



Donor Funded Staffing Program

Position No:	2021-028
Title:	Senior Fisheries Specialist
Grade:	GG
Division/VPU:	Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice, East Asia and Pacific Region (SEAE1)
Duty Location:	Country Office (CO): Honiara, Solomon Islands
Recruitment and Assignment Type:	International Recruitment, Term Assignment
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two Year Term

BACKGROUND

Global Practice Context

Sustainable environment and natural resources management (ENRM) is at the heart of the WBG's poverty agenda. Biodiversity and natural resources constitute the social safety net of the poor, representing a food bank and often their only source of livelihood. Sustainable ENRM promotes a green, clean, and resilient world where natural resources – from forests to fisheries, freshwater, oceans, coastal zones and ecosystems – are managed to support livelihoods and strong economies. Sustainable ENRM builds a world better prepared for shocks and global challenges, helping countries limit their exposure to resource scarcity, more-volatile weather patterns, and the long-term consequences of climate change.

The Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice has been set-up to deliver on the opportunities, benefits and outcomes offered by enhanced management of the environment and natural resources. The ENB GP has close to 300 operations under management, representing close to \$7 billion, and a growing pipeline of new investments under active development. The practice consists of some 300 staff across the world plus numerous other staff that are professionally associated with it. ENB GP also manages the environmental risk aspects of about 2000 projects in the World Bank's global portfolio. ENB GP has three broad and distinct functions:

1. Provides clients with lending and non-lending services aimed to support the GP's three core business lines, namely: (i) Forests, Watersheds and Sustainable Landscapes; (ii) Marine, Coastal and Aquatic Resources; and (iii) Pollution Management and Environmental Health. The GP's activities also include a focus on Clean and Resilient Growth through its work on environmental economics and support to institutional development.
2. Supports effective environmental risk management and sustainability by managing risk at the project level and creating opportunities to advance sustainable development, in part through the implementation of the Bank's environmental policies.
3. Works closely with other sectors, including by leveraging GEF grant financing, to mainstream environmental considerations into their policies, strategies, and operations.

ENRM activities in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) accounts for a substantial part of the ENB Global Practice's business:

- delivery of about 10 operations per year, amounting to about \$500 million annually
- an active dialogue on regional issues, such as climate change, coastal and marine economies, improving governance of natural resources, watershed management, pollution management, and wealth accounting and valuation of ecosystem services
- about 61 active projects in the ENB portfolio, amounting to around \$1.8 billion, with around 250 active projects in the EAP regional portfolio
- a key characteristic of the Bank program in the region is a high level of decentralization. In 2019, of the 1000 EAP staff, 75% were located in the country level offices, and about 60% of operations were managed and led from the country level offices.

Pacific Island Countries

The Pacific Islands Ocean Region covers some 11 percent of the world's ocean area and is home to 22 small island countries and territories. The economies of Pacific Island countries (PICs), 12 of whom are members of the Bank, are fundamentally shaped by this geography. The region contains one of the highest concentrations of fragile states anywhere in the world. PICs are also marked by their diversity: the development challenges facing larger Melanesian countries are very different from those of the most remote low-populated Micronesian and Polynesian countries with very few natural resources other than fisheries. Despite their diversity, PIC economies are in many cases driven by the transboundary ocean and fishery resources that they share. For some PICs fish stocks comprise the primary natural resource on which future economic growth will be based.

The region's oceanic fisheries supply much of the world's tuna, with global demand steadily increasing. The wider Western Central Pacific Ocean area produced 2.9 million tons in 2018, representing over half of all of the world's tuna catch and yielding first-sale revenues over USD 6.3 billion. Roughly 60 percent of this tuna catch was taken from PIC waters, or some 35 percent of the world's tuna catch. The first-sale value of the tuna caught in PIC waters was estimated to USD 3.4 billion in 2013, of which PICs received roughly 7 percent for access fees paid by largely foreign fleets. This level of return makes it one of the more profitable fisheries in the world, these revenues constitute the largest single source of public revenues for several PICs. However very little value addition takes place within the region, as the diseconomies of isolation reduce the profitability or competitiveness of local tuna handling and processing operations.

The coastal fisheries play a very different but equally crucial role in economies. Although they do not generate significant national revenue, they are crucial supporters of local livelihoods, food security and dietary health in all PICs. Seafood is a primary source of animal protein in diets, and in some countries per capita consumption exceeds 100 kg per year (compared to a global average of 16 kg per year). Coastal fisheries are generally relatively small and localized and support only a few viable, though extremely valuable, export fisheries (for example bêche-de-mer, trochus, and other specialized products), as well as coral reef fisheries for local consumption that are highly susceptible to over-exploitation. Women are particularly dependent on coastal fisheries for informal economic opportunities.

Both the oceanic and coastal fisheries depend on the natural habitats of the Pacific Ocean to sustain them, including coral reef ecosystems, mangroves and wetlands. These habitats have many functions including to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Together the Pacific Ocean's oceanic and coastal fish stocks, and the natural habitats that underpin them, represent a tremendous endowment of shared natural capital throughout the region. Sustaining and enhancing this natural capital provides a wide range

of opportunities to advance the World Bank's twin goals of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity in the Pacific Islands.

Therefore, PICs can leverage their rich marine resource endowments and maximize sustainable and inclusive growth by investing in improved management systems and appropriate infrastructure.

