



Terms of Reference

Position title: Ecosystems & Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Technical Advisor

Location: Melbourne, with regular travels to the Pacific

Duration: 1 year (possibility of extension)

Reporting to: Ecosystem Protection Program Manager

Works with: Country teams and managers (focus on Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG), Finance team, Nakau Programme, partner organisations, donors.

Experience: minimum 5 years or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

[Live & Learn](#) is a network of locally registered organisations across Asia and the Pacific. We mobilise people and build partnerships to support the communities we work with to move towards a fairer, more resilient and nature-positive future. Our vision is for a sustainable and equitable world free from poverty.

At the foundation of our work is a commitment to participatory approaches, local leadership, inclusivity, Indigenous knowledge, and the safeguarding of local communities' rights. We value courage, innovation, trust and diversity in our collaboration with colleagues and partners.

Our Network Support Office (NSO), based in Melbourne, provides operational, technical and fundraising support to country office teams across the Pacific and South-East Asia.

Roles and responsibilities:

This position provides environmental science and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) technical support to Live & Learn's Network Support Office and country teams, through technical advice, development of guidance and resources, and targeted capacity building.

The role primarily supports the work of the Ecosystem Protection team, which partners with customary landowners, communities and governments in the South-West Pacific to design and implement community-led forest conservation initiatives. This includes supporting the development of high-integrity forest carbon projects as an alternative livelihood to logging, in partnership with [The Nakau Programme](#).

Live & Learn is also expanding its portfolio in marine and coastal ecosystems, through integrated ridge-to-reef approaches to biodiversity protection and community resilience.

This is a mid-career technical advisory role, suited to individuals who are comfortable working with a high degree of autonomy, setting priorities, developing and implementing technical recommendations, and supporting others through mentoring and knowledge sharing.

The role requires strong attention to detail, flexibility, and the ability to work respectfully across diverse cultural contexts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to environmental protection and community development.

The roles and responsibilities of the position are detailed below.

1. Project technical advisory and quality assurance:

- Conduct applied research and contextual environmental analysis to inform project and activity design.
- Provide project teams with continuous technical support, feedback and guidance on environmental conservation matters, including practical field support.
- Support the recruitment, management and technical oversight of consultants in relevant areas of expertise.
- Contribute to the design of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems, with a focus on ecosystem and biodiversity outcomes, and supervise data collection.

- Identify environmental risks, propose mitigation measures and support their implementation at project inception and throughout the project lifecycle.
- Lead or support environmental risk screening, impact assessments, and the development of environmental management plans.
- Contribute to the preparation of project proposals, reports, presentations and other technical documentation.

2. Capacity building and knowledge transfer

- Facilitate online and in-person capacity building and knowledge resource development for NSO and country teams, based on identified organisational and individual needs. This may include field-based training in ecosystem monitoring methods, biodiversity surveys, data collection protocols, and adaptive management approaches.
- Support the design of resources, training and workshop programmes and materials for communities, in close dialogue with country teams.
- Facilitate inter-country exchanges and support the development of a community of practice on terrestrial and marine ecosystem conservation and Nature-based Solutions within the Live & Learn network.

3. Research, policy, and external engagement

- Keep up to date with, and share internally, technical innovations, sector best practices and trends, as well as government, international and donor standards, policies and commitments.
- Lead the participatory development of organisational strategies, approaches and positions on ecosystem conservation and Nature-based Solutions, aligned with recognised international frameworks and tailored to the Pacific context.
- Contribute to the development of organisational policies, including those related to environmental risk management, impact management and safeguards.
- Contribute to representing Live & Learn to external stakeholders by presenting approaches and achievements in external meetings, conferences and other forums.
- Contribute to identifying and initiating new, constructive and strategic partnerships.

Profile:

- Master's degree or equivalent in environmental science or a related field; training and/or experience in forest and/or marine conservation is required.
- A minimum of 5 years' relevant professional experience or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Experience working on donor-funded, development cooperation and/or NGO projects.
- Field experience in ecosystem monitoring (e.g. baseline assessments, long-term monitoring) and conservation management planning, ideally in tropical and island environments.
- Experience in environmental risk screening and safeguards implementation.
- Ability to assess ecosystem condition, threats and resilience, and to analyse conservation trade-offs and co-benefits for local livelihoods.
- Understanding of landscape-scale and ridge-to-reef approaches, and of Nature-based Solutions principles and integrity criteria.
- International experience demonstrating the ability to navigate diverse cultural contexts efficiently, respectfully and with humility; experience in the Pacific is highly desirable.
- GIS, spatial data interpretation, remote sensing, data quality assurance and ecological dataset management skills are desirable.
- Strong analytical, writing and presentation skills, with high attention to detail. Ability to present technical information clearly and pedagogically, with a mentoring and coaching mindset.
- Strong commitment to participatory approaches, local leadership, inclusivity, Indigenous knowledge, and safeguarding principles.