

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST  
NUMBER N40192-19-R-8000  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019**

**Project Title: PLANT AND INVERTEBRATE SURVEYS  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY  
AND AREAS SPECIFIED ON GUAM AND CNMI**

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 plants and ESA-listed invertebrate surveys within the JRM AOR and other forested areas on Guam and CNMI. Approximately \$767,000.00 is expected to be available to support this project (contingent upon availability of funds). The Department of Navy'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. Thus, funds have not yet been appropriated for this project and there is considerable uncertainty regarding the level of available funding for FY2019.

**Background**

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.

Currently there are fifteen (15) plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 USC 1531 et seq.) that may be present on Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) on Guam and the CNMI: *Bulbophyllum guamense*, *Cycas micronesica*, *Dendrobium guamense*, *Eugenia bryanii*, *Hedyotis megalantha*, *Heritiera longipetiolata*, *Maesa walkeri*, *Nervilia jacksoniae*, *Phyllanthus saffordii*, *Psychotria malaspinae*, *Serianthes nelsonii*, *Solanum guamense*, *Tabernaemontana rotensis*, *Tinospora homosepala*, *Tuberolabium guamense*. There is insufficient published data on the abundance and location of most of these species.

JRM lands are habitat for three federally endangered invertebrates including land snail species: the humped tree snail (*Partula gibba*), Guam tree snail (*Partula radiolata*), and the fragile tree snail, (*Samoana fragilis*), and two endangered butterfly species Mariana eight-spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*) and the Mariana wandering

butterfly (*Vagrans indica*). The butterflies rely on the plants *Procris pedunculata*, *Elatostema calcareum*, and *Maytenus thompsonii* as hosts for eggs and larvae. Little is known of the life history of these plant and invertebrate species such as population, demographic and habitat data. This information will inform future management and recovery efforts.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

This Cooperative Agreement (hereafter: Agreement) includes the following requirements:

This purpose of this project is to conduct plant and invertebrate surveys and to implement management techniques to provide a conservation benefit to federally protected threatened and endangered (T&E) species under the ESA.

The location for performance of this Agreement is on Department of Defense (DoD) lands and within the JRM AOR to include, but not limited to: Naval Base Guam (NBG), Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), and DoD leased lands in the CNMI to include leases on Tinian. Survey locations may consist of, but are not limited to areas prioritized on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan. These locations shall be collectively referred hereafter as JRM AOR (Fig 1).

