

INVITATION TO TENDER

GEF 6 - Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests in the South East Coast

INVITATION

The Government of Saint Lucia through the Department of Sustainable Development (Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development) is inviting suitably qualified consultants to submit tenders for a consultancy to undertake an **Assessment of Marine and Coastal Resources in the South East Coast**.

Project Location

The South East Coast of Saint Lucia extending from Mandele Point in Dennery to Laborie is the project area and the focus of this Terms of Reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0BACKGROUND

1.1 Integrated Ecosystem Management and Restoration of Forests on the South East Coast of Saint Lucia project is aimed at developing ecosystems management systems and practices, restoring productive landscapes and enabling sustainable socio-economic development by creating avenues for sustainable livelihood in the communities in the South East Coast region of the island. The main problem that the project seeks to address is the lack of integrated protection and sustainable management of ecosystems in the South East coastal area.

1.2 The Main threats to these existing ecosystems include natural disasters, pollution, habitat modification and destruction. The island's vulnerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes and storms may have catastrophic effects on the natural resources of the area. Lastly, habitat change is occurring at a rapid rate and is expected to increase even further in the future with the projected increases in hotels, housing, infrastructure and other developments that may negatively impact the marine areas. By improving the management of the marine landscape, a range of threats to the marine environment will also be addressed, given that the latter is on the receiving end of inland activity. Marine threats include: flows of pollutants, nutrients and sediment, disrupted hydrological services, and degradation of critical habitats, all of which have significant negative impacts on important coastal/marine ecosystems, including wetlands, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. Overall, this project will lead to an improvement in the effectiveness of integrated coastal management practices, helping to secure the integrity of existing and new marine protected areas in the South East Coast.

1.3The application and expansion of these interventions in the South East Coast, particularly concerning long-term sustainability have been impeded by inadequacies within the wider

policy and institutional environments that do not adequately allow for the mainstreaming of these interventions beyond the realm of “project-driven, site-specific” actions. Further, the mechanisms for the implementation of appropriate and “fit-to-purpose” sustainable land and water management and biodiversity conservation interventions have remained outside of traditional government programmes and budgets and as a result, these remain some areas of key concern in the South East Coast:

- 1.3.1. Land Use Planning: Absence of planned, guided and managed development of all types (residential, agricultural and touristic) which takes into account ecosystem goods and services.
- 1.3.2. Safeguarding of Key areas: Lack of measures to safeguard key areas of global and national significance such as forests and coastal and marine ecosystems which also take into account national development needs.
- 1.3.3. Continuity: Lack of follow up or financing for completed biodiversity assessment and priority setting exercises.
- 1.3.4. Sustainable Livelihood: Lack of sustainable options to reduce pressures on ecosystem services and goods.

1.4 Under its sixth replenishment funding cycle (GEF6) The Global Environment Facility provided funding to the Government of Saint Lucia through the Department of Sustainable Development as project Executing Agency, to implement a project entitled ‘Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests of the South East Coast’, which focuses on Land use planning; Safeguarding of key areas; Continuity and Sustainable replacements. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the project Implementing Agency. The project aims to address these concerns in three distinct components with accompanying overarching Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system:

Component 1: Ecosystems Management - as applied to South East Coast.

Component 2: Rehabilitated or Restored Landscapes

Component 3: Sustainable Livelihoods - Enhanced Capacity for the production of biodiversity-friendly goods and services in inland forest and coastal communities (National with emphasis on South East Coast).

1.5 Overall, the GEF intervention will build on the existing legal framework to develop appropriate supporting regulations and guidelines which integrate environmental sensitivities, priorities and sustainable management options in forest, coastal and marine ecosystems. In the absence of a national land use plan, the assessment of marine and coastline resources for an area of critical global significance would constitute an incremental building block to move towards this overarching goal. Without the GEF intervention the high biodiversity, priority forest, and marine areas of the South East Coast would continue to be degraded and imperiled by initiatives from individuals, community residents and developers that fail to take into account local, national and global environmental considerations.

2. OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE & EXPECTED RESULTS

2.1. The overall objective of this consultancy is to improve the framework for protected areas management in the South East Coast of Saint Lucia, particularly in areas of high biodiversity value and threat.

2.2. The purpose is to conduct an Assessment of Marine and Coastal Resources in the South East Coast to establish a foundation for effective management of existing and new marine protected areas in the South East Coast. This will be achieved through participatory research that takes into account provisioning and accounting of ecosystem goods and services and the development of sustainable management options in marine and coastal ecosystems in the South East Coast.

