

Civil Society Engagement and Climate Change in the Pacific: infrastructure and the localisation agenda

Terms of Reference and call for expressions of interest

2 July 2019

1. Background

Established in 2009, the Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network (formerly the ACFID University Network) is an Australian based network of practitioners, researchers and evaluators - working in international development. With currently over 1,900 individuals, the Network has become a key outlet for accessing diverse research expertise, brokering partnerships, convening forums and conferences, as well as supporting ethical research practice among NGOs and academia in Australia. The RDI Network is a partner of and hosted by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

As part of the joint work-plan of RDI Network¹ and DFAT, each year we are committed to developing a policy-relevant piece of research synthesis that brings together available evidence to inform policy and practice in the sector. Together, representatives from DFAT and the RDI Network committee have selected "*Civil Society Engagement and Climate Change in the Pacific*" as a mutually relevant topic.

2. Topic overview

It is well established that climate change has significant implications for the people and States of the Pacific. Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders have consistently recognised that climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people. The effects of climate change are likely to undermine development gains that have been achieved in the region and challenge future development progress.

Civil society groups play an important role in supporting climate resilient development and responses in the Pacific. In this context, civil society organisations extend and deepen social capacity to build more inclusive institutions and governance at all levels. Civil society advocates for the perspectives of women, people of diverse genders, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups, and the ways in which climate change impacts upon them. There is also role for civil society in informing and linking sub-national and national groups,

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as well as international actors on climate-related action. Strong civil societies can only be built through long-term investment – to enhance both technical capacity, strategic alliance building and leadership - requiring sustained commitment.

Inclusive and climate resilient infrastructure for the Pacific

The specific research theme of the proposed paper is on civil society engagement on infrastructure development and will include reference to the two sub-themes of sub-national governance and community inclusion. The intended output will inform engagement in the 2020 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, upcoming Australian infrastructure investment strategies in the Pacific, and the ongoing programs and research of international and local civil society agencies and research institutions.

The Australian government is investing significantly in building infrastructure in the Pacific. Built infrastructure such as telecommunications, energy, transport and water are only part of an integrated approach needed for effective climate resilient infrastructure. To be effective, built infrastructure needs to be integrated within a wider system including food security, emergency systems and environmental security and “soft infrastructure” such as resilient institutions, governance systems and community engagement initiatives. The effects of climate change will challenge the boundaries between humanitarian and development activities and as such, responses to climate change should consider localisation in development programs as well. Resilient infrastructure also needs to be implemented with a strong gender lens.

Locally led decision making and implementation is central to building effective resilience. There is much civil society² can and is doing to progress the localisation agenda in terms of leading climate change response in the Pacific. Civil society also plays a strong role to ensure local inclusion (include gender, disability, and other minorities) in sub-national and community governance decisions and policy for climate resilience at the local level.

The proposed research will explore effective ways for civil society to engage in supporting more inclusive decision-making on climate resilient infrastructure development – including gender and disability - as well as improving the effectiveness of related sub-national governance processes to construct and manage such infrastructure. It will also explore the role of civil society in strengthening soft infrastructure and complementary approaches for built infrastructure investments, with an emphasis on climate change resilience. Engagement is envisaged with both the new Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) as well as existing climate change risk governance work under the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership (APCP), and the 2020 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

² Civil society groups, in this context, include both those domestic Pacific Island Countries and Territories civil society organisations, as well as international groups who work in the region.

Call for Expressions of Interest

The RDI Network is looking to engage a consultant(s) to collaboratively produce an internal working paper for DFAT and a broader public report for the sector.

The relevant audience within DFAT includes the Development Policy Division (DPD), the Sustainability and Climate Change branch and the Office of the Pacific. The public output of this work is aimed at the international development sector engaged in the Pacific, including ACFID members and broader RDI Network membership in Australia and the Pacific.

The scope of the research, in relation to localisation, civil society engagement strategies and types of infrastructure, will be further defined collaboratively with the Steering Group during the early stages of the work. In addition, early engagement with counterparts in the Pacific is envisaged as a key step in shaping the direction.