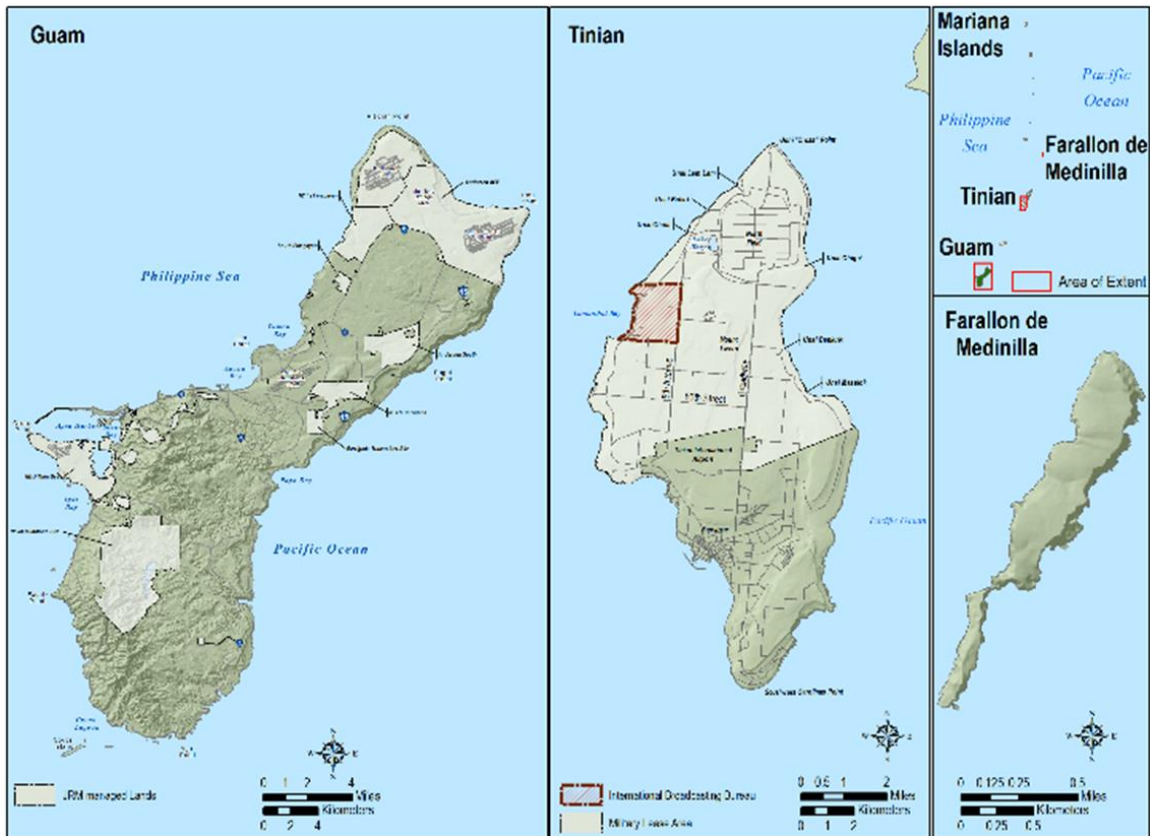


Figure 1: Maps depicting Joint Region Marianas Area of Responsibility on Guam and the CNMI (Rota and Saipan not depicted).

The DoN is seeking a statement of interest from the Hawaii-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) network.

**Note: Please see the statement of work, provided as a separate document, for a full description of the project and its requirements.**

**Proposals should address:**

This Agreement requires the Recipient to develop and implement three (3) technical requirements and five (5) tasks during the performance period, as follows:

Technical Requirements:

1. Develop and submit a Work Plan pursuant to task 4 below for the performance of the Scope of Work (SOW) that will accomplish technical requirements 2 and 3 below;
2. Conduct transect surveys for plants and ESA-listed invertebrates within the JRM AOR and other forested areas on Guam and CNMI as specified by the co-CATR;
3. Conduct snail surveys and baseline population, demographic and habitat data at specified locations within the JRM AOR.

Tasks:

Task 1 – Conduct transect surveys for plants and ESA-listed invertebrates:

1. The Recipient shall conduct transect surveys for ESA-listed plants, ESA-listed butterfly host plants, and for ESA-listed invertebrates following approved protocol in coordination with the Recipient, USFWS, and the co-CATR. Survey methodology will be outlined in the Work Plan.
2. The Recipient will conduct transect surveys for listed plants and invertebrates, specifically *Tuberolabium guamense* and *Partula radiolata* on approximately 1,200 acres of forested areas off of DOD AOR on Guam (Fig 2) to be specified by co-CATR. Data will be collected on all listed species encountered. These areas may consist of limestone native forest, limestone degraded forest, *Vitex* forest, ravine forest, mixed forest, and degraded scrub forest or any other habitat suitable for *Tuberolabium guamense*.

