



## **Blue Carbon Policy, Philippines (Contractor Role)**

*Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (Readiness for Tañon Strait Protected Seascape)*

### **Overview:**

This is an Blue Carbon Policy, Philippines Consultant role home-based in the Philippines, ideally in or near Tañon Strait Protected Seascape. The duration of the contract is 6 months (June – December 2024). Please note that this contract is remote.

### **About Rare:**

Rare inspires change so people and nature thrive. For over 45 years, across 60 countries, we have been a global leader in driving social change for people and nature. We believe that the cumulative power of individual and community action is a vital pathway to safeguarding and restoring our shared waters, lands, and climate. Rare's Innovative Finance (IF) program is developing pathways to sustainable finance-based solutions to enable households, microbusinesses, and local governments to build more resilient coastal communities, and sustainably manage their blue carbon ecosystems. The nature-based financing portfolio contributes to IF programs' broader sustainable finance-based solutions as well as the goals of Fish Forever (FF), Rare's flagship marine and small-scale fisheries program across eight countries worldwide. FF's aim is to enable the effective management of coastal fisheries in an ecosystem context, where the protection of the environment and the use of these natural assets, is linked directly to building resilient coastal communities.

### **About the Project:**

Rare is seeking a consultant to provide research support around local and national policy (current and emerging) that relates to blue carbon efforts and coastal ecosystems. The consultant would focus primarily on regulations and policies related to Tañon Strait Protected Seascape in the Philippines but might require a national outlook as well. The consultant would provide research support to the blue carbon Pre-Feasibility Assessment (PFA) that is also being conducted as part of this project by Silvestrum Climate Associates. The PFA will be inclusive of blue carbon local and national policies with special attention to land tenure and carbon market/natural asset policies, and thus this consultant should provide additional research and support on these topics in addition to other related local and national policies and regulations. The consultant will also support a set of 1 – 3 stakeholder consultation workshops on blue carbon activities and enabling conditions.

Both areas of support contribute to Rare's Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF) readiness project that aims to empower coastal communities for sustainable blue carbon win-win benefits. The focus of this BCAF project is on early-stage blue carbon feasibility assessments and community empowerment. BCAF's support for this project will be instrumental for Rare to conduct a coastal blue carbon market project feasibility assessment paired with a local stakeholder assessment.

Consultants should have experience in blue carbon and/or coastal nature-based solutions (NbS) policy and regulations, as well as excellent organizational, research, and writing skills.

The consultant will be reporting to the Director of Natural Climate Solutions, Blue Carbon who is based in Berlin, Germany and coordinating closely with the members of the Rare Philippines team. The consultancy may include limited domestic travel in the Philippines.

### **Key Deliverables:**

In line with the above-mentioned objectives, Rare is seeking a local blue carbon policy consultant to support the activities under BCAF. Deliverables will include:

1. **Local Blue Carbon Regulatory Assessment.** (Deadline: July 30, 2024) Provide an overview of the regulatory and policy environment related to blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes) and blue carbon project enabling conditions, particularly focused at the local and sub-national level in TSPS. The assessment will contribute to the PFA and be included as an additional supplement. The assessment could include, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. An assessment to what extent regulations on forest carbon MRV and crediting, including REDD+ apply to blue carbon interventions in the Philippines and in TSPS in particular
  - b. An assessment of type of permits, approvals, contractual tools, if any, needed at the different levels of government, as well as with communities and other non-state actors, to establish access and ownership/use of a potential project areas within the TSPS;
  - c. An assessment of regulatory and/or policy benchmarks for community involvement in blue carbon projects;
  - d. An assessment of regulatory, administrative, and tenure-specific gaps that may create risks for blue carbon development.
2. **Guidance and participation in TSPS blue carbon stakeholder workshops.** (Deadline: September 2024) Participate in the planning sessions for approximately 3 stakeholder workshops, including providing guidance and feedback on agenda setting and potentially present or support the presentation of blue carbon policies at different levels related to TSPS (national, sub-national and local). We expect the consultant to participate in the workshops in-person and provide support in the preparation and day-of assignments to make the workshops productive and successful. Duties could include but not limited to:
  - a. Support the Rare Philippines Team and its site coordinators for preparations ahead of the site visit associated with the Pre-Feasibility Report and workshops
  - b. Present on regulatory assessment findings, when appropriate
3. **Provide additional advice around blue carbon policy development and implementation.** (Deadline: December 2024) Serve as a point person for additional research needs, as identified by the Rare team to support the BCAF project. Duties may include but not limited to:
  - a. Writing or editorial support for BCAF project reports
  - b. Documentation of BCAF activities, notetaking, for reporting purposes

### **Contractor Experience/Requirements:**

- Proven track record performing blue carbon feasibility studies/pre-feasibility assessments
- University degree in Innovative Finance, Policy & Governance, Climate Change, or related fields
- More than 3 years working on policy or with government on topics related to coastal nature-based solutions (blue carbon)

- Experience with or established professional relationships with local, national or sub-national government in the Philippines
- Exceptional writing and communication skills in the English language
- Based in the Philippines
- Demonstrated ability to engage and work with multiple stakeholders to achieve inclusion and coordination among partners
- Demonstrated experiences in blue carbon policy or science to understand the latest trends, preferred
- Experience working in a cross-cultural environment with NGOs, government partners, academia, and other relevant stakeholders
- Access to the internet and computer equipment to be able to communicate by email and have Zoom calls is essential

#### **Payments Milestone**

- The budget available for this consultancy is a maximum of max. of up to AUD 9,672/ USD \$6,344
- Payments will be made respectively following the achievement of 1) contract signature (25%), 2) local blue carbon regulatory assessment delivered (25%), and 3) completion of other duties upon end date (50%). The contract price will be a fixed output-based price regardless of any potential, mutually agreed upon extension of the herein-specified duration.

#### **Expressions of Interest:**

Please Email the following documents to: [lschindlermurray@rare.org](mailto:lschindlermurray@rare.org) by **11:59PM Central European Time on Sunday, May 26** with the subject line: **“Consultant: Local Blue Carbon Policy PH”**

- Letter of Interest, inclusive of a short proposal outlining how you would plan to address the deliverables, approximate timeline and associated budget
- Resume

**Applications submitted without a Letter of Interest will not be considered.**

**\*\* Please visit our website at [www.rare.org/careers](http://www.rare.org/careers) to view the full Terms of Reference for this consultancy. \*\***