

INLAND FISHERIES CONSULTANT – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BY 27 OCTOBER 2021

TOWARDS A SYSTEMATIC GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

This project aims to improve community-based inland fisheries management by creating a stakeholder-focused systematic overarching guide and supporting library to help during design, implantation and adaptive management phases. An iterative process will develop end-user focused material pared down to only the essential information needed by the stakeholder in planning and decisions. Critically, inland fisheries management face different challenges and opportunities to marine fisheries and inland-specific management resources are needed.

In this project, community-based inland fisheries management is defined as focal involvement of the fishing communities in setting-up, running and adaptive management of freshwater and fisheries management activities. This is a multistakeholder process involving the fishing communities, other fishery stakeholders, government agencies, NGOs, external agents, and non-fishing freshwater stakeholders. Identifying the enabling conditions necessary and the respective stakeholders responsible for them will help deliver long-term community and conservation successes.

Over the next four years, TNC's global Freshwater Community-Based Conservation programme will implement community-based conservation fishery co-management in countries across Africa and South America. In these locations, local fishing communities are the ideal group to design and implement fishery management because of their direct connection with fishing activities and intimate understanding of the fishery-specific ecological and human systems.

To assist the creation and sustainability of community-based fishery management, these communities and supporting stakeholders require access to the most relevant and up-to-date information, tools and best practices for successful co-management. Efforts must be made to strengthen the enabling conditions for community-based management organisations to effectively operate, including by government and non-government stakeholders. Critically, each stakeholder must be informed and supported in delivering their respective responsibilities in community-based fishery management activities.

The outputs from this scope of work will serve as the first version of a guide and supporting library. Over the next few years, this guide and library will be further collaboratively refined and developed by in-country practitioners and the wider freshwater and fishery expert community.

CHALLENGES

This project addresses two specific challenges:

1. Inland fishery management is often ad-hoc or hopeful replication of projects considered to be successful elsewhere because there is a lack of clarity in how to systematically implement community-based inland fishery co-management.

We need a deliberate systematic guide to implement inland fishery community-based management which considers the complex and important interactions among fishers, other freshwater stakeholders, and dynamic physical and ecological processes driving inland fisheries. We are particularly interested in implementing community-based fishery management and empowering local communities to have greater responsibility in fisheries and freshwater decisions. The guide should address the specific challenges of inland fisheries, including their dispersed nature as predominantly rural and small-scale, as well as capacity, data and knowledge gaps in these regions. The guide should be organised in a manner to support simple and practical communication to help overcome these gaps, including the potential creation of stakeholder specific sub-guides addressing their respective responsibilities.

2. Inland fishery management stakeholders are unable to fully maximise the knowledge and lessons learned from other inland fisheries because existing resources and lessons are not easily accessed limiting their impact.

A notable range of resources already exists but unfortunately are not easily accessed nor referenced, reducing potential translation and utility. Written resources include reports, collections and tools, often produced at the end of projects. The dispersed and, in some cases, too dense, nature of these resources makes it a challenge to learn from successes and avoid mistakes of other efforts. Moreover, expert and experiential knowledge of inland fishery management are further sources of critical information often not well capture in reports and articles.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking a consultant or consultant team to undertake an initial scope of work to develop the guide. These are 1) carry out a **review of written and expert knowledge** of inland fisheries community-based fisheries management resources and 2) develop a **systematic overarching guide** in how to design, implement and operate community-based fisheries management that distils the information and lessons learned from written and expert knowledge review.

1. Review of written and expert knowledge of inland fisheries community-based fisheries management

The consultant(s) will undertake a review of written and expert knowledge relating to the design, implementation and running phases of inland fisheries community-based management. Of specific interest are the necessary actions to be successful in three phases and identifying responsible groups and activities for each respective action. These groups might include, as either single or combined capacities, fishing communities, other fishery stakeholders, government agencies, NGOs, external agents, and non-fishing freshwater stakeholders.

