

GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

CONSULTANCY SERVICES AGREEMENT

Development of an Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) Plan and Site-Specific Management Plans within the Iyanola North East Coast Region

1. BACKGROUND

The Northeast Coast Iyanola Region (NEC-IR) is an area of high environmental sensitivity and conservation significance. The area is rich in natural resources and is home to many rare plants and animal species that are endemic to Saint Lucia. However, economic activities within the NEC-IR are centred on use of these natural resources, with fishing and agriculture being the main activities. Most of the land in the NEC-IR is privately owned, thereby contributing to the challenge for land management, which remains a major sustainable development issue in Saint Lucia, and particularly so in the NEC-IR. If managed in a sustainable way, the current land use in the NEC-IR could be adequately leveraged to enhance the livelihoods of the people and impart substantive benefits to their respective communities and at the same time protect the vital ecosystems that exist within the region. The project is thus seeking to create a management framework through an Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan to guide the sustainable development of the forested landscapes within the project area.

The Iyanola Region contains most of the sensitive terrestrial and marine biodiversity that require special management attention while recognizing the fact that the landscape, which is predominantly under private ownership, will potentially be subject to development in the future. The ISFM plan therefore is intended to provide a detailed operational guide that will set management directives to the agencies with lead responsibility for biodiversity conservation and assist in guiding and supporting landowners and communities in sustainably utilizing the land resources to mitigate adverse outcomes.

The Iyanola Project has been supporting farmers and landowners in the implementation of conservation-oriented investments to ensure more sustainable land practices that support alternative livelihood benefits as an incentive. This is being done through the development of local plans, co-produced by the relevant agencies together with stakeholders, in particular local residents and local users, and landowners. Such local plans, community action plans and other place-specific Spatial Development Plans should be in alignment with the policies contained in wider regional and/or national level plans. The site-specific management plans are intended to effect at the local/land parcel level, the wider area-level management regimes that seek to restore and enhance ecosystem services

from forest landscapes to bolster carbon stocks, create connectivity corridors between Key Biodiversity Areas and Key Bird Areas and restore secondary and degraded deciduous seasonal forests in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) within the wider area.

2. OBJECTIVE AND SPECIFIC RESULTS

2.1. Overall Objectives

The Consultant shall embark on this engagement in accordance with this Terms of Reference (TORs) to prepare , **(1) Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for NE Iyanola Region** that details the strategic outlook and management interventions and resource commitments required post-project, specifically for the Heritage Forest Policy Area in accordance with the Iyanola Land Use Plan and **(2) Site-Specific Management Plans** for two areas that are benefiting from targeted livelihood management interventions that specify conservation regimes that will form the basis and model for access to support in accessing future concessions under the existing fiscal incentives framework under the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant agencies.

2.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this consultancy are to:

- a. Develop an Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for the Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest
- b. Develop Community based/Participatory based Site-Specific Management Plans for at least two local areas

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The **Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) Plan** is a management framework to guide the sustainable development of the forested landscapes within the project area, but specifically the areas referred to as the '*Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest*' as identified within the Iyanola North-East Coast Policy Areas proposed in the Iyanola Spatial Development and Conservation Plan(2018-2038), that has been prepared under this project.

The ISFM Plan will integrate the overall national forest management plan/strategy, Fisheries policy and other relevant policies/strategies, within the scope of recommendations from the Iyanola Spatial Development and Conservation Plan developed under this project. These will include *inter-alia*, the implementation of appropriate Sustainable land management (SLM) methodologies based on best practices for forest restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance of the health of both terrestrial and marine resources in degraded

forest areas (DFAs) and adjacent marine areas. It should also take into account approaches for gradual replacement of non-native flora where recognized to be potentially deleterious to the natural environment, with native species to the extent feasible and practical (e.g. conversion of fire hazard Caribbean Pines in the Caille Des area to more native species). The ISFM Plan should also take into account management of invasive alien species (IAS). In addition, the strategies developed should be mainstreamed in management programmes of the relevant agencies.

Site- Specific Management Plans: The Iyanola Project has been supporting farmers and landowners in the implementation of conservation-oriented investments to ensure more sustainable land practices that support alternative livelihood benefits as an incentive. The Land Use Plan refers to development of local plans co-produced by the relevant agencies together with stakeholders, in particular local residents and local users, and landowners. Two site-specific management plans are to be developed under this project that are intended to:

- Demonstrate a method to downscale to the local site/land parcel level, the wider area-level management regimes developed in this project, and under Part 1 of this consultancy (ISFM Plan), that aim to restore and enhance ecosystem services within forest landscapes
- Specify local site-level interventions that will restore degraded forests and productive landscapes and enhance carbon stocks while maintaining economic productivity. These interventions should seek the creation, through recommended landscape restoration measures, wildlife connectivity corridors within Key Biodiversity Areas and Key Bird Areas in the Iyanola region
- Serve as a replicable model that can be used by agencies (e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Department, others) as a framework/methodology for defining best landscape management practice suitable for the location, against which access to development support (technical advisory support, fiscal incentives, other concessions) may be linked. The entry points to connect to these existing fiscal/concessionary support instruments need to be identified, and options provided to enhance these instruments to take into account conservation objectives.