2.3. Results to be achieved by the Consultant

2.3.1 Results to be achieved include defining specific costed activities related to Components one and three, which relate to the following:

1. Improved sustainable management planning for the South East Coast incorporates considerations for biodiversity conservation in marine and coastal ecosystems.
2. Sustainable management of mangroves and coastal ecosystems that integrate biodiversity conservation in the South East Coast regional level is enhanced through the generation of new data and information.
3. At least one Marine Protected Area suggested within the project area with the elements of management plan proposed based on data gathered and assessments made.
4. Possible innovative sustainable financing modalities identified for conservation and economic development in the South East Coast Region

The consultancy is also expected to give due consideration to the activities under Component two (Rehabilitated or Restored Landscapes) to facilitate synergy-building and enhanced project effectiveness.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Consultant will employ a participatory approach at all phases of the assignment, to derive wherever possible the necessary synergies from tasks/activities, that will allow for all the stakeholders and beneficiaries to be involved in the formulation and description of the document.

3.2 The Consultant will undertake focus group discussions (FGDs), one-on-one meetings/interviews, local community groups consultations and brief online surveys, as needed, for information gathering in the preparation, completion, validation and finalization of the Baseline Assessment Report and other related documents.

4.0 SCOPE OF THE WORK

4.1 The Consultant, in conjunction with technical personnel from all relevant government agencies including but not limited to, the Departments of Fisheries, Forestry and the Biodiversity and Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Department of Sustainable Development and other counterpart agencies; including amongst others, the Saint Lucia National Trust, will be expected to;

- (1) Undertake a comprehensive baseline assessment of the marine ecosystem in the project area.
- (2) Develop costed activities for key elements for the establishment of an overarching biodiversity/protected areas management plan.
- (3) Identify and determine management interventions and implementation mechanisms for the management of natural resources in marine areas in the South East Coast.
- (4) Identify possible sustainable financing modalities for the South East Coast.

The Department of Sustainable Development, in conjunction with the Departments of Forestry and Fisheries is expected to be the major player in the technical management of this consultancy assignment.

4.2 Specific responsibilities

4.2.1 The Consultant will be responsible for the following:

- a. Consolidate electronically, any documents that will serve to enhance the baseline knowledge base for the project Component 1 preparation and implementation.
- b. In consultation with staff from relevant counterpart government agencies, organize and lead consultations with stakeholders resulting in the detailed development of the following activities detailed in Section 4.3.

4.3 Scope of Services

Key Activities:

4.3.1 Task 1: Prepare the Work Plan and Inception Report

- i. Conduct inception meetings with the Contracting Authority and partners upon commencement of the project to (i) review the process for conducting all activities within the project, (ii) determine roles and responsibilities, (iii) discuss the basis on which this work will be implemented, and (iv) finalize the work plan and timetable. A draft work plan and report on the outcome of the inception meeting will be prepared by the Consultant and submitted to the client no later than two weeks from the commencement of the consultancy.
- ii. Incorporate comments and feedback into the draft Inception Report and Work Plan based on review by the client. Comments in response by the Contracting Authority,

partners and clients should reach the Consultant no later than ten days after receipt of the *Draft Inception Report and Work Plan*.

- iii. Submit Final Inception Report with comments included within one (1) week of receipt of comments.

4.3.2 Task 2: Conduct a Biophysical Inventory of the South East Project Area

Component 1: Ecosystem Management

Output 1.1: A monitoring and information system is in place to support sustainable ecosystem management and scientific capacity of stakeholders

Activity 1.1.1: – Baseline Assessment of Biological Resources (High value species, ecosystem services and habitats (page 81))

1. **Biophysical Assessment** – Conduct a biophysical assessment of the project site to identify all marine ecosystems, all aquatic fauna and flora species. The assessment should also include prioritization of areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem services value in the South East Coast
 - a. Discuss the sensitivity of marine habitats in the project area including potential disturbances and changes resulting from habitat destruction or climatic events.
 - b. Describe the aquatic flora and fauna present within the South East Coast project area. Include any rare or threatened marine species, aquatic plants, including exotic / weed species, a description of the habitat requirements and the sensitivity, risks and threats of aquatic species to changes in the ecosystem example water quality, water levels, and invasive species. Locations of special interest (for various reasons, including identification as spawning areas, aggregation areas, biologically diverse areas) should be identified and mapped.
 - c. Conduct detailed ecosystem and biodiversity surveys of potential marine protected area/areas to establish baselines and determine land-based threats to marine and coastal ecosystems downstream of targeted watershed and forests.
 - d. Assist in the definition of baselines and indicators related to the management of land-based impacts on coastal areas.
 - e. Provide sufficient baseline data to develop strategies to maintain and manage existing ecosystems.
 - f. Define and cost the additional gathering of data as identified in the gap analysis.
 - g. Compile of available data and studies, and create a repository on the valuation of ecosystem goods and services, as well as biodiversity data relating to marine ecosystems in the South East Coast.

