



ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through Reduction in Marine Litter (ReMLit) Project

Grant No.: GEF Grant Number TF0A5428

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Intervention under the ReMLit Project - "Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines"

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): LC-OECS Commission-CS-CSVG001

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission invites interested eligible **Individual Consultants** to submit Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Services for Intervention under the ReMLit Project - "Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines":

The Terms of Reference and Guidelines for the Submission of Expressions of Interest for this consultancy are provided below.

Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through Reduction of Marine Litter (ReMLit) Project

Scope of Services
Terms of Reference

A request for Consultant to support
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Intervention under the ReMLit Project
“Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean
Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines”

November, 2020

1.0 Overview

The Caribbean Sea, with its high level of biodiversity, covers less than one percent of the world's ocean area (2.75 million sq km), nonetheless, it directly supports the economies of 34 coastal and small island countries and territories. It is a large marine ecosystem characterized by coral reefs, mangroves, and sea grasses as well as sandy beaches and rocky shores. These tropical ecosystems present high biodiversity associated with fauna and flora, and has resulted in high rates of national and regional endemism and contains the greatest concentration or rate and endemic marine species in the Western Hemisphere. Consequently, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) marine and coastal assets offer an unprecedented opportunity for strengthening the region's economy and closing the gap on poverty and unemployment rates.

Given that the marine space of small island states is significantly larger than their land mass and clearly a substantial asset, transitioning to a Blue Economy is critical to ensuring continued economic growth for our islands. With this in mind, the OECS embraces transition to a Blue Economy, enunciating that the region's marine and coastal assets offer an unprecedented opportunity for strengthening the region's economy, and closing the gap on poverty and unemployment rates. As one of the key Blue Economy frontrunners in the region, the OECS has taken a first step to enabling the transition to a Blue Economy through the adoption of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and its associated strategic action plan (ECROP SAP). The ECROP was approved in 2013 by the OECS Authority along with a Strategic Action Plan. The ECROP provides an OECS-wide framework for regional coordination of sustainable development, management and conservation of ocean resources. The ECROP recognises that water quality and marine pollution have the potential to derail efforts and transitioning to a Blue Economy and thus are particularly concerning.

In general, while OECS countries have solid waste management systems in place, it is noted that for the most part there is no source separation or collection of recyclables; no readily accessible local markets for recycled waste; and the cost of managing waste is exorbitant, posing a challenge for many governments to move to effective waste management systems, and contributing to an increase in marine litter.

In support of actions being taken to address waste management in the OECS, there is an urgent need to update and strengthen the enabling environment and coordinating mechanism(s) for waste (including plastics, Styrofoam and other materials contributing to marine litter) management in OECS member states. In November 2019, the OECS Commission, with support from the Government of Norway through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenced implementation of the Project, Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through Reduction in Marine Litter (ReMLit) which seeks to contribute to building resilience in

marine ecosystems through a reduction in marine litter in the Eastern Caribbean. As part of the ReMLit Project a number of interventions are being undertaken in the ReMLit participating countries. This consultancy focuses on the intervention for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

An economic evaluation undertaken of the marine biodiversity and its related eco-services provided in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines revealed a potential aggregate value of EC\$5,169,985.50.¹ Despite their significance to the national economy and the wellbeing and livelihoods of Vincentians, coastal and marine ecosystems are threatened by point and non-point sources of land-based sources of pollution. Solid waste pollution reaching coastal areas through indiscriminate disposal not only affects the aesthetics of the country's beaches, but also poses a threat to marine fauna which are trapped in the debris or choke on it due to ingestion.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has sought to address this issue through implementation of a ban on certain single use plastics and Styrofoam food containers. Additionally, an existing private public partnership between All Islands Recycling Inc (AIR Inc.) and the Solid Waste Management Unit since 2013, has resulted in some 38 million containers (plastic bottles and aluminum tins) being removed from environment and exported. This programme is sustained by the Environmental Levy Act of 1991 which imposed a customs deposit on the importation of items packaged in non- returnable containers (bottles and cans) .This deposit can be refunded once the importer re-exports or disposes the containers in approved manner within six months of importation. This deposit- refund strategy provides a financial incentive to harvesters, primarily individuals of the lower income strata who are removing the empty containers littering their communities. The programme has also helped to alleviate poverty among women. Of the approximately 300 harvesters who sell containers to AIR Inc. monthly, 60% are women and the average income of a typical waste seller is approximately USD130. Two percent (2%) of the women make a regular monthly sale of valuing USD 1,100.

