

Application Form

PCCC-JICA Mentoring Service for the Public and Private Collaboration for Climate-Resilient Pacific

Note for applicants
- Applicants must include information about a project under development by filling each item on the application form. - The total number of pages for the application <u>should be minimum 5 pages and maximum 10 pages</u> (excluding supplemental materials). - An application for the Mentoring Service must be sent to the PCCC-ISPCCR (agnesw.ext@sprep.org and taiji.ext@sprep.org) by 06 August 2025.

1. Information of applicant

Date of submission	28/July/2025
Country	Papua New Guinea
Organization	Seekers Consulting Services
Department/ Division	Agriculture & Fishery
Name of contact person	Melchior Yowei
Position in organization	Founder & Director
Contact information	E-mail: seekers.consulting.png05@gmail.com Phone: (+675) 74208050/ WhatsApp: (+675) 81257387
PCCC training programs or capacity building programs which you attended	☐ Hazard and Risk Assessment for Coastal Area Management by Using Remote Sensing Technology (Nov 2019) ☐ Climate Science – Observed Climate Change and Future Climate Projections (Sep 2020) ☐ Understanding Access to Climate Finance, Part 1: Essential Aspects for Access to Climate Finance (Nov 2020) ☐ Understanding Access to Climate Finance, Part 2: Gender, Social Inclusion and Safeguards (Nov – Dec 2020) ☐ Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction through Structural Approaches (Mar 2021) ☐ Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Mitigation (Jun – Jul 2021) ☐ Climate Resilience and Food Production Systems – Agriculture and Coastal Fisheries (Sep – Oct 2021)

	☐ Enhancing Climate Resilience in Tourism in The Pacific (Jan – Feb 2022) ☐ Enhancing Climate Resilience and Safe Water Access in Rural Areas in the Pacific (May 2022) ☐ Health Systems and Climate Change: Enhancing Resilient and Low-carbon Development in the Pacific (Sep – Oct 2022) ☐ Climate change impacts and innovative solutions in the Pacific (Sep 2024) ☒ Others (please specify the name of the PCCC training course or capacity building program) ☒ <i>Orientation session for PCCC Mentoring Service on the Formulation of Climate Change Projects through Public and Private Collaboration in the Pacific – 24 July 2025 (Virtual)</i>
--	---

2. Information of a project under development

1. Project Title	Sabosa Smart Agriculture and Resilience Initiative (SSARI)
2. Themes	☐ Energy ☒ Agriculture and fishery ☐ Tourism ☐ Water ☐ Urban resilience
3. Country(ies)	Papua New Guinea
4. Project objectives and project components	
4.1 Overall Objective To empower remote communities in Nuku District, West Sepik Province through climate-smart agriculture and sustainable aquaculture, with a strong focus on cocoa development, to enhance food security, generate income, and build resilience to climate change.	
4.2 Main Components <i>1. Climate-Smart Agriculture (Cocoa Agroforestry Focus)</i> - Promote organic and sustainable farming practices suitable for local conditions. - Train farmers in climate-resilient cocoa production and income diversification.	

- Establish and rehabilitate cocoa plots using improved seedlings and agroforestry methods.
- Support post-harvest processing including fermentation, solar drying systems, and packaging for market access.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Develop small-scale community-managed fishponds for local food supply and income.
- Train communities in fish hatchery management, local feed production, and sustainable aquaculture.
- Integrate aquaculture and agriculture to support productivity and environmental balance.

3. Farmer and Fishery Cooperatives

- Form or strengthen community-based cooperatives to improve production, storage, and sales.
- Facilitate links with buyers, processors, and agricultural service providers.
- Enable access to finance and business development services.

4. Youth and Women Empowerment

- Train women and youth in cocoa farming and aquaculture skills.
- Promote leadership, entrepreneurship, and the establishment of small agribusinesses.
- Conduct grassroots awareness on climate change adaptation and food systems resilience.

