REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
N40192-20-R-8005
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

Project Title: Serianthes nelsonii Outplanting and Monitoring on Guam at Andersen Air Force Base

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential projects to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) in support of Serianthes nelsonii (S. nelsonii) conservation efforts on Guam at Andersen Air Force Base, and associated project sites. Approximately $171,933 is expected to be available to support this project (contingent upon the availability of funds). The DON’s obligation to pay or reimburse any costs hereunder is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and limited by funds obligated and nothing in this Agreement will be interpreted to require obligations or payments by the Federal Government in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. §1341.

Background

S. nelsonii was determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be an endangered species and a final rule was listed in the Federal Register in 1987 (52 FR 4907 4910, February 18, 1987). The species is also protected under the Endangered Species Act of Guam (Guam Public Law 15-36, June 14, 1979) and included on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Endangered Species List. Assessment as recently as September 2016 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has resulted in placement of S. nelsonii on the Red Data List for Plants as critically endangered. While no critical habitat has been designated for this species, the current population estimate is less than forty trees on Rota and one mature tree on Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB). Seeds from the mature tree on Guam have been propagated and outplanted at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) and at two locations on AAFB.

In May of 2011, the USFWS issued a Biological Opinion in response to an Informal Section 7 Consultation for the Detonation of Two Unexploded Ordnance at AAFB. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the following actions were developed in cooperation with the USFWS to minimize the effect of the action to the S. nelsonii. These minimization measures are considered part of this project description. Any changes, modifications of, or failure to implement these measures may result in a need to reinitiate the consultation. These measures include 1) conducting monthly monitoring and data collection; 2) performing repairs and maintenance of existing fence exclosures; 3) removing non-native vegetation within fenced exclosures; 4) pesticide application to promote the growth of S. nelsonii seedlings and saplings; 5) conducting propagation and nursery trials and studies; and 6) continuing the monitoring and protection of the saplings outplanted at Tarague basin.

Current threats to the remaining mature tree and outplantings include insect and ungulate damage, low recruitment success, typhoon damage, and degraded habitat quality compounded by the effects of climate change. Given these threats, the current population of trees on Guam is
highly unstable and incapable of regenerating to recovery objective levels without active management.

The legislative purposes of the Sikes Act (P.L. 86-797, as amended, 16 USC § 670), include the requirement that the Secretary of each military department manage the natural resources of each military reservation under their jurisdiction "so as to provide multipurpose uses of those resources." Compliance with this legal mandate for stewardship of natural resources can be truly accomplished only through a multi-disciplinary approach in assembling the natural resources professionals and projects essential to the well-being of the natural resources and support of the military mission.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

This project will monitor and maintain the last mature *S. nelsonii* tree on Guam located on AAFB, including the seedlings and saplings growing underneath the mature tree. It also includes the maintenance of the ungulate exclosure fence surrounding the tree. In addition, *S. nelsonii* seeds will be collected and propagated, facilitating the outplanting of seedlings in established outplanting sites and other areas as directed. Previously outplanted seedlings and sapling will continue to be monitored and maintained including plants in nursery and seeds in storage.

The DON is seeking statements of interest from the Hawaii-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) networks.

**Proposals should address:**

This Agreement requires the Recipient to develop and implement the following minimum requirements:

**Technical Requirements:**

i. Develop and submit a Work Plan pursuant to tasks 1-6 below for the performance of the SOW that will accomplish technical requirements 2 and 3 below;

ii. Monitor, maintain and outplant *S. nelsonii* on AAFB and other outplanting sites as indicated by the CATR

iii. Update *S. nelsonii* Management Plan

**Tasks:**

Task 1 – Monitoring and Maintenance of *S. nelsonii* on AAFB: The Recipient shall monitor and maintain the one mature *S. nelsonii* tree and all live seedlings and saplings located on AAFB, occurring during the period of performance of the Agreement. Monitoring and maintenance visits should occur at least once a month to increase the understanding of the ecology of *S. nelsonii* plants and to develop appropriate conservation measures for the species. As of May 2020, there is one mature tree, thirty-three (33) seedlings/saplings surrounding the mature tree, and seventeen (17) seedlings/saplings outplanted on AAFB: the sole surviving *S. nelsonii* tree is in a fenced exclosure in Northwest Field at Ritidian Point, and seventeen (17) *S. nelsonii*
seedlings/saplings located within one-acre fenced plots (cycad management plots) at Tarague Basin and adjacent to the Palm’s golf course (see Figure 2).