The specific tasks associated with the development of the ISFM Plan and the Site-Specific Management Plans are outlined below:

Tasks and Sub-Activities

1. Prepare the workplan and inception report

Conduct an inception meeting with the Contracting Authority and key partners to review the process for conducting all activities, determine roles and responsibilities, and finalise the workplan and timetable.

A draft workplan and inception report will be prepared by the Consultant and submitted to the Contracting Authority.

The Contracting Authority will review and provide feedback on the draft report. Submit the final inception report, incorporating the feedback received from the Contracting Authority and key stakeholders.

2. Prepare an Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for the Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest

- Review the existing Saint Lucia Forest and Lands Resources Department Strategy 2015 – 2025 and the recommendations from the four foundational studies under the Iyanola Project (i) Land Use Plan, (ii) Ecosystem Services Valuation, (iii) Planning and Development Policy Consultancy, (iv) Biodiversity Livelihoods Options/Business plan development) that will form the basis of the ISFM Plan, along with recommendations from other key studies including The Status and Management of St. Lucia's Forest Reptiles and Amphibians (Daltry, 2009) and the Revised Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2018 – 2025) For Saint Lucia, and other relevant documents.
- Map the existing biodiversity resources within the area, clearly indicating the forest ecosystem types and priority wildlife species and their associated conditions. This can be done by collating work already done under the four consultancies.
- Identify appropriate methodologies based on best practices for forest restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance of the health of the forest in degraded forest areas (DFAs).
- Make recommendations on appropriate agro-forestry and silvicultural needs of the forest in the area indicating or identifying appropriate native species to be used for reforestation activities. This can be done through consultation with relevant agencies.
- Identify appropriate management needs of key fauna species found in the area.
- Make suggestions for identification and management of invasive plant and animal species found in the area. This should be done and agreed upon in consultation with relevant agencies
- Identify research needs for key indicator species in consultation with relevant agencies and make suitable management recommendations for them.

- Recommend collaborative arrangements with research and development partners that will assure access to state-of-the-art investigative methods and ensure their application for the key indicator species identified above.
- Determine the resource requirements, both human and financial resources required to operationalize the ISFM Plan over a projected 10-year period. This will form the basis for resource mobilization and investment through internal government resources and external contributions.
- Prepare a first draft of the Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for the Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest that is complete with a budget proposal and implementation schedule.
- Conduct a meeting with the Contracting Authority and relevant stakeholders to present the draft ISFM plan and receive feedback from the stakeholders.
- Prepare and submit the final plan incorporating feedback from reviews and consultations.

3. Prepare Community based/Participatory based Site-Specific Management Plans for two local areas

- Identify two areas within the NEC-IR in which to develop site-specific management plans in consultation with relevant agencies. The sites selected should present good demonstration cases for livelihood support linked to Iyanola conservation objectives that can be replicated for uptake within the Iyanola region and the country.
- Identify and consult with social groups, individuals (farmers; landowners, etc) that will be involved/impacted by the implementation of the site-specific plan to gain buy-in and active participation.
- Identify and review where available, existing local plans, community action plans and other location-specific Spatial Development Plans which may be in alignment with the policies contained in wider regional and/or national level plans for integration within this effort identify and review (i) existing fiscal and other incentive regimes (Ministry of agriculture, Tourism, etc) that are available to landowners/farmers to support investment and (ii) the suite of recommendations contained in the Policy and Fiscal and Incentives Regime Appraisal Report and the Biodiversity Livelihoods Options developed under the project and make recommendations for enhancement of the existing incentive regimes so that concessions and other support granted is based on environmental/land conservation considerations.

- Prepare first drafts of the two site-specific management plans via interactive participation by stakeholders. The participatory processes in development of the plans must be documented (records of minutes, recommendations and agreements).
- Hold consultations with relevant audiences to present the draft site specific management plans and receive feedback.
- Prepare and submit the final version of the site specific management plans incorporating feedback received from the relevant stakeholders and Contracting Authority.

4. Prepare a close out report to capture the overall development process of the ISFM Plan

- Prepare a summary of the overall ISFM plan development process including opportunities and challenges and recommendations for management actions.
- Recommend appropriate adjustments in existing, applicable concessions and incentives frameworks to include environmental/ land conservation measures.

4. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The Consultant is expected to deliver the following deliverables:

	Timeframe	Deliverables
1	2 weeks after contract signing	• Inception Report – outlining the approach to be applied in the consultancy
2a	10 weeks after contract signing	• Draft Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for the Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest with budget proposal and implementation schedule
2b	13 weeks after contract signing	• Final Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) plan for the Iyanola Heritage Coast and Forest with budget proposal and implementation schedule
3a	17 weeks after contract signing	• Draft Community based/Participatory based Site-Specific Management Plans for at least two local areas
3b	19 weeks after contract	• Final Community based/Participatory based Site-Specific Management Plans for at least two local areas

	signing	
4	21 weeks after contract signing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closeout report – summarizing overall development process, highlighting opportunities and challenges and recommendations for management actions. This report must include recommendations for adjustments in applicable incentive frameworks for inclusion of environmental/land conservation measures.