- h. Prepare a Baseline Report on the biological, legal, social and economic status of existing marine ecosystems.
- i. Develop a Monitoring Plan for Marine Ecosystems (inclusive of, but not limited to):
 - a. Select Biological diversity (BD) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and assist in the selection of Climate Change (CC) and Land Degradation (LD) impact indicators (with baseline values) to monitor the progress of project interventions; develop preliminary elements of innovative monitoring and enforcement systems (e.g. local communities, NGOs, educational institutions (local, national and international)

4.3.3. Task 3. Identification of area suitable for the establishment of a at least one Marine Protected Area

Output 1.2: Two (at least 1 marine and 1 terrestrial) new protected areas are designated along with relevant connecting corridors, and protected species are officially recognized in gazette Regulations and orders (estimated 4,000 ha). "... proposed marine protected area encompasses approximately 5% of each of those two areas.... the Point Sable and Mandele Dry Forest Key Biodiversity Areas" (KBAs) [page 44 of project document]"

Activity 1.2.1: – Delineate and Legally Designate at least one managed marine area and associated connecting corridors (page 81 of the Project Document)

- a. Identify at least one area for the establishment of new marine protected area/areas and/or marine reserves in the project area. This will be done with information gathered from community and stakeholder consultations.
- b. Provide methodology and develop costed activities for key elements for the establishment of an overarching biodiversity/protected areas management plan,
- c. Outline steps, plans and processes of developing that Protected Area
- d. Design a clear road map to declare the protected area
- e. Recommend policy and programmatic enhancements for improved management of existing marine protected areas (RAMSAR sites), including new regulations for coral reef conservation, strengthened marine protected areas monitoring and enforcement capacity, improved ecological analyses, data collection protocols and knowledge management systems. Work will include a review of previous management plans prepared for these sites.
- f. Assisted by the National Coordinator, work with the Departments of Fisheries, Forestry and Physical Planning teams to ensure all interventions related to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Terrestrial Protected Areas (TPAs) are closely aligned with the design of that project.
- g. Define and cost activities relating to setting up and implementing at least one (1) marine protected area within the South East Coast, inclusive of defined SMART indicators and costed monitoring collection mechanism, consistent with the results framework.

- h. Undertake a marine spatial planning exercise in consultation with all community residents and stakeholders and develop a zoning plan for the management of the proposed marine protected area.
- i. On a consultative basis, identify, develop and cost innovative and replicable management interventions and implementation mechanisms for the management of the proposed Marine Protected Area within the existing South East coast. This part of the consultation will provide the knowledge of recovery and long-term conservation of the area in the context of the wider dry forest to marine landscape. This exercise would entail establishing the baseline for the interventions, and defining all steps and activities for their implementation, addressing issues related to invasive species, as well as activities for awareness building, knowledge sharing and replication
- j. Develop Relevant Biodiversity-1Tracking Tool baselines, relating to proposed marine interventions.

4.3.4 Task 4: Create possible and innovative sustainable financing mechanisms modalities in the areas of the South East Coast

Output 1.4: At least one sustainable financing mechanism promoting both economic development and ecosystem protection established to advance sustainable conservation of marine and coastal resources within the area.

- a. Through consultations with community residents, leaders, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders, provide technical inputs and recommend possibilities for investment, or livelihood opportunities that will be used in the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for economic development and conservation of marine ecosystems in the South East Coast.

4.3.5 Recommendations

1. The selected Consultant will be required to advise on the final scope of works and deliverables to ensure that the consultancy meets the objectives of the project and its components.
2. The Consultant will be expected to comment on the Terms of Reference and recommend potential refinements where necessary, including making such recommendations as deemed appropriate to enhance the quality of the assignment and outputs.

