

POLICY ANALYSIS FOR CORAL REEF CONSERVATION IN FIJI

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issue date: 10th July 2025

Closing date: 24th July 2025

Available budget: USD 10,000

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 manage 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.

A fundamental step towards the success of the NAPCRC is a clear understanding of the existing policy landscape. This consultancy will conduct a comprehensive review of the existing national policies, strategies, laws, regulations, and international commitments relating to the conservation of coral reefs in Fiji. It will identify opportunities and barriers for the integration of coral reef conservation across relevant sectors and provide recommendations for strengthening policy enforcement as well as promoting increased coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

The consultant will work closely with the WCS Fiji team and the Fiji NHCRC (through the Conservation Planning and Policy Technical Working Group or TWG).

Objectives

The objectives of the consultancy are to:

- Review and document potential opportunities and barriers for integrating coral reef conservation into existing national policies, strategies, laws, and regulations across relevant sectors.
- Provide recommendations to strengthen policy enforcement for coral reef conservation and improve multi-sectoral coordination.

Scope of Work

The consultant will conduct the following tasks:

1. **Identify and review all relevant national policies, laws, regulations, and international commitments related to coral reef conservation and identify opportunities and barriers for the integration of coral reef conservation.** This should consider:
 - The systematic drivers and underlying root causes of the threats to coral reefs in Fiji (building upon the review provided by WCS)
 - Synergistic solutions aimed at combining efforts and outcomes between sectors
 - Gaps and cross-cutting analysis
 - Reducing situations where the impacts of one sector negate the efforts of another sector
 - Customary rights of customary fishing rights resource owners
 - Fiji's legal and policy framework relating to coral reef conservation
 - Opportunities for strengthening policies, addressing regulatory gaps, and improving policy enforcement.
 - Alignment of legal instruments with global best practices and Fiji's national development priorities
2. **Stakeholder engagement and validation:**
 - Present review findings to a 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 report.

Deliverables

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

	Item	Estimated timeframe (after signing the consultancy contract)
1.	Draft review outline (identifying key policies, strategies, laws, regulations, and international commitments, and sectors to be included) for endorsement by WCS	2 weeks (early August)
2.	Draft review report and recommendations for review	4 - 5 weeks
3.	Present review findings to key stakeholders at TWG / NHCRC meetings	As scheduled (Mid-September)
4.	Submit the final report based on stakeholder feedback	3 weeks after the presentation

Timeline

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

Requirements and qualifications

The consultant will have the following minimum experience and qualifications:

- At least 7 years of experience in fisheries and environmental policy analysis, natural resource management, or sustainable development, with specific experience in marine and/or coral reef 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:
 - a. Consultancy fees, stating the daily rate and total number of working days.
 - b. 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 by the closing date. Late submissions will not be considered.