

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

Consultancy Services for the Assessment and Design of a Coastal Fisheries Data Management Framework for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER)

Country	Federated States of Micronesia
Project	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER)
Assignment Title	CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE FRAMEWORK FOR COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN FSM
Implementing / Contracting Agency	FSM Department of Resources & Development (DRD)
Financing	World Bank financing IDA-E371-FM
Selection Method	CQS
Contract Duration	Approximately 12 months
Reference No.	FM-NORMA-539887-CS-CQS

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Reference No.	FM-NORMA-539887-CS-CQS
Publication Date	August 26, 2026
Deadline for EOI Submission	September 28, 2026 3:00 PM Pohnpei Local Time
Selection Method	CQS

The Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services are for the assessment of existing coastal fisheries data systems and gaps and the design of a recommended coastal fisheries data management framework for future implementation. The assignment will cover the four FSM States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae and is expected to take approximately 12 months.

The FSM Department of Resources & Development (DRD), in collaboration with State Fisheries Departments, NORMA, now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

1. Objective and Scope of the Assignment

The objective of the consultancy is to assess existing coastal fisheries data systems and gaps, and to design a recommended data management framework for future implementation. The following areas are not within the scope of the assignment: 1) training, 2) conduct ecological field surveys, 3) build databases, 4) validate protocols, or and 5) produce management recommendations. These activities are intended to be undertaken under subsequent consultancies.

Stage	Main Activity	Expected Output / Focus
1	Desk Review and Data Inventory	Existing literature, research reports, available databases, catch and effort, landings, market, ecological data, and metadata catalogue.
2	Stakeholder Engagement	Fact-finding and prioritization with State fisheries departments, research institutions, and communities; information disaggregated by gender, age group, and fishing role where feasible.
3	Data Quality and Gap Assessment	Gap analysis and scoring matrix covering completeness, accuracy, timeliness, consistency, accessibility, and dataset quality tiers.
4	Institutional Assessment	Review of data-related capacity, systems, workflows, reporting, responsibilities, and data-sharing mechanisms.
5	Recommended Data Collection Protocols	Recommended SOPs for catch, effort, market, and biological data collection aligned with SPC, WCPFC, and FAO ASFIS references.
6	Data Storage, Access, and Governance Framework	Recommended database architecture, hosting, backup, user permissions, ownership, interoperability, sustainability, and accessibility arrangements.
7	State-Specific Ecological Assessment TORs	Four separate procurement-ready TORs for Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, based on data assessment outcomes.

Stage	Main Activity	Expected Output / Focus
8	Ecological Assessment Data Needs Prioritization	Prioritized sequence of future State ecological data collection assessments, including maps and GIS coordinates of priority sites.
9	Data Management Implementation Roadmap	Phased implementation roadmap with estimated costs, sequencing, and dependencies.
10	Other Subsequent Consultancy TORs	Procurement-ready TORs for data training and mentoring, protocol validation, database build-out/deployment, and data entry mobile applications.
11	Final Report and Presentation	Final consultancy report, handover package, and presentation of findings.

2. Key Deliverables and Timing

The Consulting Firm will be required to submit the following deliverables. Timing is indicative and measured in weeks after contract signing, unless otherwise stated.

No.	Deliverable	Timing
1	Inception Report, including risk mitigation plan	Week 2
2	Stakeholder Engagement Summary	Week 14
3	Compiled Data Repository and Metadata Catalogue	Week 18
4	Data Quality and Gap Assessment Report, including scoring matrix	Week 22
5	Institutional Assessment Report - data-related capacity only, no training delivery	Week 26
6	Recommended Data Collection Protocols Document - design only	Week 32
7	Recommended Data Storage, Access, and Governance Framework	Week 36
8	Ecological Assessment Data Needs Prioritization by State, with maps/GIS, based on SAR 2023 and data assessment outcomes	Week 38
9	Yap Ecological Data Collection TOR, based on data assessment outcomes	Week 42
10	Chuuk Ecological Data Collection TOR, based on data assessment outcomes	Week 42
11	Pohnpei Ecological Data Collection TOR, based on data assessment outcomes	Week 42
12	Kosrae Ecological Data Collection TOR, based on data assessment outcomes	Week 42
13	Data Management Implementation Roadmap	Week 44
14	Procurement-ready TORs for other subsequent consultancies: data training, database, mobile app, and protocol validation	Week 44
15	Final Consultancy Report, including handover package	Week 46
16	Presentation of Findings	Week 46
17	Monthly Progress Reports	Monthly

3. Required Firm Experience and Shortlisting Criteria

Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Expressions of Interest should focus on firm-level qualifications and relevant experience. Key Experts will not be evaluated at this shortlisting stage.

Criterion	Indicative considerations	Suggested evidence
Relevant fisheries data management experience	Experience assessing and designing fisheries data systems, metadata catalogues, data quality frameworks, data gap assessments, and data governance arrangements.	Project descriptions, client references, outputs, dates, countries, and contract values.
Coastal fisheries and Pacific/small island context	Experience in coastal fisheries, community fisheries, ecological information needs, and Pacific Island or small island developing state contexts. FSM experience is preferred.	Examples of comparable assignments in Pacific Island countries or similar contexts.
Institutional and capacity assessment experience	Experience reviewing institutional workflows, data-sharing mechanisms, reporting responsibilities, and data-related capacity needs for public agencies.	Institutional assessment reports or project summaries.