1. Recipient shall record biological data and apply fertilizer and water as needed.

2. Recipient shall use data sheets for data collection and data sheets shall be submitted with the Final report.

3. Recipient shall apply USFWS approved pesticides to plants as needed to reduce damage by pests and promote growth. The Recipient must possess the appropriate pesticide applicator certifications and maintain appropriate records of pesticide applications.

4. Recipient may be added to the USFWS Recovery Permit TE-84876A-1 for AAFB. The Recipient and their field staff must demonstrate required monitoring and research experience with endangered plant species. Work for this project cannot be conducted unless the Recipient and field staff are able to be added to the permit, unless the Recipient holds their own current permit. To be added to the permit, field staff and Project Manager must submit Curriculum vitae (CV) or Resume to the CATR to be submitted directly to the USFWS for review. CV and Resume must demonstrate extensive experience in monitoring, conducting relevant research, and implementing conservation management of endangered plant species.

5. Recipient shall coordinate, when necessary, with regulatory agencies (USFWS, Guam Department of Agriculture’s Forestry and Soil Resources Division and Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources) and any other private entity interested in conducting research or conservation on S. nelsonii plants (i.e. Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program at the University of Guam). Coordination may include, but is not limited to, email correspondences, attending and participating in meetings, and providing reports or data.

Task 2 – Inspecting and maintaining fence exclosures surrounding plants:
The Recipient shall conduct monthly inspections of fence exclosures surrounding S. nelsonii plants. Currently these fences are located around the mature S. nelsonii tree at Ritidian Point (AAFB), which is 7 ft x 250 ft long and at the 1.5-acre Route 3A Reforestation Site at Achae Point, an AAFB location determined to be suitable for future S. nelsonii outplantings. Note that the two exclosure fences surrounding cycad management plots which contain outplanted S. nelsonii are maintained under the Cycad Management Cooperative Agreement and will not be the responsibility of the Recipient under this Agreement. The Recipient will:

1. Conduct routine repairs and maintenance of fence exclosures as needed; sufficient to prevent ungulates from entering. Damaged fencing should be repaired in a timely manner, and prioritized after discovery.

2. Remove all non-native plants within fenced exclosures and adjacent areas to ensure appropriate habitat is available for the species. Also remove any non- listed
vegetation that is hanging over the fence, leaning on the fence, or may pose a threat to damaging the fence.

3. Ensure that during the removal of vegetation, no harm should come to existing *S. nelsonii* plants.

4. Disperse or remove vegetation cuttings, so as to discourage use by coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*). Vegetation will not be piled onsite.

**Task 3 – Maintenance of *S. nelsonii* seed collection, and already propagated seedlings and saplings:** The Recipient shall maintain seed collection and any existing seedlings and saplings propagated for the purposes of this ongoing project.

1. Recipient of Agreement shall accept and maintain any *S. nelsonii* seeds or plants provided by AAFB. This includes, but is not limited to, surviving plants that were propagated by a private contractor from 2013-2015, and under a previous cooperative agreement (N40192-16-2-8000) that was valid from 2016-2020. Maintenance of these plants shall include general nursery management as needed to ensure the plants survival for outplanting. This may include but is not limited to, transplanting, pesticide application, watering, and fertilizer applications.

2. Recipient shall assist with the maintenance of *S. nelsonii* seedlings and saplings outplanted at the GNWR. The Recipient shall coordinate with the GNWR staff in this effort. A total of 31 seedlings were transferred to the GNWR from AAFB in October 2014 as a part of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding and 1994 cooperative agreement between the US Air Force, Navy, and USFWS for the Establishment and Management of the GNWR. As of March 2020, GNWR has ten (10) *S. nelsonii* saplings remaining, though actual number of plants requiring maintenance may be more or less pending further conservation efforts.

**Task 4 – Conduct seed collection and propagation of *S. nelsonii***: The Recipient shall propagate *S. nelsonii* seeds provided by AAFB and/or collected from the mature *S. nelsonii* tree at Ritidian Point.

1. Recipient shall propagate seeds collected from the mature *S. nelsonii* tree provided by AAFB. The Recipient shall adhere to *S. nelsonii* propagation guidelines outlined in the AAFB Recovery Permit TE-84876A-1, or the most recent version of the permit. Maintenance of these propagated plants shall include general nursery management as needed to ensure the plants survival for outplanting. This may include but is not limited to, transplanting, pesticide application, watering, and fertilizer applications.