It is adjudged that the current programme captures a very small percentage of recyclables and there is potential for significant expansion in terms of quantity and type of items that can be collected and processed. However, changes in the international market for plastics, is making exportation more difficult and less profitable. It is therefore necessary to find ways to scale up this programme to capture more recyclables (through perhaps amendments to the legislation, improved collections and importation of recyclables from other islands) to possible enable recycling at the local level. There is also potential to include other waste products, such as used tires, in PPP waste management arrangements. Currently these tires are collected from tire shops by a state agency (BRAGSA) for a small fee and disposed of via open burning.

¹ Christy and Teelucksingh, 2012

2.0 Objectives

To demonstrate and champion the uptake of cost-effective waste management systems through public-private partnership (PPP).

3.0 Scope of Services and Design Considerations

Task 1 - Prepare an Inception Report and Work Plan

The Consultant will prepare an Inception Report, including a detailed work plan and schedule, inclusive of milestones of the assignment. In preparing the work plan the Consultant shall conduct an inception meeting with the Client upon commencement of assignment to:

- a) Review the process for the conduct of all activities within the scope of services,
- b) Determine roles and responsibilities,
- c) Discuss the basis on which this work will be implemented, and
- d) Finalise the work plan and schedule.

A final Inception Report, including work plan and schedule (Output 1) will be prepared by the Consultant, and submitted to the client for review and approval.

Task 2 - Undertake a Situational Analysis

The consultant will conduct an assessment of the plastic waste that is generated locally within the country. This assessment should include a typing of the plastic waste, as well as approximate quantities. The assessment will include:

- a) Give consideration to work done under the RePlast Project with a few to adopting and adapting relevant approaches and practices. The RePLAST-OECS Pilot Plastic Recycling Project launched in May 2019, is a two-year public-private initiative, being implemented by UNITE Caribbean and is aimed at setting-up an incentivized plastic waste collection and recycling scheme. The plastic collected will be exported to a recycling plant in the Caribbean promoting a circular economy model. The first pilot country is Saint Lucia with subsequent replication in the OECS countries. <https://unite-caribbean.com/public/replastoecs/Home.html>
- b) Categorization of the types of plastics used, as well as quantities of the various types of plastics.
- c) Current waste management of plastics being deployed within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- d) Modelling for future generation of the plastic waste within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, using population trends and growth in use of plastic materials.
- e) Consultation with relevant stakeholders on plastic waste generation, and the potential for addressing the issues in the future.
- f) Make recommendations for the appropriate technology and/or arrangement for local plastic recycling or incorporation into industries such as construction.

- g) Take into consideration the collection programme, types of materials for recycling, as well as collection points.
- h) Work with the local firm, *All Island Recycling Inc*², to determine appropriate measures for collection and local recycling.
- i) Prepare a report on Situational Analysis, detailing the findings of the assessment, along with recommendations to address the current plastic waste issues.

Task 3- Formulate a cost recovery strategy to finance the local plastic waste recycling industry

Prepare a cost recovery strategy. This strategy should include, *inter alia*:

- a) General description of how the collection and recycling industry in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is financed.
- b) Detailed economic analysis of recommended technologies and/or arrangements recommended in Task 2.
- c) Scenarios for the financing of plastic waste recycling industry.
- d) Details and findings from consultations with relevant stakeholders, including *All Island Recycling Inc*, for their validation as well as feedback on the best scenario to be explored for a sustainable public private partnership.

Task 4 - Prepare a Completion Report

Prepare a consultancy completion report. This report should highlight, *inter alia*:

- a) The nature of the assignment undertaken, noting the level of success and constraints;
- b) Summary of consultation activities, including a list of stakeholders engaged with their respective affiliation;
- c) Lessons learned during the assignment;
- d) Any limitations to the outputs and their intended use; and
- e) Recommendations for continued monitoring of project outcomes and sustainability.

