approach by development partners working on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the need to have a 'ridge to reef approach'. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) also proposed that Choiseul Province would be a preferred location for this approach to climate change adaptation implementation. As a result a multi- stakeholder was established to implement the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP).

The Choiseul Provincial Government (CPG) and Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (LLCTC) have joint goals relating to the promotion of sustainable natural resource management for the benefit of the people of Choiseul. Choiseul Provincial Government has recently developed their Medium Term Development Plan (2012-2014). One of the key goals to be implemented in the Choiseul Medium term Development Plan is to: *ensure that Natural resources are protected from unsustainable use and opportunities exist for sustainable natural resource development.*

SPREP as partner to the programme has been working closely with LLCTC and CHICCHAP partners to implement ecosystem based adaptation activities to enhance the resilience of the Choiseul communities. After much consultations and a thorough vulnerability and adaptation assessment of Choiseul province, Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment has been identified as key sensitive ecosystem for Choiseul province. The SPREP- USAID project has identified the site as one of the pilot site for EbA activities using the reef to ridge approach and seek to engage an ecosystem ecologist to develop a Community Based resource Management (CBRM) plan and facilitate the implementation EbA options. The focus will be to establish the site as a watershed protected and conservation area.

¹ Ecosystem-based Adaptation

² MECDM, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Ministry of Planning and Aid Coordination

³ SPC Honiara, SPC Applied Science and Technical Division, JICA, UNDP, The Nature Conservancy, Live and Learn

Main Objectives

The EbA - ecologist will lead the formulation of a CBRM plan for Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara River catchments and associated coastal environment. The formulation of the CBRM will identify EbA options and adopt the principles of EbA in the protected area management system and the ridge to reef approach.

Scope of Work

Specific functions are as follows:

- Produce a summary report of Mt Maetambe watershed and Kolombangara River ecosystem and biodiversity values to Choiseul and a broader Solomon Islands.
- In partnership with LLCTC, SPREP and TNC lead initial consultation with communities and landowners for the protection of Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment as a watershed protected area.
- Organise community consultation, workshops and planning exercise to formulate the EbA CBRM Plan.
- Consult national and provincial government in partnership with LLCTC and SPREP on the establishment of the Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchments.
- Formulate a CBRM Plan which include a list of EbA options after consultation with the stakeholders and include it in the CBRM Plan.
- The CBRM will encompass the ridge to reef approach/PA management plan for Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment.
- Deliver an initial landowners agreement for the protection of Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment and present it at a multi-stakeholder workshop for the protection of the Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara river catchment to be hosted by LLCTC in partnership with SPREP.

Deliverables

- A summary report of Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara River ecosystems and biodiversity values to Choiseul and the broader Solomon Islands.
- An initial consultative meeting report with clear guidance of the next steps for the protection of Mt Maetambe watershed and Kolombangara River catchment.
- A CBRM Plan submitted to LLCTC and SPREP with a spatial analysis of the environmental, socio-economic patterns and land use.
- A initial agreement from landowners and communities for the protection of Mt Maetambe and Kolombangara River ecosystem by 31 April 2015.

Duty Station

The consultant is expected to provide his/her own office and IT equipments.

Duration of Assignment

30 days over 6 Month (extendable up to 6 months based on availability of funds)

Expertise and Qualifications

- At least a Master Degree in Environmental Science related field , Ecology and ecosystem studies, Natural Resource Management, , Geography, or related field;
- At least 8 years of professional experience on ecosystems, ecology, natural resources management, community engagement and/or forestry extension/training, including field experience;
- Advanced Knowledge on ecology, ecosystem services, climate change, watersheds and coastal environments.
- Experience working with community groups and both government, non-government stakeholders at the national, provincial and local levels.
- Experience in working with communities at rural level and in the pacific island will be an advantage.
- Proficiency in both spoken and written English;
- Good communication and organisational skills.

Provision of Monitoring and Progress Control

The consultant will be working under the direct supervision of the SPREP EbAO.