A range of community-based inland fishery practitioners and experts will be interviewed to identify the necessary actions in the design, implementation and adaptive management phases of inland fisheries community-based management. Practitioner and expert information can provide important insights and discussions not well captured in written outputs. Identifying common actions can help inform the definition of necessary actions as well as drawing up important lessons when things did not work. The group of experts and practitioners interviewed will be decided by TNC and the consultant, with plans for the expert group to be engaged in the planned further refining of the guide in the coming years.

Written references could include but not be limited to peer-reviewed journal articles, project reports, guides, frameworks, tools. English and non-English language materials should be considered. These references should reflect the physical, biodiversity, governance and societal components of inland fisheries. The references found by the consultant(s) should also be collated into an indexed database to form a resource library that can be updated over time as new resources become available after this contract is complete. The library will complement the systematic overarching guide by providing a library which users can refer to help inform decisions. In addition to the references used in the literature review other resources can also be included like presentations, videos and other forms of communication.

Deliverables:

- A review analysing and distilling the collected expert and written knowledge, including:
 - The necessary actions in design, implementation and running phases of inland fisheries community-based management
 - A description of the activities of different stakeholders during the design, implementation and running of community-based fisheries management
 - A SWOT analysis of the different activities
 - A review of the relative successes and lessons-learned of the different projects
 - Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of available resources, including key knowledge gaps which may limit effective community-based fisheries management
- A resource library consisting of a folder (e.g. pdfs) containing the references and an indexed database using a reference manager. Key labels should be included to facilitate searching by inland fishery type, geographical location, stakeholders and stakeholder actions.

2. Systematic overarching guide in the design, implementation and operation community-based inland fisheries management

The consultant will draw upon the review to create a **systematic overarching guide** to inform community-based fishery management activities, covering the design, implementation and adaptive management phases. The guide should be as instructive as possible, detailing the roles and actions of stakeholders involved in community-based inland fishery management either directly or through creation of supportive enabling conditions. This first version of the guide will serve as the general framework to be further refined with the expert group and input from field teams and engaging in inland fishery management.

In addition to the review, the guide should also adhere to the principles of other key documents to maximise the opportunities of a community-based approach like local knowledge, community tenure and gender dynamics. Key references can include the Ecosystem-Approach to Fisheries Management – inland fisheries (FAO 2019)¹ as well as TNC's Voice, Choice, Action Framework (TNC 2018)² and Community-based management of freshwater resources: A practitioners' guide to applying TN's voice, choice, and action framework (TNC 2020)³.

Deliverables:

- Following a systematic framework, develop an instructive guide for community-based inland fishery management including:
 - A general overview of the features and core functions across the design, implementation and adaptive management phases of community-based inland fishery management.
 - Identify the procedural actions to be undertaken to fulfil the core functions including the specific stakeholder(s) responsible.
 - Where different actions can fulfil the same function, provide the range of optional actions and the decision-making process to choose among them.
 - Reference and have links to resources in the supporting library to support effective implementation of actions.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

Milestones and the timeline in the lead up to the delivery of the final deliverables should be proposed by the consultant(s) in their proposal submission. These will be determined as an agreement between TNC and the consultant(s) during negotiation phase but will include draft designs of the review and the guide.

APPLICATION PROCESS

We are open to a diversity of approaches for this project, but given the current pandemic, we are interested in proposals that will conduct desk research and remote interviews via teleconference and draw upon the experts' own and their professional network's experience in inland fisheries management.

We expect regular communication, approximately every 3-4 weeks for the duration of the contract via teleconference on progress and to discuss questions and direction.

All work must be complete, and invoices submitted **by June 15, 2022**.

If interested, please submit a proposal packet to Sui Phang (sui.phang@tnc.org) **by 27th October 2021**. In the proposal, please include:

- Cover letter outlining key relevancies to the proposed work
- Proposal, including proposed approach, elaboration of deliverables, timeline
- Requested budget
- CVs of consultant(s)

Please also email Sui with any questions regarding the proposed scope of work or application process.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This contract work will be managed by Sui Phang (TNC). The draft and final deliverables will be reviewed for quality and scope by TNC members, including staff working at the conservation sites in Africa and South America, and an external advisory committee.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/inland-fisheries/resources/detail/en/c/1207302/>

² https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Strong_Voices_Active.Choices_FINAL.pdf

³ <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133692>