Criterion	Indicative considerations	Suggested evidence
Data standards and interoperability	Experience applying fisheries data standards, metadata, QA/QC, and relevant standards or references such as SPC coastal fisheries minimum datasets, WCPFC standards, FAO ASFIS codes, and other recognized ecological data methods.	Examples of standards-based data frameworks, metadata catalogues, or SOPs.
GIS and spatial prioritization	Experience in spatial data inventory, mapping, GIS prioritization, and preparation of maps and coordinates for ecological assessment planning.	GIS outputs, mapping work samples, and project references.
TOR and implementation roadmap preparation	Experience preparing procurement-ready TORs, implementation roadmaps, costed action plans, and phased system implementation recommendations.	Examples of TORs, roadmaps, or investment plans.
Stakeholder engagement	Experience consulting with government agencies, communities, research institutions, and fisheries stakeholders, including gender- and role-sensitive data collection where feasible.	Stakeholder engagement summaries and references.

4. Indicative Key Personnel

The firm should demonstrate that it can mobilize a qualified team. The TOR identifies the following indicative key personnel:

Key Personnel / Expertise	Description
Team Leader / Fisheries Data Management Specialist	Senior fisheries professional with expertise in data systems assessment and Pacific Island fisheries context. Minimum 10 years of experience. FSM or small islands experience preferred.
Data Management Specialist	Experience in data standards, metadata, gap analysis, QA/QC assessment, data-related capacity assessments, and institutional reviews of data systems. Minimum 10 years of experience. FSM or small islands experience preferred.
GIS and Spatial Data Specialist	Experience in spatial data inventory, gap analysis, and prioritization mapping. Minimum 5 years of experience. FSM or small islands experience preferred.
National Liaison Specialist	Knowledge of FSM institutions, fisheries sector, and stakeholder engagement. Minimum 5 years of experience.

Note: Detailed CVs are NOT required at this Stage. However, Firms may provide a brief staffing approach or indicate availability of the required expertise..

5. Selection Process, Associations, and Conflict of Interest

A consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification-based Selection (CQS) procedures set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Seventh Edition, September 2025.

Consulting firms may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should clearly indicate whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire assignment if selected.

Interested firms should provide information on any actual or potential conflict of interest arising from other assignments or conflicting involvement in related assignments.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the applicable provisions of the World Bank Procurement Regulations on conflict of interest, eligibility, and fraud and corruption.

6. Submission Requirements

The Expression of Interest should include the following information, preferably not exceeding 15 pages excluding annexes]:

- Firm profile, legal status, country of registration, and contact details;
- Description of the firm's core business and years in business;
- Summary of no more than five relevant assignments completed during the last 5 years, including client, country, contract value, duration, and firm role;
- Evidence of experience in fisheries data management, coastal fisheries, metadata catalogues, data gap assessments, data governance, GIS mapping, and institutional assessment;
- Brief statement on experience in FSM, Pacific Island countries, or small island developing states;
- Description of any proposed association, joint venture, or sub-consultancy arrangement;
- Statement confirming availability and ability to mobilize for a 12-month assignment involving travel to all four FSM States;
- Conflict of interest declaration.

7. Submission Address and Deadline

Submission deadline	September 28, 2026 3:00 PM Pohnpei Local Time
Submission method	E-mail
Address / email	proper.procurement@norma.fm
Contact person	Okean Ehmes, Project Manager
Clarification deadline	September 17, 2026

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form to the address above by the stated deadline. Late submissions may be rejected in accordance with the applicable procurement procedures.

APPENDIX A - Suggested EOI Submission Forms

Form 1. Firm Information

Provide the firm name, country of registration, address, authorized representative, contact details, legal status, and years in business.

Field	Response

Form 2. Relevant Assignment Experience

Provide details for each relevant assignment: client, country, contract title, contract value, dates, role of the firm, partners, description of services, outputs, and contact reference.

Field	Response

Form 3. Summary of Relevant Technical Experience

Summarize experience in fisheries data systems, metadata catalogues, data quality and gap assessments, institutional assessments, GIS/spatial prioritization, data governance, and Pacific/small island fisheries.

Field	Response

Form 4. Association / Joint Venture / Sub-consultancy Statement

State whether the firm is expressing interest alone, as a joint venture, or with sub-consultants. Identify each partner and its proposed role.

Field	Response

Form 5. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest, including prior or current assignments that may affect the firm's ability to perform the assignment impartially.

Field	Response

APPENDIX B - Optional Internal Shortlisting Worksheet

This worksheet is for Client internal use only and should be tailored to the approved procurement approach. It should not be included in the published REOI unless intended.

Shortlisting Area	Suggested Weight	Evidence to Review	Evaluator Notes
Fisheries data management and data systems assessment experience	25%	Comparable assignments and outputs	
Coastal fisheries and Pacific/small island context	15%	Relevant country and sector experience	
Data quality, metadata, standards, QA/QC, and interoperability	20%	Standards-based work, metadata, QA/QC frameworks	
Institutional/data governance assessment experience	15%	Institutional reviews and governance frameworks	
GIS/spatial prioritization and ecological assessment planning	15%	Mapping and spatial planning outputs	
Quality of EOI, relevance, and clarity of proposed association	10%	Completeness and clarity	

APPENDIX C - Summary Terms of Reference for Publication

FSM currently lacks nationally standardized approaches for fisheries data collection, storage, access, and governance. Prior to implementation investments, FSM requires an assessment of existing datasets, information systems, institutional arrangements, and data/ecological information gaps. The FSM Coastal Fisheries SAR 2023 is the foundational reference for identifying priority data and ecological assessment needs across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

The assignment will produce a data inventory and metadata catalogue, data quality and gap assessment with scoring matrix, institutional capacity assessment focused on data-related capacity, recommended standardized data collection protocols, recommended data storage/access/governance framework, ecological assessment data needs prioritization, four State-specific ecological data collection TORs, a phased data management implementation roadmap, and procurement-ready TORs for subsequent implementation consultancies.

The assignment is assessment and design focused. It excludes implementation training, ecological field surveys, database build-out, protocol validation, mobile application rollout, and management recommendations.