

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

IDENTIFICATION

Research consultancy	Human Atlas of Marine Conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean
Project	Interdisciplinary Fisheries Project

INTRODUCTION:

The Charles Darwin Foundation's Interdisciplinary Fisheries Project for the Galapagos Islands (CDF) has established the Galapagos Fisheries Think Tank (GFTT), a group of CDF researchers and direct collaborators. The GFTT core team comprises scientists from diverse disciplines and academic backgrounds who share a common interest in better understanding and managing marine socio-ecological systems. The CDF has launched the Socioeconomic Research Network for the Conservation of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (Red-MOPTO) as an expansion of its previous work. This initiative, supported by an anonymous donor, connects scientists from around the world, and various institutions with a focus on marine and coastal studies. These scientists have conducted and continue to conduct diverse studies that address the complexity of the interdependence between human and ecological systems, with an emphasis on the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) and the communities within its influence.

The Red-MOPTO is committed to driving sustainable development in the region through innovative projects, knowledge generation, and policy advice. Our mission is to be a leading voice in marine conservation, ocean governance, and economic development. By fostering inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, the Red-MOPTO promotes the integration of research findings into public policy. To achieve its goals, the network aims to: a) support blue economy initiatives through research, b) develop regional projects, and c) promote the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources for the benefit of regional communities, all of which are crucial for informed and effective decision-making in management.

From 2023 to 2024, Red-MOPTO members worked on developing a Strategic Plan, outlining the network's vision, mission, objectives, and research priorities. The plan was finalized in April 2024 coinciding with the UN Ocean Decade Conference, members met to formalize the creation of the network, update the strategic plan, and propose research prototypes, one of which is the study addressed in this consultancy.

The Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) is a vast marine region spanning from Mexico to Ecuador, known for its high biodiversity and ecological connectivity. This consultancy also encompasses Peru, whose coastline is influenced by the ETP Marine Corridor. The ETP serves as a vital habitat for a diverse range of marine species, including migratory, endangered, and protected species that seasonally traverse its waters.

The ETP is also rich in marine resources essential for the livelihoods of coastal communities. The health of its marine and coastal ecosystems is vital for various economic activities carried out by these communities, including nature-based tourism, artisanal fishing, maritime transport, and research. Effective management and governance of marine and coastal areas, as well as the sustainable development of economic activities, are key to ensuring the long-term conservation of the ETP's marine and coastal ecosystems and the well-being of its communities.

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In order to do this, it is essential to understand how these human populations are composed, how they relate to marine and coastal ecosystems, how they use their resources, how the benefits generated are distributed, among others. However, to date, there are significant knowledge gaps regarding such basic aspects as the characterization of the socioeconomic conditions of coastal communities settled in the ETP influence zones.

In this context, and with the aim of generating socioeconomic information and knowledge to support the understanding and management of marine and coastal socio-ecosystems along the ETP, the CDF requires the hiring of a consultancy to carry out the study “**Human Atlas of Marine Conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean**”. The terms of reference for this consultancy are detailed below.

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal:

To characterize the socioeconomic conditions of the communities and/or human populations settled in the ETP influence zones, covering the marine protected areas on the Pacific coast of Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and the coastal and insular region of Ecuador.

Objectives:

1. **Develop a review of the scientific and grey literature** relevant to demographic, socioeconomic, and/or human development indicators, presenting results that complement the identified data sources.
2. Develop a **methodological proposal for the selection of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** of the ETP and the communities settled in their areas of influence, to be prioritized in this consultancy.
3. Develop a **methodological proposal for the selection and standardization of a system of demographic, socioeconomic, and/or human development indicators** that allow for the characterization and comparison between coastal communities in the influence zones of the Marine Protected Areas prioritized in this consultancy. This selection of indicators should not be an extensive list of them, on the contrary, it should include a select group of rigorously selected indicators that sufficiently convey the state of human populations neighboring marine protected areas and allow for some level of comparison between countries.
4. **Develop protocols to regularly update the collected indicators, specifying data sources and update frequencies for each indicator.**
5. Identify **information gaps** regarding key socioeconomic aspects in the ETP region, differentiated by country and Marine Protected Area, and **propose strategies to fill these gaps**

CONSULTANT PROFILE:

General competencies

- Professional(s) with a bachelor's degree in fields such as economics, statistics, sociology, anthropology or related fields. A master's degree is highly desirable.