The World Bank's "Blue Business Line" within the Pacific Islands currently consists of 14 investment projects and four technical assistance programs. ENB's active portfolio is approximately USD141 million, with a further USD15 million scheduled for release in fiscal year 2020 (FY20). The current investment projects span over various thematic: fisheries, coastal environment, country and community resilience. The technical assistance focusses on ocean policy, habitats protection and livelihoods, marine pollution, and integrated management and development.

The World Bank supports the **Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)** focusing on oceanic and coastal fisheries. The PROP series of projects has to-date invested more than USD80 million, beginning in implementation with implementation in Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, and one regional institution, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) with the aim to *strengthen the management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend*. Since then, the regional program expanded in FY19/20 to include three more countries -- Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati – with a design amended to reflect the needs of each country diverges from the original model applied to the first cohort of PROP countries.

The next phase of PROP is currently being developed together with regional partners including FFA. Core activities of this new program, to be launched in FY22, are expected to preliminary include:

- Efforts to promote optimization of public revenue and expenditures in the fisheries sector.
- Strengthen management of oceanic fisheries and coastal natural resources.
- Nurture sustainable development of coastal fisheries and associated value-chains.
- Promote diversification of oceanic and coastal fisheries livelihoods.

In parallel, to help PICs address the challenges to socio-economic and environmental sustainability in order to optimize the opportunities of the Blue Economy, the World Bank has initiated the grant-financed **Pacific Ocean Advisory Program**. This program supports activities on analytics, technical assistance, knowledge exchange and policy dialogue that are expected to lead to:

- strengthened knowledge on how fisheries contribution to revenue, employment, livelihoods and food security and sovereignty can be increased together with resilience to shocks including climate change;
- inputs to policies, strategies and other instruments needed to achieve these objectives;
- informing investment financing, including the next generation of PROP projects;
- improving implementation performance of PROP/strengthening client capacity.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The World Bank Group (WBG) is seeking to recruit a Senior Fisheries Specialist, to be stationed in Honiara, Solomon Islands to support the growing fisheries management engagement in the Pacific Islands Region.

The Senior Fisheries Specialist will work under the supervision of the SEAE1 Practice Manager based in Singapore, in close collaboration with the SEAE1 blue economy team based in Sydney, Suva and Washington, DC.

S/he will have the following key responsibilities as agreed with her/his Practice Manager based on an annual Result Agreement:

- Assist or lead implementation of PROP country and regional agency-led projects, including by providing technical and advisory support to the projects' Task Team Leaders and client countries, reviewing technical and policy documents and providing comments, draft briefs, and helping preparation of global, national and regional technical and sectoral events, as needed;
- For projects in design, with the team: proactively engage and lead engagement with eligible countries and agencies for oceanic and coastal fisheries activities; identify development objectives, indicators, targets and activities/projects to contribute to the Bank's corporate goals; design subsequent institutional arrangements and investments at regional and national levels.
- Lead and support World Bank technical teams in supervising and preparing investments in the Blue Economy space, including on e.g., oceanic and coastal fisheries, aquaculture, coastal and marine planning, marine pollution issues, and coastal ecosystem health and broader Blue Economy agenda, with a particular focus on the Pacific Island Countries;
- Provide support to or lead Bank teams on fisheries and coastal zone management policy issues, sector strategies, policy, regulatory and institutional issues, and analytical work and other advisory services both at country and regional levels;
- Proactively expand the World Bank's collaboration with technical and development partners in the Blue Economy across the SEAE1 Region; and
- Promote integration of the Blue Economy within World Bank's country strategies and partnership framework and other policy notes;
- Provide support to Bank teams on fisheries and coastal management policy issues, sector strategies, regulatory and institutional issues, and analytical work and other advisory services both at country and regional levels; and,
- Identify and document experiences, lessons learned and good practices from fisheries and seafood sector activities and engagements in EAP and beyond.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Advanced degree (PhD or Masters) in fisheries management, economics or development, or other relevant disciplines (e.g. applied economics).
- A minimum of 8 years of full-time relevant professional experience in fisheries resources management and development fields.
- Sound knowledge of policy, technical, institutional and political economy issues in the fisheries and seafood sector, good understanding of, and prior experience with international agreements and negotiations in the sector, and development aid.
- A consistent track record in strategic engagement experience with multidisciplinary teams, and with senior-level NGOs, international organizations, development partners and/or government.
- Demonstrated ability to leading task and teams.
- Strong operational track record with demonstrated ability to undertake analytical work, review fish sector policies, and proven track record of ability to integrate analytical work with operations.
- Strong analytical skills, ability to think strategically, analyze and synthesize diverse qualitative and quantitative environment-related data and information. Ability to follow up multiple work-streams simultaneously.

- Ability to work well with a range of stakeholders, including project-affected parties, government officials, non-governmental organizations / civil society, as well as project investors and their staff.
- Ability to work in an intercultural environment, independently and with a team with limited supervision. Good team player who can work as a member of a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team, motivate and lead group efforts and network effectively across boundaries.
- Excellent English language skills (writing, speaking, listening and reading) are essential. Knowledge of other languages spoken in the region will be an advantage.
- Strong social and communication skills. Ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently, articulate issues and recommend solutions.
- Ability and willingness to travel frequently in developing countries and possibly remote, fragile and conflict affected areas, is required.
- International experience is an advantage; experience in developing countries / emerging economies is a strong advantage. Experience in the Pacific would be an advantage.
- Demonstrated project management / operational skills and familiarity with Bank procedures and business practices, including the WBG safeguard policies, would be an advantage.