5. Infrastructure and Climate Resilience Demonstration

- Construct and upgrade community-level cocoa fermentation and solar drying facilities, as well as fish storage infrastructure.
- Develop demonstration farms showcasing best practices in cocoa agroforestry and aquaculture.
- Encourage local innovation, indigenous knowledge sharing, and replication of sustainable models.

5. Alignment with national and sectoral policies and strategies

Alignment with National and Sectoral Policies:

The project aligns with the following national and sectoral strategies:

1. Papua New Guinea's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
2. National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
3. Vision 2050 and Medium-Term Development Plan III (MTDP III)
4. Department of Agriculture and Livestock's Food Security Policy

It contributes directly to:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Food security
- Sustainable rural livelihoods
- Gender equality and youth inclusion

6. Justification of climate rationale (mitigation and/ or adaptation)

Addressing Climate Change through Cocoa and Fisheries Development in Rural PNG

Papua New Guinea and many Pacific Island nations are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, shifting weather patterns, and ecosystem degradation threaten food security, biodiversity, and livelihoods. This project offers a climate-resilient model focused on sustainable cocoa production, aquaculture, and solar-powered post-harvest technologies.

6.1 Climate Adaptation Strategies

- **Climate-Resilient Cocoa Farming:**
Cocoa is a perennial, renewable crop that withstands environmental stress better than many annuals. Its deep root systems stabilize soil, improve water retention, and reduce erosion during extreme weather events like floods or droughts.
- **Aquaculture as a Stable Food Source:**
Inland fish farming is less affected by rainfall variability, sea-level rise, and marine disruptions. It ensures year-round access to protein, reduces dependence on unpredictable marine fisheries, and supports food security.
- **Training and Local Capacity Building:**
The project will introduce adaptive practices in farming, water use, and post-harvest storage to help rural communities prepare for and cope with the effects of climate change.

6.2 Climate Mitigation Strategies

- **Carbon Sequestration through Cocoa Cultivation:**
Cocoa trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and release oxygen, making them effective carbon sinks. By promoting cocoa farming as a renewable

land use, the project helps offset emissions and contributes to long-term carbon storage in biomass and soil.

- **Reducing Deforestation through Solar Drying Systems:**

Currently, many farmers rely on burning firewood to dry cocoa, which accelerates deforestation and releases greenhouse gases. Introducing solar-powered cocoa dryers will:

- Eliminate the need for cutting trees as firewood
- Preserve natural forests that are critical for carbon absorption
- Reduce emissions from biomass burning

- **Organic and Low-Emission Practices:**

The project promotes organic farming practices that avoid synthetic fertilizers and chemicals, further reducing emissions and protecting water sources.

- **Promotion of Low-Carbon Livelihoods:**

By integrating cocoa and aquaculture — both renewable and environmentally friendly activities — the project reduces reliance on high-emission livelihoods such as logging, slash-and-burn farming, or fossil-fuel-powered practices.

6.3 Relevance to Pacific Climate Priorities

This project directly aligns with the Pacific region's climate resilience agenda by addressing:

- **Sea-Level Rise:**
Diversifying income inland through cocoa and freshwater fish farming
- **Drought and Rainfall Irregularities:**
Promoting drought-resilient crops and year-round aquaculture production
- **Environmental Degradation:**
Preserving forests and biodiversity by replacing firewood with solar energy

7. Draft theory of change [OPTIONAL]

Theory of Change (Optional):

- **Inputs:** Seedlings, fingerlings, solar drying equipment, training materials, local experts
- **Activities:** Plot establishment, pond construction, training workshops, infrastructure setup
- **Outputs:** Skilled farmers, improved post-harvest systems, community cooperatives
- **Outcomes:** Increased food security, climate resilience, and household income
- **Impact:** Long-term adaptation to climate shocks and reduced rural poverty

8. Describe how the project promotes collaboration between public and private sector, and describe the name of the private company/ state-owned enterprise or another private sector actor that are/ can be involved in project financing or implementation.