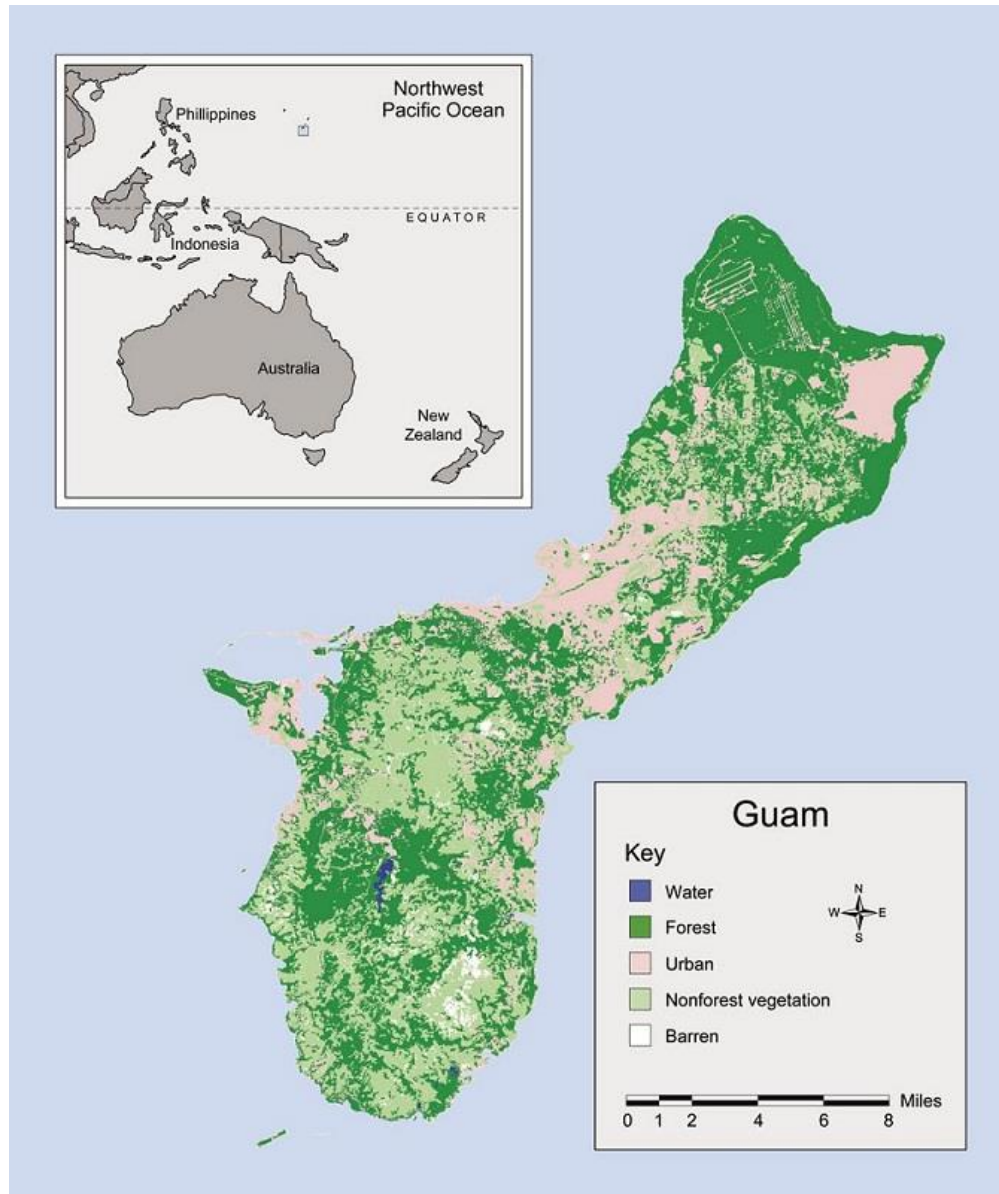


Figure 2. Map of Guam depicting forested areas (USFS, 2002).

3. The Recipient will conduct transect surveys for ESA-listed plants and listed invertebrates on Naval Base Guam Naval Munitions Site (NMS) within approximately 2,000 acres to be specified by co-CATR. Plant surveys will follow USFWS rare plant survey guidelines for walking parallel transects spaced 5 - 10 m throughout each defined site. Invertebrate surveys will follow approved survey protocols (provided by the CATR).



Figure 3. Map depicting the location of Naval Base Guam Naval Munitions Site outlined in yellow.

4. The Recipient will conduct transect surveys for listed plants and invertebrates on approximately 600 acres of forested areas on AAFB to be specified by the co-CATR. Plant surveys will follow USFWS rare plant survey guidelines for walking parallel transects spaced 5 - 10 m throughout each defined site. Invertebrate surveys will follow approved survey protocols (provided by the CATR).

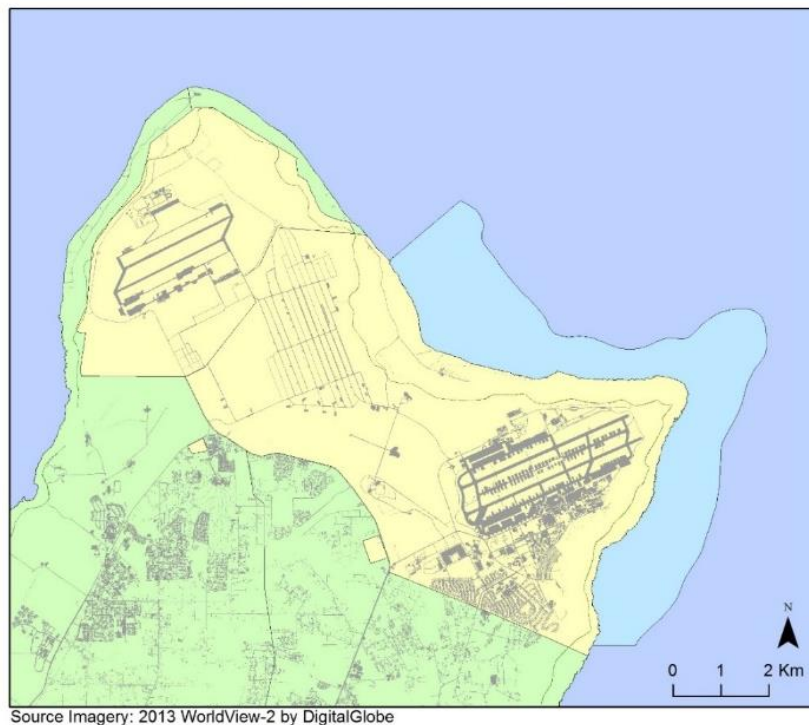
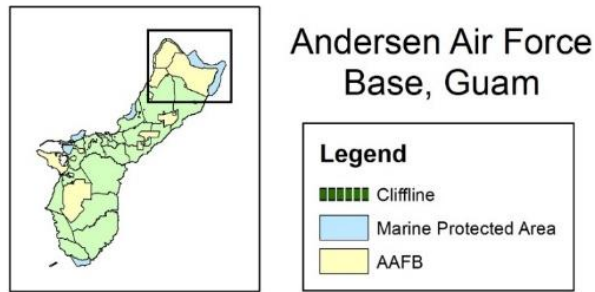


