 Second Call for Applications

Pacific Regional Advisory Committee Experts



***Note:*** *This is a second call for applications for the Pacific Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). In order to ensure appropriate representativeness of the RAC, BIOPAMA is seeking expressions of interest from experts specifically from Pacific ACP countries (listed at Annex 1) to join the committee. To address real or perceived conflicts of interest, experts who are affiliated with organisations that might apply for funding under the Action Component are eligible to serve on the RAC, but will be required to sit out the round for which their organisation’s proposal was submitted.*

**Position title:** PacificRegional Advisory Committee (RAC) Independent Expert

**Duration:** Short assignment during 2019 – 2021:

2019: 1 Medium grant call – 1 Small grant call for proposals

2020: 2 Small grant calls for proposals

2012: 2 Small grant calls for proposals

**Duty station:** Home country of the member. Travel to RAC meeting location may be required. Online meetings are also foreseen.

**Type of appointment:** Consultant expert; approximately 7-10 days of work per call for proposal (depending on number of proposals)

**Closing date for applications: 5:00 PM Friday 26 April 2019 (Fiji time)**

1. **Background and objectives**

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas, conserved areas and surrounding communities. It is an initiative of the ACP Group of States financed by the European Union’s 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Building on the first five years of activities financed by the 10th EDF, BIOPAMA’s second phase provides tools for data and information management, services for improving the knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and funding opportunities for specific site-based actions. [www.biopama.org](http://www.biopama.org)

The overall goal of BIOPAMA’s Action Component (grant facility) is to support field projects in protected and conserved areas and/or wider priority conservation seascapes and landscapes, when identified.[[1]](#footnote-1) The Pacific BIOPAMA Action Component Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will bring together independent experts with sound knowledge of biodiversity, protected and conserved area issues at the national and regional levels, as well as representatives of the BIOPAMA Action Component Secretariat and of the Regional BIOPAMA team.

The Pacific BIOPAMA RAC experts have an important role during the proposal assessment, evaluation, final selection and award stage of the BIOPAMA grant process. Through their analysis and comments, they are responsible for ensuring that the process is robust, fair, impartial, transparent and independent.

Further to the first call, IUCN seeks applications from qualified individuals from ACP countries (listed at Annex 1) to serve on the Pacific RAC. Only experts from these countries are eligible to apply for the second call for proposals to ensure appropriate representativeness on the RAC.

1. **Pacific RAC members’ responsibilities**

In accordance with the Action Component objectives, the Pacific RAC experts have the following responsibilities:

1. Review all the Action Component proposals for the Pacific using and complying with the special guidance developed for the matter
2. Assess Action Component proposals against agreed selection criteria
3. Complete a scoring grid and provide detailed comments and clear recommendations for each proposal, in English
4. Compile a ranking list
5. Attend the Pacific RAC meetings (either online or in-person) and share findings with the other assessors (at least two experts will review each proposals) in a constructive dialogue
6. Provide scientific, technical and operational recommendations s/he believes to be necessary or useful for the implementation of the proposed projects
7. Assess whether the proposals have adequate measures for mitigating impacts on the environment and society and are in line with IUCN’s ESMS
8. Provide recommendations regarding modifications and alternatives for developing mitigation plans where ESMS risks are identified
9. Support the BIOPAMA Action Component Secretariat at the stage of the grant agreement negotiation in providing explanation on the comments and recommendations to improve the proposals if needed.

1. **Qualifications and requirements**

**Specific technical requirements:**

* **Biodiversity, protected and conserved areas:** specific knowledge of terrestrial and marine protected and conserved areas’ challenges in Pacific ACP countries; experience and expertise in equitable management of protected and conserved areas, experience and expertise in ecosystem services management; general understanding of the Pacific region’s conservation targets; good understanding of the links between climate change and ecosystem degradation (including relevant mitigation actions).
* **Project cycle:** experience in analysing project proposals and formulating sound recommendations for their improvement; experience developing and evaluating mitigation measures; experience in project and/or program monitoring and evaluation; experience translating scientific information into practical mitigation and management advice; experience in designing and developing multi partner projects.
* **Environmental and social safeguards:** experience in cumulative impact assessment and quantitative risk assessment; experience in conducting EIAs; familiarity with IUCN’s ESMS Policy and/or other ESMS policy framework and standards; experience in measuring and evaluating cumulative effects of human activities on the environment and social patterns.