2. Recipient shall coordinate, when necessary, with regulatory agencies (USFWS, Guam Department of Agriculture’s Forestry and Soil Resources Division and Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources) and any other private entity interested in conducting research or conservation on *S. nelsonii* plants (i.e. Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program at the University of Guam). Coordination may include, but is not limited to,
email correspondences, attending and participating in meetings, and providing reports or data.

3. The Recipient shall use various micropropagation techniques (in coordination with the CATR) to include: tissue culture, air layering, and embryo rescue to propagate seedlings from the S. nelsonii mother tree at Ritidian. The Recipient shall adhere to S. nelsonii propagation guidelines outlined in a valid USFWS Recovery Permit.

Task 5 – Outplanting and maintenance of new S. nelsonii seedlings/saplings: The Recipient shall outplant and maintain S. nelsonii seedlings/saplings within AAFB and other sites as indicated by the CATR.

1. Recipient shall obtain the necessary permits and approvals to conduct the outplanting. The Recipient must coordinate with the CATR in this process by, among other things, submitting to the CATR, a resume or CV of individuals proposing to become responsible for conducting this task for USFWS review and approval for the AAFB S. nelsonii Recovery Permit, developing a briefing slide of proposed outplanting to be conducted within AAFB for the Installation Commanding Officer’s (ICO) review and approval to outplant the endangered species in AAFB, and providing a staffing pattern organization of individuals proposing to outplant this endangered species. Coordination may include, but is not limited to, email correspondences, attending and participating in meetings and providing essential information pertaining to the USFWS permit and ICO review, acceptance and approval processes.

2. The Recipient shall outplant, maintain, and monitor saplings in coordination with the CATR. Work on these outplanting sites include watering, fertilizing, pesticide application, removing invasive plants, and maintaining the integrity of the fence. The Recipient shall eradicate grasses within the fenced area and for a minimum of 5 feet outside the fence line. Survival and status of planted and pre-existing trees shall be recorded monthly. S. nelsonii shall be outplanted, watered, and maintained within fenced areas in appropriate locations in coordination with CATR.

Task 6 – Update the S. nelsonii Management Plan: The Recipient shall update the Serianthes nelsonii Management Plan as needed to reflect new findings, protocols, and recommendations. The Recipient shall coordinate with DoD, USFWS, and Guam Department of Agriculture to facilitate meetings to discuss and comment on the revised plan.

Period of Performance: The period of performance will depend upon the individual proposals received, but the Government anticipates an initial period of performance for the Agreement to be twelve (12) months starting from the date of award. After completion of the initial period of performance, the total performance period can include four (4) option periods of twelve (12) months each dependent upon the availability of funds and the unilateral election of the Government to exercise an option. The total duration of this Agreement, including the Option Years and any cost modifications shall not exceed 60 months. The end date is the anticipated
date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. In the event that an option year(s) is exercise, a cumulative report consisting of the base and all option years will be the Final Report.

**Required Qualifications of the Project Team shall include:**

1. The Recipient shall provide the following key personnel with the following minimum qualifications:

   **A. Principle Investigator (PI):** Throughout performance of the Agreement, the Recipient shall provide the required natural resources services required by this Agreement. The Principal Investigator shall have, at a minimum:
   - A doctoral degree in biology, botany, natural resources, conservation biology or similar field with three (3) years of experience managing multiple concurrent projects as a senior scientist or project manager working with biological studies and any other environmental related work; Or a master’s degree with a minimum of six (6) years of experience managing multiple concurrent projects as a senior scientist or project manager working with biological studies and any other environmental related work;
   - At least two (2) years of experience working in Guam or other Pacific Islands and a familiarity with native species research and conservation;
   - At least two (2) years of experience propagating and maintaining *S. nelsonii*, *S. nelsonii* saplings and plants in the wild, including use of applicable pesticides.
   - Experience ensuring compliance with the Agreement terms and conditions; review of project documents to ensure product consistency, assigning personnel consistent with Agreement requirements and performing as the Agreement’s representative;
   - Experience ensuring management of natural resources with all federal and local regulations, their state counterparts, and other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; and
   - A valid recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant *S. nelsonii* on Guam. If the PI does not have an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the PI must obtain a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit or be added as an authorized individual to an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit within two weeks after contract award.

   **B. Project Manager (PM):** The Recipient shall assign an appropriate number of PMs for this Agreement, who shall be responsible for overseeing on a day-to-day basis necessary activities of the project.