1. Timeframe and Deliverables

The internal working paper and public report will be produced through desk-based research and synthesis, and through input from relevant experts and Steering Group members at various stages. The Consultant will also be expected to engage with key sector and DFAT staff on the preparation of the paper and in convening a roundtable in Canberra.

Deliverables:

- Sector engagement to facilitate active dialogue on the topic and contributions from existing knowledge and practice, which may comprise workshops or other engagement with CSOs, researchers, the ACFID Community of Practice, and relevant regional bodies (e.g. SPC, SPREP). As per above, engagement with Pacific partners is expected in the early stages of the work.
- A desk review to identify key trends, challenges, opportunities, current engagement in this area (civil society engagement in climate resilient infrastructure in the Pacific), the engagement of other donors, and examples of good practice
- A high-level Roundtable in Canberra with a select number of expert advisors and a cross section of DFAT staff (with RDI Secretariat assistance)
- A brief (no more than 20 pages with executive summary, plus annexes/annotated bibliography or supplementary material) internal working paper with recommendations and case studies, with an accompanying Technical Guidance Note (TGN).
- A public paper (no more than 40 pages with executive summary), and an accompanying communications/dissemination plan.

Timeframe:

August - Consultant(s) begins background research, organises sector engagement and the Roundtable in coordination with the Steering Group.

Aug-Sept - Sector engagement, sourcing relevant documented cases and existing research and evidence. First draft of the internal working paper and a dissemination plan, is

developed and submitted for comment by the Steering Group – allow at least ten working days for comments (first tranche payment)

October - Agenda for the Roundtable and the second draft of the paper is developed and submitted for comment by the Steering Group – allow at least ten working days.

November - Roundtable held in Canberra

Nov-Dec - Consultant(s) consolidate notes from the Roundtable, and the full draft of the internal paper, and a first draft of the public version are submitted for comment by the Steering Group and DFAT – allow at least ten working days (second tranche payment)

Dec- Jan 2020 - Full draft of the public version is submitted for comment by the Steering Group – allow at least ten working days, and the final versions of both papers are edited and submitted (third tranche payment).

Any changes to this timeframe will need to be agreed in advance by the RDI Network and the consultant(s).

The consultant may be required to continue to report to the RDI Network according to their dissemination plan, outside of the contract period.

2. Selection Criteria

The consultant(s) will be expected to have:

- Demonstrated experience in international development in the Pacific, with a particular focus on civil society engagement, infrastructure development and climate change;
- Demonstrated experience in or understanding of localisation, inclusive development or inclusive decision-making processes and project
- Demonstrated experience in secondary source research, critical thinking and analysis skills and demonstrated high-level writing skills with an ability to write for policy audiences with a sound academic basis;
- Existing experience working with DFAT and other sector agencies
- Ability to work collaboratively, seek inputs and establish good working relationships and consult with a diverse group of stakeholders in the production of research products; and
- Experience in the sound design of and the facilitation of collaborative roundtables or workshops.

3. Management

The project will be managed by Dr Philippa Smales, RDI Network and Partnerships Manager, to whom the consultant(s) will report. An RDI Network Steering Group will also have oversight of the work also engage at key points during the process to provide input, constructive critique and additional ideas. The consultant(s) also is expected to be available for regular

teleconferences with the Steering Group. Final approval of the deliverables will be the responsibility of the Steering Group before submission to DFAT, who will also be engaged in a round of review on the draft outputs.

4. Submission of Expressions of Interest

Please send an EOI to Dr Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager, at psmales@acfid.asn.au with:

- A capacity statement on your / your team's suitability, experience and availability to undertake the scope of services as described in the terms of reference and the above selection criteria (max 2 pages);
- A brief statement of the proposed approach for the project with a detailed timeline (max 2 pages);
- Brief samples or a link to two original samples of your own / your teams work; and
- An accompanying consulting budget inclusive of a daily rate (in line with the DFAT Aid Adviser Remuneration Framework) and any anticipated administrative costs (+GST).

Questions can be directed to Philippa Smales via email at psmales@acfid.asn.au or at 03 8373 2551 (before the 24th July please). The RDI Network works in partnership with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and has a secretariat based in Melbourne.

Submissions are requested no later than **Midday (12pm AEST) on Friday 26th July 2019**