



## **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR THE FIJI NATIONAL HUB FOR CORAL REEF CONSERVATION (NHCRC)**

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Issue date:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Closing date:** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Available budget:** USD 5,000

#### **Background**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-government organisation committed to working with communities, government, and other partners to safeguard Fiji's biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources through integrated land- and seascape management. A critical focus of our work is protecting Fiji's globally significant, diverse and resilient coral reefs and associated seascapes. The nation's coral reef ecosystems are critical to biodiversity, the economy and the livelihoods of its people. However, Fiji's coral reefs face unprecedented threats from climate change and local pressures, including unsustainable fishing, coastal habitat destruction and unsustainable land management leading to pollution runoff.

In response to, and to abate these threats, the Fiji National Hub for Coral Reef Conservation (NHCRC) was established through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Coral Reef Rescue (CRR): Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities Project. This government-endorsed multi-stakeholder platform serves as a central mechanism for coordinating and driving coral reef conservation efforts in Fiji. The NHCRC will oversee the development of a National Action Plan for Coral Reef Conservation (NAPCRC). The Fiji NAPCRC is intended as a collaborative, inclusive and evidence-based plan of action for the conservation of coral reefs in Fiji.

This consultancy will focus on developing a sustainability strategy for the NHCRC for the long-term delivery of coral reef conservation in Fiji.

The consultant will work closely with the WCS Fiji team and the Fiji NHCRC.

#### **Objectives**

The objective of the consultancy is to:

- To develop a comprehensive, actionable, and inclusive **Sustainability Strategy** that ensures the long-term operational, financial, institutional, and environmental sustainability of the Fiji National Hub for Coral Reef Conservation.

#### **Scope of Work**

The consultant will be responsible for the following:

1. **Develop a sustainability strategy for the Fiji NHCRC and the long-term delivery of coral reef conservation in Fiji.** This should consider:
  - Defining a vision, mission, and strategic objectives for the sustainability of the NHCRC.

- Needs and opportunities for the functioning of the Fiji NHCRC and effective delivery of the NAPCRC.
- Structures, processes, and resources necessary to operationalize and sustain the NHCRC, taking into consideration the existing capacities, structure, and processes established.
- Key strategic pillars to guide the sustainability strategy, including Financial Sustainability, Governance Arrangement, Partnerships and Stakeholder engagement, Capacity Building, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework.
- Integration of traditional ecological knowledge and community perspectives.
- Institutional arrangements and governance models.
- Recommendations on overarching strategies, functional mechanisms, and potential sources of sustainable financing to support the delivery of the Fiji NAPCRC.

## **2. Implementation Plan (as part of the strategy)**

- Develop a phased implementation roadmap (short, medium, long term).
- Define roles, responsibilities, timelines, and key performance indicators for implementation of the strategy.

## **3. Risk Assessment**

- Identify potential risks (financial, political, operational, etc) that may affect the implementation and sustainability of the strategy.
- Propose risk mitigation strategies and contingency plans to address those risks.

## **4. Stakeholder engagement and validation:**

- Present the draft sustainability strategy to a technical working group (TWG) meeting and NHCRC workshops as required. The workshop costs will be covered by WCS.
- Incorporate feedback from the TWG and NHCRC into the final strategy document.

## **Deliverables**

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Estimated timeframe</b>
1.	Draft sustainability strategy, including an implementation plan and risk assessment	Within 4 weeks of signing the consultancy contract
2.	Present review findings and draft sustainability strategy to key stakeholders at TWG / NHCRC meetings	As scheduled
3.	Submit the final revised report and sustainability strategy based on stakeholder feedback	Within 3 weeks after the presentation

## **Timeline**

The consultancy work will ideally start in July 2025 and be completed by October 2025.

## **Requirements and qualifications**

The consultant will have the following minimum experience and qualifications:

- Considerable experience in developing sustainability strategies or frameworks, particularly in the context of environmental governance, natural resource management, and marine conservation.

- Knowledge and understanding of Fiji's governance frameworks, including customary marine tenure systems, local and national policies, and legislation relevant to marine conservation
- Qualifications in environmental science, marine biology, natural resource management, environmental policy, sustainable development, or a related field.
- Fluency in both spoken and written English.

### **Submission requirements**

The following must be submitted:

1. Brief technical statement outlining previous experience relevant to the consultancy (one page). Proposers are encouraged to submit examples of previous work or links.
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Financial proposal outlining detailed cost breakdown, including:
  - Consultancy fees, stating the daily rate and total number of working days.
  - Travel costs, if any, as a separate line item. All proposed travel costs must be included within the total consultancy budget.

All travel requires prior approval by WCS Fiji and will be reimbursed based on actual costs, supported by receipts and relevant documents.

Submitted rates are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Requirement. 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 [nbhan@wcs.org](mailto:nbhan@wcs.org) by the closing date. Late submissions will not be considered.