5.0 Deliverables

The proposed consultancy will have the following deliverables:

Deliverables	Due Date after Contract Signing
<i>Task 1: Inception Report and Work Plan:</i>	
Draft Inception Report and a detailed Work Plan	2 weeks Comments in response, by Contracting Authority and partners, should reach the Consultant no later than ten (10) days after receipt of Report
Final Inception Report which will incorporate comments from Contracting Authority and relevant partners.	5 weeks
<i>TASK 2: Conduct a Biophysical Inventory of the Southeast Project Area</i>	
Submit a draft report on Bio-Physical Inventory	25 weeks
Submit a final report on Bio-Physical Inventory	28 weeks
<i>TASK 3: Submit Report / Dossier on the identification of Marine Protected Areas for submission to the Department of Planning/ Cabinet's consideration</i>	
	30 weeks
<i>TASK 4. Submit Report on the identification of Sustainable Financing Opportunities</i>	
	33 weeks
<i>TASK 5: Closeout Report</i>	
	36 weeks

6.0CONSULTANCY MANAGEMENT

6.1 Reporting:

6.1.1 The Consultant will report to the National Project Co-ordinator who will provide the necessary linkages and backstopping with the GEF 6 – Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests of the South East Coast – Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising representatives of key agencies.

6.2 Place of work:

6.2.1 The Consultant will be based in his/her personal office, but will be accommodated at the offices of the Department of Sustainable Development when necessary.

6.3 Travel:

6.3.1 The assignment will not require travel outside Saint Lucia.

7.0 Qualifications and Skills

7.1 General Qualification

Masters, or Postgraduate degree in Biological/Natural Sciences or Environmental or Natural Resources Management; AND at least 5 years' experience in Marine Management, Marine Research and Assessment or related field;

OR

Bachelor's Degree in Biological/Natural Sciences or Environmental or Natural Resources Management; AND at least 8 years' experience in Marine Management, Marine Research and Assessment or related field.

7.2 Experience and Ability

- i. Ability to build strong relationships with national consultants and stakeholders, to focus on impact and results for the client, to respond positively to critical feedback, and a consensus-oriented approach to work.
- ii. Sound knowledge and wide experience in the development and use of participatory approaches in natural resources management.
- iii. Experience in developing strategies and initiatives utilizing fieldwork and research work to respond to environmental and natural resources management challenges.
- iv. Fully computer literate, proficient in the use of Microsoft Office especially in Word, Excel, PowerPoint; and relevant GIS software.
- v. Specific knowledge of coral reef biology and assessment is a necessity.
- vi. Specific experience in Marine Protected Area design and management are required.
- vii. Knowledge of the approaches used in establishing Protected Areas, preferably in a marine setting, is an advantage.
- viii. Ability to conduct research and analysis with strong synthesis skills.
- ix. Highly developed interpersonal, negotiation and teamwork skills, and a networking aptitude.
- x. Excellent English writing and communication skills.
- xi. Ability to work in complex, multi-stake-holder project environments.
- xii. Track record of involvement in similar exercises using participatory and consultative processes in the development of sustainable management plans.

7.3 Languages:

- Fluency in written and spoken English is required.
- Ability to speak Kwéyòl will be an asset

8.0 Timeframe for Consultancy

The Consultant will be contracted for a period of 9 months.

9.0 Submission

9.1 A complete proposal consisting of separate technical and financial proposals must be contained in individually sealed envelopes and must be placed inside a sealed outer envelope. The sealed outer envelope containing submissions must be marked “CONFIDENTIAL” “Proposal - Consultancy Services for preparation of the Baseline Assessment for GEF 6 – Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests of the South East Coast – Marine Ecologist.” The envelope should not contain company logos or the consultant’s name.

9.2 The envelope containing the technical proposals must be marked “TECHNICAL PROPOSAL- Consultancy Services GEF 6 – Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests of the South East Coast – Marine Ecologist.”

9.3 The envelope containing the financial proposals must be marked “FINANCIAL PROPOSAL- Consultancy Services for - GEF 6 – Integrated Ecosystems Management and Restoration of Forests of the South East Coast – Marine Ecologist.”

Hard copies must be submitted to the following address by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

**The Secretary
Central Tenders Board
Office of Director of Finance
Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation,
External Affairs and Public Service
2nd Floor
Finance Administrative Centre
Pointe Seraphine,
Castries
SAINT LUCIA**

AND / OR soft copies must be emailed to saintluciaactbprocurement@govt.lc by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

9.4 All queries must be emailed to: ralcee.sde@gmail.com

9.5 Deadline for which questions can be asked is Monday December 28, 2020.

All information must be submitted in English. If the consultant chooses to submit hardcopies, 5 hard copies of the Submission must be received.