Public-Private Collaboration:

8.1 Private Sector Partners

1. Seekers Consulting Services – Project lead: planning, training, coordination, and community mobilization

2. Local Cocoa and Fishery Cooperatives – Responsible for production, sustainability, and marketing

8.2 Public Sector Partners

1. Nuku District Development Authority (DDA) –
 - Land access facilitation
 - Government support and local development alignment
2. District Department of Agriculture & Livestock (DAL) –
 - Technical guidance in cocoa and aquaculture
 - Informal extension services
3. Community Leaders and Ward Councils –
 - Mobilization of community support
 - Cultural oversight and village-level coordination

This joint effort ensures shared ownership, improved sustainability, and stronger community trust.

9. History of stakeholder consultation and communication with the relevant ministries including climate change focal point agency

Stakeholder Consultation History:

- Held dialogue sessions with Nuku District Administration, Ward Councillors, and community elders.
- Early engagement with PNG Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA).
- Community feedback collected on priorities (cocoa, aquaculture, drying systems).
- Strong community support confirmed for land use and piloting.

10. Targeted climate financial sources if any (e.g. GCF, Adaptation Fund, bilateral donors, multilateral development banks)

Targeted Climate Finance Sources:

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Proposal submitted
- Global Partnership for Education (GPE) – Submitted under education-climate resilience theme
- World Bank – Proposal under review

- UNDP Small Grants Programme, GCF, Adaptation Fund – Identified for future submission
- Others being explored: DFAT small grants, UNDP Small Grants Programme, Adaptation Fund, GCF

11. Human or financial support currently receiving for project formulation and implementation

Current Human and Financial Support:

- Voluntary leadership and coordination by Seekers Consulting Services
- Community labor and land access provided by local cocoa and fishery group
- Technical advice/support from:
 1. District Department of Agriculture & Livestock (DAL)
 2. EU rural cocoa initiatives (informal collaboration)
- No formal financial support secured to date; multiple funding applications pending

12. Description of institutional set-up for project formation

Institutional Set-Up:

- Lead Entity: Seekers Consulting Services (community-led, in the process of registration)
- Local Partner Group: Active agriculture group in Sabig/Nuku with cocoa and aquaculture experience
- Technical Partners: District DAL, local trainers, informal EU collaboration
- Support Structure: Village working group of elders, youth, and women under SCS
- Goal: Formal registration to enhance donor engagement and implementation capacity

13. Expected schedule for project formulation and implementation

Expected Timeline:

Period	Activity
Aug–Sep 2025	Stakeholder mobilization, mentoring, and planning
Oct–Dec 2025	Finalize concept notes, secure technical inputs
Q1 2026	Submit full proposals to climate and development funders
Q2–Q3 2026	Launch pilot cocoa and aquaculture projects (incl. solar drying)

Late 2026 onward	Full-scale implementation and rollout to additional villages	
Late 2026 onward: Full implementation phase		
14. References for existing feasibility studies, and projects/experience on which the proposal is based, etc.		
References and Past Experience: - Coordinated St. Mathew Junior High School construction and development in Nuku District - Led proposal development for JICA, World Bank, and GPE - Trained community groups in proposal writing, project planning, and livelihoods - Current community-based initiatives include: - Community Development Training Initiative (family resilience and livelihoods) - Seekers Consulting Grassroots Program (education, agriculture, climate change)		
15. Other related projects being implemented, under formulation, or under the approval process, if any.		
Other Related Projects: - Mt. Bosavi Conservation Collaboration: Supporting the development of their 5-Year Development Plan and project proposal writing to strengthen conservation and community benefits. - Community Development Initiative: Delivering training programs focused on social responsibility, family obligations, and grassroots capacity building in remote and rural areas. - Seekers Consulting Services: Facilitating community dialogues and technical support to empower families and youths through climate-smart solutions and self-sufficiency models. - Community-level agricultural training and resilience initiative under design - Linkages with local school-based agricultural learning projects		