The consultant is expected to make power point presentations to relevant stakeholders and project steering committee, on each of the main outputs of the consultancy.

5. REMUNERATION

Remuneration will be made based on schedule agreed in contract between the Contracting Authority and the Consultant.

6. QUALIFICATIONS

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

A Master's degree in Natural Resource Management, Forestry, or any other related field with a minimum of 2 years experience in the respective field.

OR

A Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management, Forestry or any other related field with a minimum of 5 years of experience in the respective field.

7. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Works well under pressure and meets tight deadlines.
- Working knowledge ,experience and proficient in the use of MS Office including Word, Excel and Power Point.
- Working knowledge and experience in developing management plans/local area management plans utilising field and research work to respond to environmental and natural resource management challenges.
- Knowledge and experience in working in complex, multi-stakeholder environments and in the development and use of participatory-based approaches in natural resource management

8. CONSULTANCY MANAGEMENT

The Consultant will report to the Chief Technical Officer, who will provide the necessary linkages and backstopping along with the Chief Technical Advisor.

9. PLACE OF WORK

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

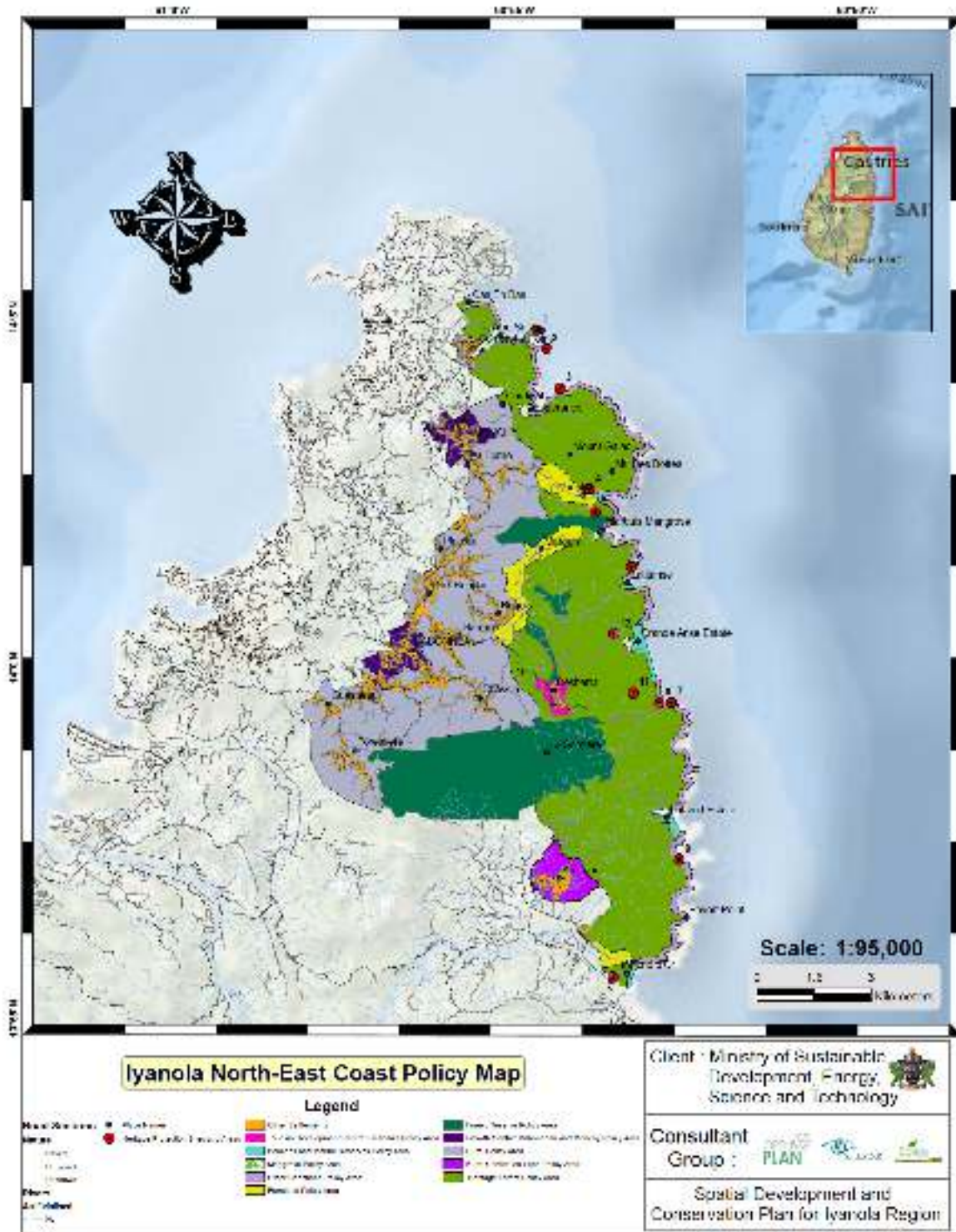


Figure 3 – Iyanola Policy Map (summary version)