GIZ Pacific Island Region
Advisor for High Seas Biodiversity
Duty Station -Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Main Role

The Living High Seas initiative supports the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), with a focus on advancing area-based management tools (ABMTs), including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Implemented by GIZ in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), the project works with partner countries, regional institutions and international stakeholders to develop evidence-based, collaborative and effective approaches to improved high seas biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Reporting Relationship

The Advisor reports directly to the regional implementation manager. In the Pacific, the initiative seeks to strengthen and support national and regional efforts, promote cooperation and support the development of ABMT/MPA proposals that contribute to global biodiversity objectives.

As the Advisor – High Seas Biodiversity, you will provide technical, strategic and operational guidance to support the implementation of Living High Seas activities in the Federated States of Micronesia and the wider Pacific region.

Major Functions

- Lead and coordinate assigned project activities at national and regional levels, ensuring alignment with project objectives, work plans, timelines and expected results.
- Coordinate the implementation of activities supporting the development of high seas ABMT/MPA proposals in close collaboration with national, regional and international partners and stakeholders.
- Provide technical and policy advice to government institutions, political decision-makers, involved authorities and relevant stakeholders on high seas biodiversity conservation, ocean governance and BBNJ Agreement implementation.
- Facilitate the alignment of project interventions with national priorities, regional commitments and relevant international frameworks.
- Support the identification and assessment of potential high seas conservation sites using available scientific evidence, marine biodiversity information, ecological assessments and relevant cultural knowledge.
- Work closely with scientific and technical partners to translate scientific and other knowledge findings into practical management recommendations and site-specific ABMT/MPA proposals.
- Plan, facilitate and coordinate national and regional stakeholder consultations involving government institutions, regional organisations, research institutions, civil society and other relevant actors.
- Facilitate dialogue, consensus-building and validation of proposed ABMT/MPA measures, including zoning arrangements, conservation priorities and management actions.
- Identify capacity development needs and coordinate technical assistance, training and knowledge-sharing activities for national and regional partners.
- Strengthen institutional, technical, legal, communication and facilitation capacities required for the collaborative development, management and governance of high seas ABMTs/MPAs.
- Provide technical support to relevant institutions in identifying and developing appropriate regulatory, institutional and governance arrangements for BBNJ Agreement implementation.
- Support the development of suitable approaches for the effective management and long-term governance of proposed ABMTs/MPAs.
- Maintain close coordination with the global Living High Seas team, consortium partners, regional project teams and implementing partners to promote harmonised implementation.

Experiences & Qualification

- Advanced degree in ecology, marine sciences, biology or other directly related disciplines – *or* – Advanced degree in law, management or political science, with institutional experience in the environmental sector.
- A minimum of eight years of professional experience in the marine conservation and sustainable resource management sector in the Pacific
- A minimum of five years of relevant professional experience in international project implementation including in providing guidance to implementing partners and contracted consultants
- Experience in advising (senior) decisionmakers and experts in government institutions on strategic/legal/policy development
- Excellent network with institutional and individual stakeholders in the Pacific, and, preferably, in the Federated States of Micronesia and/or neighboring countries
- Very good knowledge of ocean governance issues, in particular on transboundary seascape governance, fisheries management and BBNJ related topics
- Very good self-organization, quick comprehension, flexibility, service orientation, reliability and ability to work in an international and geographically spread global team
- Strong communication skills, excellent moderation skills and strategic intuition
- Very good editorial skills and fluency in English, solid language skills in French are an advantage

Our offer:

Remuneration package to commensurate with qualification and experience. To source full Terms of Reference of the role, please email:
Ms. Salote Dau, Senior HR Officer on salote.dau@giz.de (**This position is open to Pohnpei nationals only).**

All applications including achievement- oriented CV with details of three referees and accompanying documents should be sent by email to Ms. Salote Dau, Senior HR Officer on salote.dau@giz.de or by post/ hand delivered **no later than 4.00p.m Friday, 27 November 2026 addressed** to:

VACANCY – Advisor for High Seas Biodiversity
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