Figure 4. Map depicting location of Andersen Air Force Base.

Task 2 – Conduct snail research at specified locations:

1. The Recipient will collect baseline population, demographic and habitat data on three species of snail at twelve different locations and collect presence absence data on roadside edge habitat on two installations and a fuel pipeline. The snail species are *Samoana fragilis*, *Partula gibba* and *Partula radiolata*.
2. The populations will be monitored by mark recapture. Each of the 12 locations will be searched for 5 – 10 days within a two (2) week time period. Captured snails will be marked (method to be determined) and photographed. GPS coordinates from a Trimble GPS unit will be recorded. The snail will be measured and weighed (if appropriate) and released at the point of capture. Microhabitat data will also be recorded. These to include but not limited to temperature, humidity, weather conditions, height from ground, and the plant species that the

snail is on. Capture recapture data will be analyzed on either Program Mark, Program Density or SECR library (R statistical software). Each area will be sampled by mark recapture twice. Once in the dry season and once in the wet season.

3. The areas to be searched include: four spots at Haputo Ecological Reserve Area at Naval Base Guam Telecommunications Site (NBGTS) (Fig 5) for *Samoana fragilis*, *Partula gibba* and *Partula radiolata*; two spots at San Luis Beach on Navy Base Guam (Fig 6) for *Partula radiolata*. Four spots on the fuel pipeline from Sasa Valley to Tyan (Fig 7); and two spots on the Naval Munitions Station (NMS) (Fig 8) for *Partula radiolata*.
4. In addition road side/forest edge surveys will be performed at the fuel pipeline (Fig 9), Sasa Valley fuel farm (Fig 10) and NMS (Fig 11) to document if additional colonies are present.



Figure 5. Map depicting Naval Communications Station snail population areas at Haputo Ecological Reserve Area.



Figure 6. Map depicting San Luis Beach on Navy Base Guam snail population areas.

