

Term of Reference for developing a management tool for coral reef managers in Seychelles

Background

Seychelles is a unique nation, with 115 islands stretching across an exclusive economic zone of 1.4 million km². This marine area is one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots. The blue economy concept has been adopted by the Seychelles Government to implement and maintain sustainable management of these vast marine resources for present and future generations. Coral reefs form the base of the marine food web that is so paramount in securing biodiversity and safeguarding ecosystem health and food security in the region. Ensuring coral reef (and associated fisheries) persistence is, therefore, a top priority for Seychelles and one that will be hard to deliver, given the increasing frequency and severity of global bleaching events, e.g. the 2016 event that caused widespread mass coral mortality across Seychelles.

Organisations across Seychelles are collecting data and monitoring coral reef health, usually for specific sites or areas. Over the years there has been several forums for coral reef management practitioners to meet and share information, but no central forum has persisted, often meaning that efforts and methods are fragmented between sites.

Under the Seyccat Blue Grants Fund SIF was awarded project funding for the project titled: *"Mapping coral population connectivity and ocean currents to inform management & policy of the coral reef system in Seychelles"*. The third objective under this project is to develop a coral reef management tool to aid practitioners in coordinated and collaborative planning, data collection and management.

The expected outcomes will be:

1. Improved coordination and collaboration of marine research in Seychelles.
2. Increased learning/awareness resources.
3. Increased understanding of marine conservation efforts.
4. Improved use of resources for marine conservation.
5. Streamlined, and therefore more effective, marine conservation efforts.

Specific Role

SIF are looking to contract this work to the appropriate person to carry out the following tasks:

1. Research and investigate the type of management tools used elsewhere to manage coral reef ecosystems.
2. Work with the SIF team to scope out what components would be most useful for reef managers and would help improve management and research connectivity in Seychelles e.g. lists of all current and past research projects with associated literature, monitoring protocols, key research questions, message/advice forum etc. This will be done through a consultation process with reef managers in a web forum.
3. Decide on best platform to launch the tool from with due consideration for its upkeep and maintenance.
4. Design and implement the tool (with potential additional technical assistance depending on candidate).
5. Test the tool and consult stakeholders, review and refine tool, launch tool.

Project deliverables

1. Monthly updates to SIF and regular meetings
2. Initial conception report with project plan and timeline (end of month 1)
3. Mid-term progress report (end of month 3) to include detailed account of scoping exercise and stakeholder engagement.

4. Draft management tool for trial and review (end of month 5)
5. Completed management tool development and launch (end of month 6)
6. Final project report, including details of tool management and upkeep plan (end of month 6)

Required qualifications and skills of the candidate

1. Strong IT skills (essential) and website/app design (desirable)
2. An understanding of coral reef management in Seychelles (essential) and experience in coral reef monitoring or management (desirable).
3. Strong communication skills via email/skype/webinars (essential) and presentations (desirable)
4. Local knowledge of Seychelles (essential) and ability to speak creole (desirable).
5. Excellent coordination and organisation skills and able to work to a deadline.

Duration of Role

The contract duration is 6-month. The candidate will work remotely and will use their own computer to fulfil the contract deliverables.

Contractual arrangements

The service will be overseen by the Seyccat Project team PI's, SIF's Project Officer and Marine Science Officer (based on Aldabra) who will provide ongoing feedback throughout the project. The Project Officer will ensure that the above outputs are met in the agreed timeframe. SIF shall provide necessary support to the service provider in order to execute the assignment through the duration of the project.

Application procedure

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to po2@sif.sc on or before 30th May 2021 along with the following:

1. A technical proposal: Letter of interest, stating why you consider your service suitable for the assignment and a brief methodology on the approach and implementation of the assignment
2. Personal CVs of technical personnel proposed for this project highlight qualifications and experience based on the skill requirements above
3. Work references