

## Terms of Reference

Consultancy Title	Local Consultant
Project Name	Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia.
Location	Yap, FSM
Application Deadline	Until filled
Type of Contract	Local Consultant to compile information on traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices and develop a training strategy
Languages required	English, Yapese
Duration of Contract	9 months – March 2025 to December 2025

### BACKGROUND

#### A. Background

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent sovereign island nation consisting of four States spread across the Western Pacific Ocean (from west to east): Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae (Map 1). Together, the States comprise 607 islands that stretch over a longitudinal distance of almost 3,000 km mostly located between 6 and 10 degrees north of the equator. The combined land area the FSM [High Islands and Atolls] is approximately 728 km<sup>2</sup> with 2,700,000 km<sup>2</sup> of EEZ in the Pacific Ocean. The total area of High Island is approximately 658 km<sup>2</sup> (Yap 97 km<sup>2</sup>, Chuuk 95 km<sup>2</sup>, Pohnpei 358 km<sup>2</sup> and Kosrae 110 km<sup>2</sup>).

The Project, titled “Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia”, is a six-year (2024-2029) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and executed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECHEM), Federated States of Micronesia. The proposed project aims to secure critical ecosystem services in the Federal States of Micronesia’s (FSM) through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

The long-term goal is to support achievement of all five objectives of LDN which are to: maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; maintain or improve productivity in order to enhance food security; increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land. The objective will be achieved through the following components:

- Component 1. Strengthening the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation
- Component 2. Enhancing information, decision support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation
- Component 3. Embedding climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones (demonstration activities)

- Component 4. Effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M&E

The project's incremental value lies in demonstrating the application of integrated landscape interventions to sustainable land and coastal management and resource use applying community-based resource governance and management approaches. This will entail that communities are actively engaged in planning and decision-making on best approaches to manage and use agricultural and forest land and coastal ecosystems so as to help conserve native biodiversity and natural ecosystems, as well as to prevent land degradation and restore land and natural resource so as to safeguard food production systems.

It will also help develop capacities and the required enabling frameworks through "learning-by-doing" approaches in the selected target catchments (to raise awareness of the benefits of Sustainable Land Management/Climate Smart Agriculture). The project will be able to develop and demonstrate a matrix of best restoration practices for protection and strengthening of FSM's ecosystems and native biodiversity for scaling up and replication in other catchments in the country.

As part of these efforts, the project is seeking a local consultant to engage with local landowners and farmers to compile information regarding traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices and develop a training strategy for the demonstration landscape that contributes to Land Degradation Neutrality, protect ecosystem services, and biodiversity and food security, and enhance incomes for the households within the demonstration communities.

## SCOPE OF WORK

### B. Key duties and responsibilities

Under the overall guidance of the GEF7: FSM Land Degradation Project Management Unit (PMU) and Yap State GEF7 Project Staff, in close collaboration with the Yap State Land Management Working Group (SLMWG) and Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG), the Local Consultant (LC) will compile traditional information on climate-smart agricultural practices and develop a training strategy for communities in the Project's demonstration landscape in Gagil and Tamil. The LC will carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

- Prepare and follow a work plan laying out clear steps and a timeline needed to meet the expected outputs and deliverables;
- Regularly communicate with the Yap State GEF7 Project team;
- Develop a methodology for the collection of traditional knowledge of climate-smart agricultural practices in Yap, in particular from the demonstration site communities in Gagil and Tamil, related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM), nature-based solutions, and addressing land degradation;
- Develop a report compiling information on traditional agriculture practices and management of degraded land (i.e., traditional ways to improve soil conditions);
- Propose innovative climate-smart agricultural practices and/or neo-traditional agriculture practices related to addressing land degradation;
- Develop a training strategy for the demonstration landscape that
  - Includes Sustainable Land Management techniques and nature-based solutions that can contribute to enhanced ecosystem services and biodiversity, reverse land degradation, and improve household profitability;
  - Equally engages men, women and youth.

- Present, in collaboration with the GEF7 LDN Yap State Project Staff, a summary of the report and training strategy to key stakeholders, given that they are the beneficiaries of all.

**C. Expected outputs and deliverables**

- Workplan to use for guidance and support planning in engaging the community members;
- Methodology for the collection of traditional knowledge from Yap;
- Draft report compiling traditional knowledge;
- Draft training plan based selected priority techniques from the report;
- Final report of compiled traditional knowledge that incorporates feedback from the GEF7 Project team and Yap Land Management Working Groups
- Final training strategy that incorporates feedback from the GEF7 Project team and Yap Land Management Working Groups

**D. Duration of Work**

- The consultancy is for a period of nine (9) months
- The work will be conducted in collaboration with the FSM GEF7 LDN Project team and the Yap State and Community Land Management Working Groups

**E. Duty Station**

- The Consultant will be based in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia

**F. Reporting**

- The Consultant will report directly to the Yap State GEF7 LDN Project Staff and the State and Community working groups.

**• QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

**G. Qualification**

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Forestry, or related environmental field, with a Master's preferred.
- Fluent in Yapese and English, with strong writing skills

**H. Experience**

- A minimum of 5 years of experience in working with multi-disciplinary environment stakeholder including communities, government departments and NGOs;
- Experience providing agricultural training;
- Previous experience working in Yap State, FSM required

**Payment Schedule**

The contract will be disbursed on a lump sum basis, with payments related to deliverable as specified in the table below.

Milestone		Due Date
1	10% upon submission of signed contract	March 31, 2025
2	20% upon submission of a methodology and workplan for the compilation of information on traditional climate-smart agricultural practices and training strategy	April 15, 2025
3	20% upon submission of a draft report of the compiled information	June 30, 2025
4	20% upon submission of a draft training strategy	September 30, 2025
5	30% upon submission of a final training strategy and final report	December 12, 2025

**I. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:**

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

- Letter of Interest summarizing relevant experience;
- Personal CV or resume, including contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and name/email of two references.

**The consultancy may be an individual or firm/company and should be able to assume duties immediately.**

Further information may be obtained from Ms. Vallynna Gippin; Yap State Technical Coordinator. Please send applications to the contact and address below:

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