THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Blue Carbon Restoration Project

Request for Proposals

March 19th, 2018

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Proposal Request Synopsis

The Ocean Foundation is seeking multi-year proposals under the Ocean Acidification Monitoring and Mitigation project for blue carbon restoration (seagrass, mangrove, or salt marsh) in the Pacific Islands. The Ocean Foundation will fund ONE proposal for the region with a budget not to exceed $90,000 US. The Ocean Foundation is soliciting multiple proposals which will then be reviewed by an expert panel for selection. Projects must be focused in one of the following four countries: Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea or Palau and must be coordinated with ocean acidification monitoring projects recently funded in these same countries by The Ocean Foundation. Proposals are due by April 20th, 2018. Decisions will be communicated by May 18th, 2018 for work to commence no later than December 2018.

Introduction

The Ocean Foundation (TOF) has initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify an organization qualified to conduct a blue carbon restoration project in seagrass, saltmarsh, or mangrove habitat to pilot the use of blue carbon restoration in the local mitigation of ocean acidification (OA). The restoration project must occur in Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, or Vanuatu. The selected organization will be required to work with a TOF-designated science partner in the country of their project. This science partner will be responsible for measuring the carbon chemistry at the restoration site before, during, and after the restoration, to assess the local mitigation of OA. Preference is given if the planting organization has experience implementing or is capable of implementing the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration.

About The Ocean Foundation

TOF is a unique community foundation with a mission to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. TOF works with donors who care about our coasts and ocean to provide financial resources to marine conservation initiatives through the following lines of business: Committee and Donor Advised Funds, Field of Interest grant-making Funds, Fiscal Sponsorship Fund services, and Consulting services. TOF's Board of Directors is comprised of individuals with significant experience in marine conservation philanthropy, complemented by an expert, professional staff and a growing international advisory board of scientists, policy makers, educational specialists, and other top experts. We have grantees, partners, and projects on all the world's continents.

We advance innovative, customized philanthropic solutions for individual, corporate and government donors. We simplify giving so donors can focus on their chosen passion for the coasts and ocean. We focus our collective expertise to generate cutting edge content on emerging threats, potential solutions, and better strategies for implementation. We find, evaluate, and support the most effective marine conservation projects and organizations.

Project Background & Goals

The term "blue carbon" refers to the ability of coastal marine ecosystems—such as mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and saltwater marshlands—to sequester carbon

dioxide and store fixed carbon. As a result of this sequestration, there is less dissolved carbon dioxide available in the water column to form acidic compounds. Therefore, restoring blue carbon habitats can help mitigate the effects of OA on coastal communities.

The Ocean Acidification Monitoring and Mitigation project (OAMM) is a public-private partnership between TOF's International Ocean Acidification Initiative (IOAI) and the U.S. Department of State. OAMM engages government, civil society, and private stakeholders on building capacity of scientists in the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and the Caribbean to monitor OA and pilot the mitigation of OA through blue carbon restoration. The full grant agreement governing this program can be found in **Appendix I.** The component of this project relevant to this RFP, Activity 4, is outlined at the end of this document.

Separate from the objectives outlined in this RFP, this project provides ongoing capacity building support to scientists to allow them to observe local ocean chemistry and share data with the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON). The technicians identified under Activity 4 (see end of document) are those scientists who have been trained and supported through the OAMM project. Names and affiliated institutions of the scientists who have been provided monitoring kits by the Ocean Foundation in your country can be provided upon request. It is imperative that the blue carbon restoration be conducted in coordination with the chemical monitoring team.

Requirements

Blue carbon restoration project proposals must focus on restoration of seagrass, saltmarsh, or mangrove habitat, as identified under activity 4 (above). However, if a saltmarsh or mangrove habitat is selected, the project partner must identify region of water adjacent to the restoration site that is submerged 24 hours a day, to allow for carbonate chemistry water monitoring.

