

OECS Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystems Project

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Terms of Reference for the Antigua Local Technical Specialist

1. Introduction

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Eastern Caribbean are endowed with a rich biodiversity, and relatively high rates of national and regional endemism. These nations rely heavily on biodiversity assets both for tourism, which accounts for 75% of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States' (OECS) collective GDP, and as a source of livelihoods for a significant proportion of the population (mainly fishing and agriculture). As tourism-based economies, these SIDS directly depend on maintaining the natural beauty, health, and services provided by their marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Unfortunately, efforts aimed at protecting the critical ecosystems in the islands of the Eastern Caribbean have had mixed success, even when the legislative foundation for the management of these ecosystems has long been in place.

Sustainably managing the Eastern Caribbean countries' natural resource base, especially its marine ecosystems, in the face of these threats is particularly challenging due to: (i) the lack of reliable and consistent sources of funding for the management of protected areas (PAs); (ii) the lack of functioning and well defined legal and institutional frameworks; (iii) increased pressure on marine resources due to overfishing, unregulated tourism and other human activities; (iv) fierce competition within and among SIDS for tourism that has ramifications for financing and sustainably managing national and regional PAs; (v) current and expected impacts from climate change; and (vi) lack of sufficiently trained professionals in the monitoring, conservation and PA management of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Governments across the wider Caribbean were some of the first to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). During the Seventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention for Biological Diversity (COP-7), that was held in Malaysia in February 2004, the signatories reached a historical agreement to promote the establishment and management of national systems for protected areas. The agreement is articulated within a Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) that includes a series of activities that the signatories – including the Governments of OECS countries- are committed to implementing within clearly defined time frames. As part of the PoWPA, OECS and other Caribbean countries have committed to complete a number of tasks related to their national system of protected areas – Ecological Gap Analysis, Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM), Capacity Action Plan (CAXP) and Sustainable Finance Plan (SFP). Many of these countries are currently working to either revise or prepare new Master Plans for their national protected area systems which incorporate the various tasks outlined above.

At the sub-regional level, the OECS member states have endorsed the St. George's Declaration, which includes a commitment to the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of areas of outstanding scientific, cultural, spiritual, ecological, scenic and aesthetic significance. Each country is also conducting and/or implementing site level management plans. As part of their commitment under the CBD, each country has also completed their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP). One key recommendation from all of the Sustainable Finance Plans completed to date was the need to establish national level Protected Areas (PA) Trust Funds as a mechanism for sustained funding for the respective national protected area systems.

2. Objectives of the OECS Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystems Project

To address the region's marine and coastal resource degradation threats and management challenges, especially the lack of sustainable conservation funding, the proposed 5-year **OECS Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystems Project** would:

- (i) establish a system of long-term financing mechanisms to sustainably fund PAs in the participating countries;
- (ii) promote collaboration among governments, communities, NGOs and the private sector of the five participating countries in order to facilitate marine and coastal conservation; and,
- (iii) support efforts to harmonize policy, legal and institutional frameworks among the participating Eastern Caribbean states.

To assist the participating countries of the OECS; Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia, to develop and organize project components and produce a detailed project manual, the GEF has provided a Project Preparation Grant (PPG). The main PPG activities are to:

- (i) Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management of protected areas in the participating countries;
- (ii) Design performance indicators, baseline and annual targets, and monitoring mechanisms for the Project impacts;
- (iii) Analyze existing monitoring systems for deploying a regional monitoring and information system network;
- (iv) Carry out institutional analyses to design the institutional arrangement for the project implementation; and
- (v) Prepare the detailed project design and document for submission to the GEF Council.

(Please refer to attachment A, the Project Information form)

At the national level each country has designated a Project Focal Point to ensure that in-country project activities and communications are executed for an on time submission of the final project document to the GEF council in the latter half of 2010. Furthermore each country has a national GEF focal point who is responsible for the endorsement of the final project document prior to going to GEF Council.

3. Consultancy Objectives

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide technical and logistical support to the project in Antigua & Barbuda during the preparation phase. The contractor will work closely with the government-designated project representative to coordinate and tailor all in-country project activities in collaboration with the consultants and PPG coordinator.

4. Specific Tasks

- 1) In liaison with the GEF Focal Point assist with the coordination of all in-country project communications between local stakeholders, consultants and executing agencies.
- 2) Assist the national project focal point with the planning and organization of local stakeholder consultations in the individual countries; this should include 25 to 40 representatives drawn from government agencies (such as Finance, Protected areas, Environmental Management, Physical Planning, Tourism) community groups and NGO from PAs.
- 3) Assist in organising the second regional stakeholder consultation in collaboration with the senior technical specialist and PPG coordinator, including mobilising the attendance of representatives from Antigua & Barbuda.
- 4) Assist in consolidating in-country feedback on the draft products of the consultants towards the finalisation of all consultant reports.
- 5) Assist the national project focal point to disseminate project updates, awareness materials, reports, and consultant products to all local stakeholders (such as workshop methodologies and agendas in advance of in-country consultations) for review and to provide feedback of this to the PPG coordinator.
- 6) Assist the project focal point with data collection activities and maintain a current portfolio of project information including but not limited to background documents (such as protected area system master plans and reports), meeting notes, maps, stakeholder contacts and other information in support of project preparation and implementation.
- 7) Other tasks as determined by PPG coordinator and Senior Technical Specialist in consultation with the National Project Focal Point.

5. Deliverables

	Deliverables	Due Date on or before	Amount in \$US
	Upon signing this contract.		1,500.00
1	In country stakeholder consultation meetings and workshop reports that include but are not limited to the agenda, minutes, presentations, main agreements, recommendations and decisions, participants list and photographs.	May 17, 2010	5,500.00

	Workshop report from the second regional stakeholder consultation for the project (date still to be determined) and that includes but is not limited to minutes, main agreements, recommendations and decisions, and photographs.	June 30, 2010	3,000.00
2	Current portfolio of project information including background literature, meeting notes, maps and photographs, stakeholder contacts and other information in support of project preparation and implementation submitted as a compressed folder of files or CD.	July 30, 2010	3,000.00
	Total Value of contract not to exceed		\$13,000

(All the outputs shall be submitted as electronic documents in MS Word and as hard copies to The Nature Conservancy via the office of the Project focal point).

6. Qualifications

- 1) The consultant should be either a social or a public sector specialist with a good background in institutional and organizational issues. In addition the following minimum qualifications are required:
- 2) Experience in social assessment with a demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders in development of complex projects.
- 3) An in-depth knowledge and working experience with government relations, and governmental process in the specific country.
- 4) Ability to effectively interact and communicate with government officials, regional, intergovernmental organizations, and the multi-lateral donor community in the Eastern Caribbean.
- 5) Knowledge of marine and/or coastal planning, protected areas planning and management, sustainable finance mechanisms for conservation would be an advantage.
- 6) Excellent organizational, written, and verbal communication skills in English.
- 7) Ability to work independently and be a team player.
- 8) Ability to communicate on a regular basis via email and phone.

7. Length of Contract

March 2010 to October 2010

8. Value of contract

Proposals to provide these services (including professional fees, travel, and meeting costs) described above, shall not exceed USD 13,000.00

Individuals interested in providing the services described above should send letters of interest and curricula vitae to The Nature Conservancy (rblyther@tnc.org).