To support the knowledge management, visibility and advocacy objectives of this project, each key output (Outputs 2, 3 and 4) of this consultancy shall include a publish-ready 'Executive Summary' which presents key findings, data, analyses, recommendations, conclusions, synthesis in an appropriate format, including useful visual inserts.

4.0 Outputs

² A partnership between All Islands Recycling Inc (AIR Inc.) and the Solid Waste Management Unit since 2013 has resulted in some 38 million containers (plastic bottles and aluminum tins) being removed from the environment and exported. This programme is sustained by the Environmental Levy Act of 1991 which imposed a customs deposit on the importation of items packaged in non- returnable containers (bottles and cans).

- **Output 1:** Inception meeting report, including work plan and schedule
- **Output 2:** Undertake a Situational Analysis, and make recommendations for improvement in plastic waste recycling
- **Output 3:** Cost Recovery Strategy for Plastic Waste Recycling
- **Output 4:** Consultancy completion report

5.0 Deliverables Time Table

Work under this assignment is anticipated to be done over a 4-month period (tentatively February to May 2021). The assignment will require fifty (50) professional days and the Consultant is expected to deliver the following within the stipulated timeframe:

Milestones and Outputs	Final Output due at end of month	Notes
Award of Contract		Contract signed by both parties
Output 1: Inception meeting report, including work plan and schedule (Task 1)	2 weeks	
Output 2: Report on Situational Analysis	2 months	
Output 3: Cost Recovery Strategy for Plastic Waste Recycling (Task 3)	3 months	
Output 4: Consultancy completion report (Task 4)	4 months	

6.0 Indicative Payment Schedule

Deliverable	Payment
Output 1: Inception meeting report, including work plan and schedule (Task 1)	10%
Output 2: Report on Situational Analysis (Task 2)	25%
Output 3: Cost Recovery Strategy for Plastic Waste Recycling (Task 3)	40%
Output 4: Consultancy completion report (Task 4)	25%

7.0 Qualifications and Experience

This assignment will be carried out by a Consultant who is expected to have:

- A graduate or post graduate qualification in environmental pollution control, waste management and pollution control, or environmental management, other relevant area.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience pertaining to recycling of plastic waste and waste management in the OECS Member States.
- Experience working with a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector, government agencies, and communities.
- A minimum of 5 years of overall consulting experience.
- Experience working in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would be an asset.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Services for Intervention under the ReMLit Project - “Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines”

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission through the Environment and Sustainability Cluster (ESC) is seeking Expressions of Interest from Consultants for undertaking the Consultancy Services for ***Intervention under the ReMLit Project – “Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines”***

It is expected that the services will commence in February 2021 and be completed no later than May 2021.

Individual Consultants wishing to signify their interest in undertaking the prescribed services are to submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The information submitted should follow the layout indicated below:

1. A curriculum vitae,
2. A concept note on the planned framework for undertaking the assignment and a breakdown of the fee required.

To obtain the maximum degree of comparison among Expressions of Interests (EOIs) and facilitate the evaluation process, the EOI should be a maximum of 40 pages and should include the information listed above.

Expressions of Interest can be submitted via email.

The OECS is not bound to accept any Expression of Interest, and reserves the right to annul the selection process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Consultants.

Expressions of Interest will be evaluated and the Individual Consultant with the most relevant experience, qualifications and technical competence will be selected to negotiate a contract.

For more information or to submit Expressions of Interest, please contact:

Yasmine Anatole
Procurement Officer
OECS Commission Morne Fortuné
P.O. Box 1383
Castries
Saint Lucia

Telephone: 758-455-6328
Email: procurement@oecs.int

Copied to:

1. Mr. Chamberlain Emmanuel, *chamberlain.emmanuel@oecs.int*
2. Ms. Susanna Scott, *susanna.dscott@oecs.int*

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant (IC) method as detailed in the procedures set out in the Procurement Manual of the OECS dated November 2013, revised June 2017.

The details of the services required are available in the Terms of Reference which is available on the official website: www.oecs.int.

The criteria to evaluate the Expressions of Interests submitted may include:

1. Qualifications of the Consultant
2. Technical competence in undertaking the assignment
3. Related Experience of the Consultant and experience in undertaking similar assignments
4. Planned framework submitted for undertaking the assignment

Expressions of Interest will be evaluated and the Individual Consultant with the most relevant experience, qualifications and technical competence will be selected and requested to submit a proposal which will be the basis for negotiations leading to a contract.