**General requirements:**

* MSc or higher degree (or equivalent) in a field relevant to the subject area described above
* At least 10 years of relevant experience and knowledge of protected and conserved areas and biodiversity especially in the cultural and political context of the Pacific
* Proven experience analysing and assessing project proposals
* Proven ability to work well as part of a diverse, multi-cultural and geographically dispersed team; under time constraints and in European Union funded projects
* Proven ability to write and edit scientific material in English
* Experience working in a similar context and/or setting of a technical and advisory panel or expert review process
* Experience working with stakeholders at the local, national and regional level in the Pacific
* Track record of relevant publications is a significant advantage
* Knowledge of the governance, social and management effectiveness assessments for the Pacific region is a significant advantage
* Membership in relevant scientific and technical networks is an advantage.
1. **Applications**

All interested and qualified persons are encouraged to submit their credentials and a supporting Letter of

Motivation in English addressing and providing evidence for the Specific Technical Requirements relevant to

the specific expert position, as well as the General Requirements, along with the Application Form (see below).

All applications should be submitted by email before 5:00 PM (Fiji time) 26 April 2019, to Paul van Nimwegen, BIOPAMA Pacific Regional Coordinator, paul.vannimwegen@iucn.org and Carole Martinez, carole.martinez@iucn.org

1. **Eligibility, selection criteria and process**

The eligible candidates must be:

* available to allocate sufficient time for panel work
* independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived). The selected experts will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest for each call for proposals before taking part in the RAC
* able and willing to serve in an individual expert capacity and provide the best scientific and technical advice, irrespective of views that may be held by any organisation s/he may be affiliated with
* not impose any additional conditions on his/her participation.

The selection criteria are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Experience** | **Maximum Score** |
| * Proven experience in analysing project proposals in Pacific ACP countries and formulation of sound recommendations for their improvement (references should be given with the number of proposal assessed)
 | 20 Points |
| * Specific knowledge of terrestrial and marine protected areas’ challenges in ACP Pacific countries and field experience in management and governance of protected and conserved areas in ACP Pacific countries (reference of activities and projects should be given)
 | 20 Points |
| * General good understanding of the region’s conservation targets
 | 10 points |
| * General good understanding of the region’s livelihoods challenges
 | 10 points |
| * Good understanding and experience in project ESMS requirements
 | 20 points |

The eligible candidates will be scored and evaluated based on the information and evidence provided in the

application as well as the selection criteria outlined above and in accordance with relevant IUCN Policies and Procedures. Additional considerations will be given to ensure a balanced selection of the final

panel team, again in line with relevant IUCN Policies and Procedures. The expert applications will be analysed by the BIOPAMA Pacific Regional Coordinator in collaboration with the BIOPAMA AC Secretariat. The results of the call for interest and the most suitable applications will be shared with the EU DG DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat. The selected Pacific RAC experts will be then contracted.

Working for IUCN means joining a dedicated and diverse team of experts based all over the world. IUCN is

an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its recruitment practices, welcoming applications

from all qualified people.

1. **Conditions**

**Working language**

The working language in the context of the Action Component’s implementation in the Pacific is English.

**Remuneration and time commitment**

Panel members are compensated at a rate of 1 500 EUR per call. 1 Medium Grant call and 4 Small Grant calls for proposal are expected. Any travel and subsistence costs will be covered by IUCN. The time commitment of individual members can range between 7-10 days per call (depending on the number of applicants for each call).

**Independence and conflict of interest**

Pacific RAC experts should be independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived). The selected experts will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest for each call for proposals before taking part in the RAC. Pacific RAC experts who are affiliated with organisations that apply for funding under the Action Component will be required to inform the BIOPAMA Regional Coordinator of the conflict and to sit out assessing proposals from that particular round, but will still be able to assess proposals from other rounds.