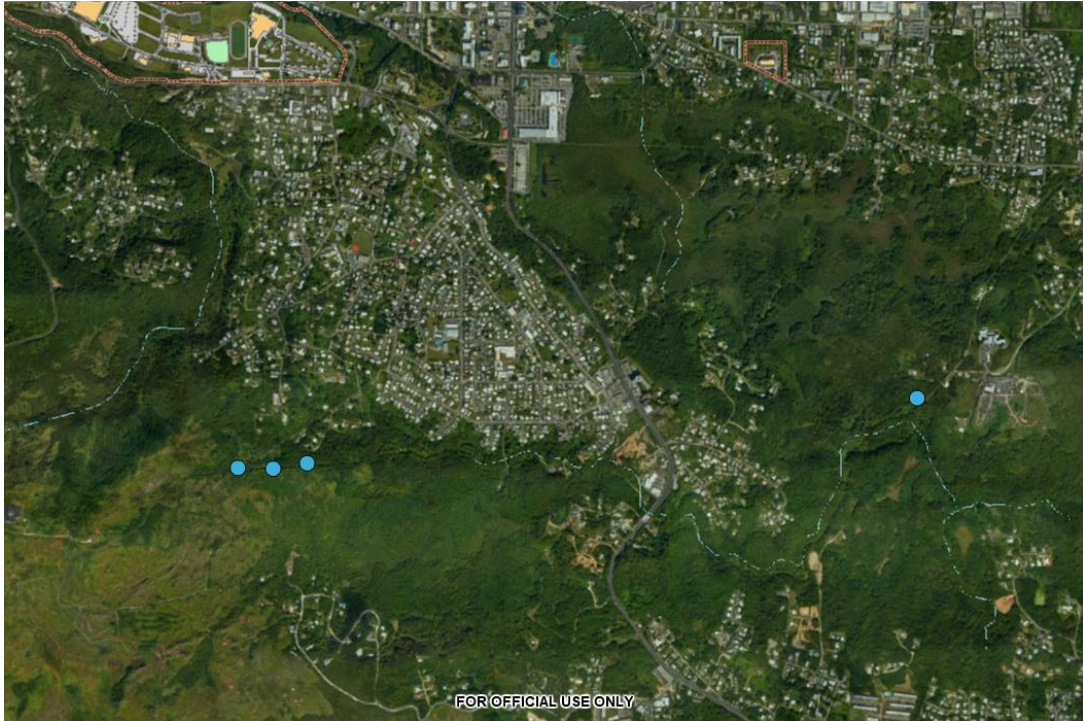


Figure 7. Map depicting fuel line snail population areas.





Figure 8. Map depicting Naval Munitions Station snail population areas



Figure 9. Map depicting fuel line road side surveys.

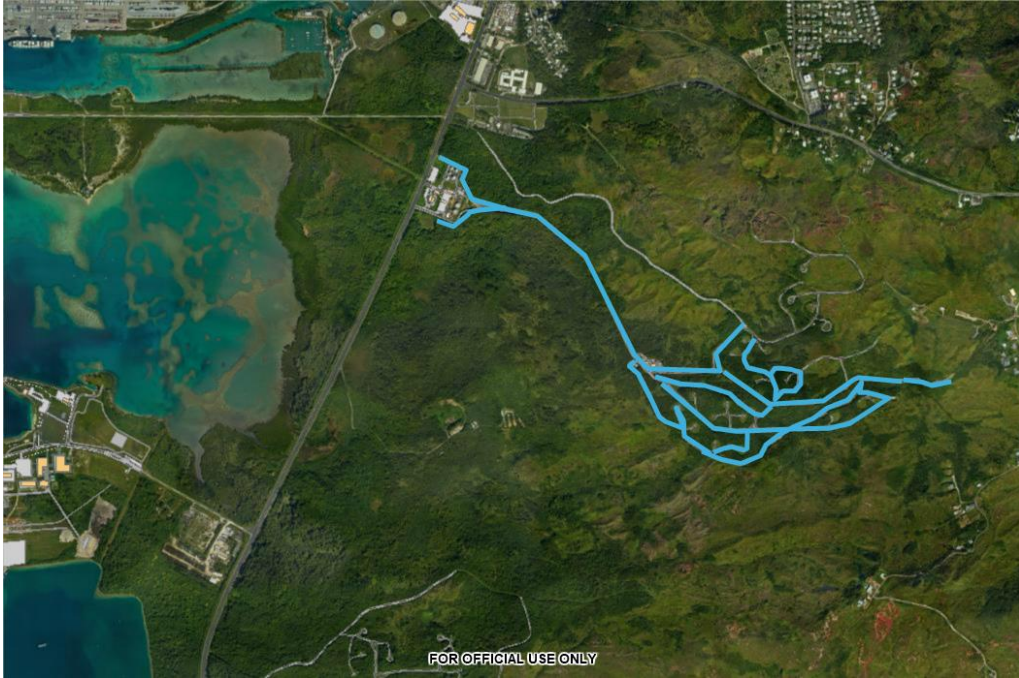


Figure 10. Map depicting Sasa Fuel Farm road side survey areas.



Figure 11. Map depicting Naval Munitions Station road side survey areas.

Task 3 – Draft and Final Reports: Forty-five (45) days before the end of performance period, the Recipient will submit a Draft Final Report. Refer to Section J specific submittal requirements, including content, format, and delivery.

Task 4 – Project Planning: The Recipient shall participate in a kick-off meeting prior to the start of work to become acquainted with the various parties involved with the project;

to discuss the statement of the proposed work including scheduling, and coordination; and to define channels of communication and points of contact.

