

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR THE PROPOSED Blich WATERS AND CENTRAL VITI MARINE MANAGEMENT AREAS, FIJI.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issue date: 3 February 2025

Closing date and time: 17 February at 11:59 PM (GMT + 12)

1. Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental organization committed to working with communities, the government, and other partners to safeguard Fiji's biodiversity and sustainably manage natural resources. This is achieved through an integrated approach to land- and seascape management, underpinned by applied research. WCS has been working in the country for over two decades.

WCS is supporting the Government of Fiji in exploring the feasibility of designating two proposed Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) within the archipelagic waters of the Vatu-i-Ra Seascape - Blich Waters and Central Viti. The proposed Blich Waters MMA encompasses important foraging and breeding areas for whales, dolphins, turtles, birds, as well as diverse coral reefs that are critical to Fiji's tourism and fisheries. The Central Viti MMA is an important fisheries area featuring deep sea snapper and tuna fisheries, and provides migratory routes and breeding grounds for whales and turtles. The area has a rich diversity of coral reefs and associated marine life, and high fish biomass reflecting the health and productivity of the area. Collectively, the total area of the proposed Blich Waters and Central Viti MMAs could contribute 13,650km² towards the country's 30x30 target.

However, increasing human population, a growing market demand for marine resources and unsustainable harvesting of fish has led to increased pressure on the area's natural resources. To designate and effectively manage the proposed MMAs, there will be costs incurred in both the establishment and in the ongoing maintenance. As a step to progress these MMAs, WCS is seeking a consultant to undertake an ex-ante Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the Blich Waters and Central Viti MMAs. This CBA will appraise the feasibility of the proposed MMAs, providing decision-makers with an understanding of the economic rationale for the potential designation of these areas.

2. Scope of Work

The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct (separate) a comprehensive CBA of the proposed central Viti and Blich waters MMAs. The analysis will be based on a 'with' and 'without' scenario to assess the economic feasibility of designating the two proposed MMAs, and to assess the economic implications of establishing the proposed MMAs.

To achieve this, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:

- Stakeholder mapping exercise to identify key economic stakeholders in the proposed MMA areas, specifying how different groups may benefit or incur costs.
- Review the literature and consult with key stakeholders to identify the types of costs and benefits and valuation method to be included for a business as usual 'without MMAs' and improved conservation 'with MMAs' scenario taking into consideration projected future changes under both scenarios. Identify key gaps in data that need to be filled through primary data collection or additional research.

- Compile and document the proposed methodology and framework for the CBA, to be discussed and agreed with WCS. This should specify the valuation techniques to be used, key data needs and sources, scenarios to be modelled and key assumptions, as well as stakeholder consultation and process elements. It should also indicate how far, and which, costs and benefits can be valued in quantitative/monetary terms; Non-market costs or benefits (e.g. health, social or environmental) should be considered where possible, as a minimum they should be assessed in qualitative terms.
- Conduct the CBA:
 - Identify and quantify the full range of investment and operational costs associated with establishing and maintaining the MMAs.
 - Identify and where possible quantify the indirect social and opportunity costs associated with the MMAs.
 - Evaluate the market and non-market economic benefits of the MMAs under the current business as usual 'without; and under 'with' MMAs.
 - Model business as usual and with-MMA scenarios to assess changes in costs, benefits, cost-bearers and beneficiaries; Compare the estimated economic benefits and costs, providing a clear assessment of the net benefit/loss and potential returns associated with the MMAs;
 - Analyse the distributional impacts of the establishment of MMAs in terms of how key costs and benefits accrue to different groups, sectors and levels of scale;
 - A sensitivity analysis should be included to test how results vary under different assumptions.
 - Economic and financial indicators are expected to be presented, showing key indicators such as NPV, IRR, benefit-cost-ratio and payback period associated with the MMAs over business as usual
- Produce a technical report that details the CBA outcomes and the financial, social and environmental implications for each scenario. Provide recommendations for future actions to secure the economic viability and funding/financial sustainability of the MMAs.

4. Collaboration and stakeholder engagement

The consultant will collaborate closely with the WCS-Fiji team, government and relevant stakeholders (e.g., local communities, fishers, tourism operators, civil society, government and policymakers) potentially through interviews, workshops, and focus groups.

5. Deliverables

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

- The CBA framework and methodology for review and endorsement by WCS
- A report on the analysis of the two scenarios ('with' and 'without') MMAs. The report will outline the financial, social and environmental implications for each scenario. The report should provide clear and quantifiable recommendations on the benefits of establishing the MMAs, which take into account the potential risks to resource owners and uses.

6. Timeline

The consultancy work will start by late February 2025 and should be completed by the end of April 2025.

7. Requirements and qualifications

- Experience working in conducting cost-benefit studies.
- Familiarity with Fiji marine resource management, regulations and legislation.
- A degree in economics, natural resource management or related field, preferably a Masters degree or higher.
- Fluency in both spoken and written English.

8. Budget

Available budget for the consultancy is USD 35,000.

9. Submission requirements

The following must be submitted:

1. Brief statement outlining previous experience completing cost benefit studies (maximum of one page). Proposers are encouraged to submit examples of previous cost benefit analysis they have completed.
2. Technical proposal outlining the approach to undertake the scope of works, including the CBA framework and methodology (maximum of two pages).
3. CVs of the key team members.
4. Financial proposal.

Submitted rates are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the consultancy. Any charge not stated in the Proposal as being additional, will not be allowed as a charge against any transaction under any resultant contract. All rates and prices submitted by proposers shall be in US dollars.

All proposal documents should be emailed directly to jalbert@wcs.org by the closing date. Late submissions will not be considered.

10. Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

Evaluation criteria	Weighting given
Financial proposal	30 %
Technical proposal	30%
Technical experience and capacity	30%
Experience working in a Pacific context	10%