   The PM’s oversight of the project includes:
   - Monitoring and controlling project costs;
   - Assigning personnel consistent with the Agreement’s requirements;
   - Understanding and assuring compliance with all applicable local, Federal, DoD, and Navy/Air Force natural resource and environmental laws, policies, regulations, and other requirements;
• Being the first in line of control in ensuring that information/data obtained for the project are of high quality and accuracy; and
• Being responsible in keeping quality control and assurance inspections activities and record keeping of these inspections.

The PM shall have, at a minimum:
• Bachelor’s degree in biological sciences, natural resources management, forestry, botany, horticulture, wildlife biology, zoology or similar science related field from an accredited four (4) year college or university;
• At least two (2) years of experience in management of relevant projects, preferably with native and listed species surveys, research and management experiences;
• At least two (2) years of experience working in the CNMI/Guam or other Pacific Islands and a familiarity with native species research and conservation;
• At least one (1) year of managerial field experience with S. nelsonii; and
• A valid recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant S. nelsonii on Guam. If the PM does not have an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the PM must obtain a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit or submit a request (via the CATR) to the USFWS to be added as an authorized individual to an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit within two weeks after contract award.

C. Field Technicians: The Recipient shall assign an appropriate number of Field Technicians for this Agreement, who shall work with the PM and PI on the necessary activities of the project.

In working with the PI and PM, these individuals shall:
• Provide field support services;
• Conduct scientific review of literature;
• Assist in the preparation of field activities, logistics and field equipment; Manage the project’s files, including field notes and database;
• Assist in the preparation of materials for project meetings; and
• Complete other duties as assigned by the PI and PM.

Field Technicians shall have, at a minimum:
• At least one (1) year of experience working on listed species surveys, research or management preferably with native plants and invertebrates in Guam or other Pacific islands and possess the appropriate pesticide applicator certifications; and
• A valid recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant S. nelsonii on Guam. If a Field Technician does not have an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the Field Technician must obtain a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit or submit a request (via the CATR) to the USFWS to be added as an authorized individual to an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit within two weeks after contract award.
D. Field Support Technicians: Field Support Technicians shall work under the direct supervision of qualified Field Technicians, a Project Manager, or Principle Investigator on *S. Nelsonii* management, monitoring, or maintenance and possess the appropriate pesticide applicator certifications.

Department of Navy Responsibilities:

1. In reference to this Agreement, substantial involvement is required between the DoN and Recipient during the period of performance based on the requirements prescribed in the scope of work. The anticipated involvement between the CATR and PI is deemed appropriate to carry out a public purpose of support to include a direct benefit to the Government. The Government’s involvement includes:
   a. Advising Recipient, as needed, in preparing scientific articles destined for peer-reviewed journals;
   b. Providing relevant maps and information pertaining to study sites, to include data and literature generated from previous similar survey and ESA-listed species conservation management projects;
   c. Assisting with field activities and coordination with Base security to ensure safety procedures are met;
   d. Facilitating access to DoN lands and facilitate any required passes;
   e. Assisting with plan of action and milestones (POAM) development;
   f. Accompanying Recipient during conservation operations as often as necessary, to ensure quality control, efficacy of actions;
   g. Conducting meetings with Recipient to determine if milestones are met.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications: Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil (Approximate length: 3-6 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Statement of Qualifications (including):
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables.
   - Curriculum vitae of Principal Investigator, Project Manager and Field Staff
   - Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
   - Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise.
4. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).
5. A proposed detailed budget of the costs to implement the proposed project; refer to Microsoft Excel attachment for guidance.

Review of Statements Received: Statements will be evaluated based on the Principal Investigator, Project Manager and Field Staff specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the project requirements.
**Factor 1 – Credentials of the Principle Investigator, Project Manager and Field Staff** – The Offeror shall identify the Principal Investigator and Field Staff proposed for this project, stating their qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates, and publications.

**Factor 2 – Approach** – The Recipient shall develop a Statement of Interest to manage the total work effort and assure fully adequate and timely completion of services required under this Agreement. Included in this function shall be a full range of management duties including, but not limited to, planning, scheduling, inventory, analysis, quality control, and for meeting professional industry standards.

**Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost** – After technical evaluation of the Statements of Interest, the offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the Request for Statements of Interest as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach.

**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS** – Factor 1, Credentials of the Principle Investigator, Project Manager and Field Staff, and Factor 2, Approach, combined are significantly more important than Factor 3, Reasonableness of Cost.

**Please send responses or direct questions to:** Thelman Fontenot, Contract Specialist NAVFAC Marianas, E-mail: thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** DON intends to use fiscal year 2020 funds for this project. In order to be considered, Statements of Interest shall be submitted no later than 21 June 2020, Chamorro standard time (local Guam time).