1. The Recipient will be responsible for presenting a plan of action and milestones (POAM) for timely completion of the work. The POAM will be provided to the CATR at least 1 week prior to the kick-off meeting. CATR will comment on POAM and Recipient will incorporate comments before POAM is finalized.
2. The Recipient shall ask any questions related to the successful completion of the work.
3. The Recipient shall be responsible for documenting the discussions (meeting minutes). Meeting minutes shall be provided to the CATR within 5 days after the kick-off meeting.
4. The kickoff meeting will be held on Guam (location to be determined) or via conference call.
5. The Recipient shall provide project status and schedule updates, and coordinate field work and deliverables throughout the duration of the Agreement.

**Task 5 – Project Management:** The Recipient shall provide project oversight and coordination for all technical requirements and tasks. This will include; maintaining budget coordination, tracking, and reporting, as appropriate.

1. The recipient is responsible for providing monthly updates to the co-CATR and the updates shall include implementation accomplishments, budget drawdowns, technical aspects, any project coordination difficulties (e.g. base security staff), safety concerns, adaptive management proposals or actions, agreement's quality control and assurance activities and their successful implementation of the APP, AHA and HACCP (see below).
2. The co-CATR will inspect all documents that recipient is required to provide, inspect all relevant equipment, interview Recipient's staff to determine which actions were taken, and accompany Recipient during field ops to provide adequate Government oversight.

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

Due to the complexity of the work, 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 be able to provide the required natural resources services required by this Agreement. The Principal Investigator shall have, at the 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.
- 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.
- At least two (2) years of experience working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)/Guam or other Pacific Islands and a familiarity with native species research and conservation.
- Has or can obtain a recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant federally listed species on Guam and CNMI. If the PI does not have an existing valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the PI must submit an application for the Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit to USFWS within two weeks after contract award.
- Principle Investigator is not required to be at study project areas within the JRM AOR (unless specified within the Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit), but shall provide technical oversight to Project Manager and Field Biologists.

B. **Project Manager:** 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 Agreements requirements, understanding and assuring compliance with applicable Federal, DoD, and Navy/Air Force natural resource and environmental policies and regulations and their state counterparts, and other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, shall be the first in line of control in ensuring that information/data obtained for the project are of high quality and accuracy, and shall be responsible in keeping quality control and assurance inspections activities and record keeping of these inspections. The PM shall have, at the 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
- Is or can be added to the list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant federally listed species on Guam and the CNMI. If the PM is not on a list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the PM must submit a request to USFWS be added to a list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit within two weeks after contract award.

C. **Field Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians:** In working with the PI and PM, these individuals shall: provide field support services; conduct scientific review of literatures; 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 other duties as assigned. Field Technicians shall have, at the minimum:

- At least one (1) year of experience working on listed species surveys, research or management preferably with native plants and invertebrates in the CNMI/Guam or other Pacific islands and possess the appropriate pesticide applicator certifications.
- Is or can be added to the list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit from the USFWS to collect, manage, propagate, and outplant native federally listed species (particularly plants and invertebrates). If the technician is not on a list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit upon contract award, the technician must submit a request to USFWS be added to a list of authorized individuals on a Section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit within two weeks after contract award.

**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.
  - a. Advise Recipient, as needed, in preparing scientific articles destined for peer-reviewed journals;
  - b. Provide relevant maps and information pertaining to study sites, to include data and literature generated from previous similar vegetation conservation projects;

- c. Will assist with field activities and coordination with Base security to ensure safety procedures are met;
- d. Will facilitate access to DoN lands and facilitate any required passes;
- e. Will assist with plan of action and milestones (POAM) development;
- f. Will accompany Recipient during conservation operations as often as necessary, to ensure quality control, efficacy of actions;
- g. Will conduct meetings with Recipient to determine if milestones are met.

**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 Cooperative 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.

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:** Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: [thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil](mailto: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):
  - Curriculum vita of Principal Investigator, Project Manager, and Field Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians
  - 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.
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables.
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 Principle Investigator, Project Manager, and Field Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the project requirements.

**Factor 1 – Credentials of the Principle Investigator, Project Manager, and Field Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians** – The Offeror shall identify the Principle Investigator, Project Manager, and Field Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians proposed for this project, stating their qualifications, experience with this

type of project, professional registration and certificates, possession of research permits, and publications.

**Factor 2 –Scientific 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 for conducting vegetation monitoring and management.

**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 Technicians/Technical Field Support Technicians and Factor 2, Innovative Scientific 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 Tel: (671) 349-4119, E-mail: [thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil](mailto:thelman.fontenot@fe.navy.mil)

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** DoN intends to use fiscal year 2019 funds for this project. In order to be considered, Statements of Interest shall be submitted for no later than 0900 Chamorro standard time (local Guam time) on 10 June 2019.