An electronic copy of the Expressions of Interest should reach the OECS Commission on or before **December 11, 2020** addressed to:

Ms. Yasmine Anatole, Procurement Officer

At the following email address:

procurement@oecs.int

copied to: *susanna.dscott@oecs.int*

The email submissions should include the name and address of the Consultant and shall be clearly marked in the subject line as **“Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services for Intervention under the ReMLit Project - “Partnering to Combat Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Improve Ocean Ecosystem Health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines”**.

Appendix

Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through a reduction in Marine Litter (ReMLit) Project

Objectives

To contribute to building resilience in marine ecosystems through a reduction in marine litter in the Eastern Caribbean

Specific Objectives:

1. Enhance the enabling environment and coordinating mechanism(s) for waste (plastics, Styrofoam and other materials contributing to marine litter) management, including
 - Harmonise policies and legislation in the OECS
 - Institute best practices, including coordinating mechanisms
 - Foster waste reduction / recycling/ diversion / disposal
2. Create an enabling environment to facilitate new business opportunities or stimulate existing initiatives for material recycling, reuse or/and substitution.
3. Develop fiscal and other incentive programs (for businesses and households) to reduce plastics and Styrofoam use, and encourage recycling and reuse where appropriate
4. Develop a strategy to improve the transboundary / transnational movement of plastics and other waste within the OECS to enhance economies of scale and provide affordable secondary raw materials for waste recycling enterprises.
5. Support enhancement of national policy, legislation and fiscal incentive frameworks.
6. Develop and implement community-based interventions that contribute to reducing marine litter.

Regional Component

1. Assess the enabling environment in the OECS for effective waste management and based on findings:
 - a. Prepare OECS harmonised policy and legislation for effective management of waste and consequent reduction of adverse impacts on the ocean –plastics including Styrofoam, pollution management in the OECS arise from the capacity of sanitary landfills; operational practices; land-based sources of marine litter; ship-generated pollution.
 - b. Present best practices, including coordinating mechanisms, along with an action plan for implementation
 - c. Recommend programs to facilitate waste reduction / recycling/ diversion / disposal
2. Assess private sector's performance with regard to sustainable production and use, and responsible waste management towards facilitating best practices.
3. Undertake a review of existing fiscal systems and develop OECS model fiscal policy and incentives program (for businesses and households) to reduce

plastics and Styrofoam use, and encourage recycling and reuse where appropriate

4. Develop and undertake a public awareness campaign create public awareness, understanding, appreciation, advocacy and stewardship relating to the importance of the oceans, value of ocean systems and resources, blue economy, and detrimental impacts of marine litter; and promote the concept of a circular economy. *Note: To promote the Blue Economy concept, create buy-in and foster support for a blue economy a consultant has been secured with assistance from FAO to prepare a "Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan on the Blue Economy". This consultancy is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2019 and the campaign being proposed for marine litter form part of the implementation of this "Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan on the Blue Economy".*
5. Develop an OECS strategy to improve the transboundary / transnational movement of plastics and other waste within the OECS to enhance economies of scale and provide affordable secondary raw materials for waste recycling enterprises. This strategy will be informed by, and support the Basel Convention and Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution protocol to the Cartagena Convention.

National Component

1. Support national public awareness activities that promote an understanding, appreciation, advocacy and stewardship for effective waste management.
2. Support for adoption of OECS harmonised policy and legislation for effective management of waste.
3. Support for enhancing fiscal policy and incentives programs (for businesses and households) to reduce plastics and Styrofoam use, and encourage recycling, reuse or/and substitution where appropriate.
4. Develop and implement community-based interventions that contribute to reducing marine litter, including source separation, collection and recycling programs, coastal and river clean ups, and drainage litter management.

Broad timeframe of the action

This is estimated to take at least **three (3) years** of implementation. End date December 31, 2022

Target group(s)

Policy makers; technical personnel and middle management; communities and livelihoods; Agencies responsible for ocean governance matters, and biodiversity and ecosystems management; private sector; relevant civil society agencies.