**Contractual conditions**

IUCN is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with any candidate as a result of issuing this call for applications. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the selection process at any time prior to contract award. By participating in this call for applications, candidates accept the conditions set out in this call for applications.

***About IUCN***

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people’s well-being.

[*www.iucn.org*](http://www.iucn.org/)[*https://twitter.com/IUCN*](https://twitter.com/iucn/)

**APPLICATION TO SERVE AS A PACIFIC REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) EXPERT FOR BIOPAMA’S ACTION COMPONENT**

Fill in the form in English and attach supporting materials

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr/Mrs/Ms |  |
| Full name |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Nationality |  |
| Work address |  |
| Country |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Phone |  |

**ELIGIBILITY**

Mark acceptance of each with an ‘X’

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **I agree/declare that:**  | **Use ‘X’** |
| I am available to allocate sufficient time for Panel work (see note on the call for applications) |  |
| I am independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived)  |  |
| I have read and signed the declaration of no conflict of interest  |  |
| I am able and willing to serve and provide the best scientific and technical advice, irrespective of views that may be held by any organization I may be affiliated with |  |
| I will not impose any additional conditions on my participation |  |

**REFERENCES**

Please provide 3 references (names, positions, relationship to your work and contact information), including one recent employer/client.

|  |
| --- |
| **Referee 1** |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Relationship to your work |  |
| Contact information (email, phone) |  |
| **Referee 2** |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Relationship to your work |  |
| Contact information (email, phone) |  |
| **Referee 3** |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Relationship to your work |  |
| Contact information (email, phone) |  |

Please submit this form along with your:

* **CREDENTIALS**, which include but is not limited to short CV focusing on your recent (last 10 years) experience, education, achievements, any awards, membership to relevant professional networks/organisations/bodies or any other supporting materials, as well as a short list of your key publications relevant to this application*.*
* **LETTER OF MOTIVATION,** which must specifically address and provide information and evidence for the Technical requirements related to the expert position, as well as the General requirements, as detailed in the Call for Applications (in terms of examples of a relevant situation, task, action, result).
* **SIGNED DECLARATION OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST (annex 2)**

**Annex 1**

**List of ACP countries in the Pacific**

* Fiji
* Cook Islands
* Kiribati
* Marshall Islands
* Federates States of Micronesia
* Nauru
* Niue
* Palau
* Papua New Guinea
* Samoa
* Solomon Islands
* Timor-Leste
* Tonga
* Tuvalu
* Vanuatu

**Annex 2**

**Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality**

I, the undersigned, [insert name], express my willingness to participate to the BIOPAMA Action Component [insert Region name] Advisory Committee.

I hereby declare that:

* I have not granted, sought, attempted to obtain or accepted and will not grant, seek, attempt to obtain, or accept any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal or corrupt practice, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to the BIOPAMA Action Component;
* to my knowledge, I have no conflict of interest in relation to the organisations that have submitted an application in response to this call for proposals, including persons or members of a consortium. A conflict of interest may arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
* I confirm that if I discover during the evaluation that such a conflict exists or might exist, I shall declare it immediately to the BIOPAMA Action Component Secretariat. In the case that such a conflict is confirmed by the BIOPAMA Action Component Secretariat, I agree to cease from participating in the Regional Advisory Committee;
* I confirm that I have familiarised myself with the information available to date concerning this call for proposals including the Regional Advisory Committee Experts Guidelines;
* I shall execute my responsibilities impartially and objectively. I further declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I am not in a situation that could cast doubt on my ability to evaluate the proposals;
* I shall maintain the strictest confidentiality in respect of all information acquired as a result of my involvement in the evaluation process of the above-mentioned call, as well as any information relating specifically to the object of this call.
* I undertake neither to disclose such information to any person who is not already authorized to have access to such information.
* I furthermore undertake to use this information only in the context, and for the purposes of, the evaluation of this specific call.

Signed: ………………………………………………

Name: ……………………………………………….

Date: ………………………

1. For more details, see the [RIS portal website](https://rris.biopama.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)