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- Experience in systematizing, managing, analyzing and interpreting databases from different sources.
- Experience in using information from official sources of Latin American countries; experience in using information from ETP countries is highly desirable.
- Experience working with government and non-governmental information, and a high understanding of information needs within the public sector.
- Experience working with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teams.
- Experience in using geographic information systems is highly desirable.
- Experience in developing systematic literature reviews is required.

Skills

- Ability to prepare and deliver public presentations.
- Ability to manage diverse information sources, build databases and communicate data, in simple terms to diverse audiences.
- Good written communication skills in Spanish and English.
- Ability to write research reports.
- Ability to manage interpersonal relationships, in multicultural and multidisciplinary environments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1. Conduct a review of relevant scientific and grey literature on demographic, socioeconomic, and/or human development indicators, presenting results that complement identified data sources.
2. Develop a methodological proposal for the selection of Marine Protected Areas in the ETP and the communities settled in their influence zones, to be prioritized in this consultancy.
3. Develop a methodological proposal for the selection and standardization of a system of demographic, socioeconomic, and/or human development indicators, that allow for the characterization and comparison between coastal communities in the influence zones of the Marine Protected Areas prioritized in this consultancy.
4. Select indicators rigorously through which the state of human populations neighboring the marine protected areas is sufficiently transmitted and allow for some level of comparison between countries.
5. Establish protocols for the future updating of the collected indicators, identifying routes/links to the information sources and the publication frequency for each source or indicator.
6. Identify information gaps regarding key socioeconomic aspects in the ETP region, differentiated by country and Marine Protected Area.
7. Propose strategies to fill these gaps.

DELIVERABLES:

Deliverables / Reports	Deadline	Corresponding payment
Revised work plan	At the signing of the contract	15%
1. Report with a literature review that informs the selection of demographic, economic,	30 days after signing the contract	

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and/or human development indicators, and the prioritization of Marine Protected Areas and influence zones of the ETP		
<p>2. Report with a description and application of criteria for the prioritization of Marine Protected Areas of the OPTO and their respective influence zones.</p> <p>Appendix: Database with a list of Marine Protected Areas and coastal communities of the ETP to be prioritized, influence zones, and data that were used to apply the prioritization criteria.</p>	60 days after signing the contract	20%
<p>3. Report describing the process of selecting criteria and their application for the selection of Marine Protected Areas and coastal communities, and influence zones to be prioritized in this consultancy</p> <p>Appendix: Database with a list of Marine Protected Areas, their respective influence zones, and data that were used to apply the prioritization criteria.</p> <p>Presentation: Presentation of preliminary results.</p>	90 days after signing the contract	10%
<p>4. Report with a description of the information sources used, discussion of the criteria for selecting indicators, and a description of the data collection and processing process for its systematization and standardization.</p> <p>Appendix: Database with selected indicators, data available from public sources, and information source classified by Marine Protected Area, settled community, influence zone, and country.</p>	120 days after signing the contract	20%
<p>5. Final report of the consultancy, including: a) introduction, b) description of materials and methods employed, c) results obtained, d) discussion section on information gaps and strategies to address them, and e) conclusions.</p>	150 days after signing the contract	15%
<p>Revised version of the final report to the satisfaction of CDF and folder compiling the annexes (reports of each product and databases).</p>	180 days after signing the contract	20%

DURATION:

Duration (term): 6-month consultancy

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Work location: Remote

Language: Spanish or English

APPLICATION:

Submit a letter of interest, a work plan (maximum two pages), a curriculum vitae, and a financial proposal to the following email: carolina.paez@fcdarwin.org.ec until November 24th, 2024