The selected organization and restoration site must be located in Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, or Vanuatu. The selected organization must share its restoration work plan with the TOF-appointed scientist/technician who will be responsible for monitoring the carbonate chemistry at the restoration site before, during, and after restoration.

Submitted proposals must include the following (not to exceed 12 pages – single spaced, 12 pt font):

- A description of the organization's mission and structure
- At least one example of previously successful blue carbon contracts/projects completed by the organization
- Names of at least two partner organizations or references who can speak to the organization's and leader's experience in blue carbon restoration
- A description of the proposed blue carbon restoration project
- A description of the team conducting the restoration, including qualification details

- A timeline of the blue carbon restoration project, including timeline and scope of monitoring activities (which must begin no later than December 2018 but can extend over multiple years)
- The size and characteristics of the area to be restored
- The species being restored with rationale for why that species was chosen
- How the restoration team will work with the chemical monitoring experts, including a proposed monitoring schedule
- The proof of permit and rights to restore in that area
- A detailed budget which cannot exceed US$90,000
- The organization's DUNS number

All applicants to this RFP must agree to abide by all U.S. federal policies that apply to sub-grantees, including those requirements referenced in the prime grant and in the following documents:

1. CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
2. CFR 600 – Biological Products: General
3. OMB Circular A-133 – Adults of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations

Budget

The total budget for the blue carbon restoration project is US$90,000.

Proposed Timeline

The blue carbon restoration must begin no later than December, 2018.

Contact Information

Please direct all responses to this RFP and/or any questions to:

Alexandra Puritz
apuritz@oceanfdn.org

OAMM Project Agreement:
Activity 4. Increased coastal resilience through climate change mitigation and understanding of the role of blue carbon in OA mitigation through support of existing blue carbon restoration projects or initiation of new blue carbon restoration projects that coincide with ocean acidification monitoring efforts;

> 4.1. Blue Carbon Restoration Projects: A minimum of two projects, one in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and one in the PSIDS region will be funded. Blue carbon restoration sites will be selected among participating countries and in consultation with the OAMM Advisory Committee. Support will be given to existing blue carbon restoration projects or initiation of new blue carbon restoration projects. Restoration efforts will focus on mangrove, seagrass or saltmarsh depending upon the ecosystem selected for restoration.

4.2. Monitoring of Blue Carbon Restoration Projects: Monitoring efforts will be conducted before, during, and after the implementation to measure the health of the restored resources and the effect of the restoration on local carbon chemistry (e.g. OA). Specific monitoring metrics will vary depending on the resource to be restored and will be determined in consultation with the OAMM Advisory Committee. Carbon chemistry measurements will be taken by those technicians supported through stipends, or by similarly qualified individuals.

4.3. Implementing mechanism: In consultation with the OAMM Advisory Committee, TOF will identify **[to be done through this RFP solicitation]** local organizations in the target countries to implement restoration and monitoring efforts. TOF will provide specific guidelines for restoration and collect regular reports from the implementing partner on progress.

4.3.1. Site Selection:

4.3.1.1. TOF will identify existing restoration efforts or potential new restoration efforts to select up to three potential sites for restoration efforts in each of the two regions

4.3.1.2. TOF will assess existing sites identified in as to their impact to date, effectiveness of work, quality of implementer, and recommend preferred sites to the OAMM Advisory Committee

4.3.1.3. At least one site in each of the two regions will be selected for restoration in consultation with the OAMM Advisory Committee

4.3.2. Restoration:

4.3.2.1. Selected site(s) will be evaluated for water quality, sediment type, depth, water temperature, and existing damage in order to assess best restoration methodology and establish implementation plan for restoration

4.3.2.2. Restoration will be implemented using identified best practices (e.g. mangrove or salt marsh grass starts grown in a controlled environment, and then hand planted in the field, or seagrass broadcast seeding at a prepared seed bed site)

4.3.2.3. Restoration sites will be monitored every three months for colonization