

GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment

and

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy

Leveraging Eco-Tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica (LETBP)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Position title	Consultancy Services
Project activity	Development of a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Cabrits National Park
Location	EALCRP Project Implementation Office
Duration	12 months
Contract Reference #	DM-MOERMKU-326374-CS-CQS

I. Background

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has received the grant funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the world's largest funder of biodiversity protection, nature restoration, pollution reduction, and climate change, for the implementation of the project “*Leveraging Eco-tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica*” (LETBP). Additional support has been provided by the World Bank through the implementation arrangements with the Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (EALCRP). GEF financing will leverage significant co-financing from national and donor financing across all project components.

The EALCRP is part of an overall developmental partnership initiative supporting medium and long-term recovery in Dominica after the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria, while LETBP focuses on leveraging Dominica’s natural environment as a driver of economic resilience, in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020 and the National Resilience Development Strategy 2020-2030. This overall program of support complements and is aligned with other development partner initiatives and fills critical gaps for agricultural development and biodiversity conservation.

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) established within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, (MAFBGE) that coordinates the day-to-day management and execution of the EALCRP will also support the administration of the LETBP project in joint execution with the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency

Empowerment (MERMKUCE). The PIU works in close coordination with the Central Services Unit (CSU) which reports to the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD) and includes expertise in procurement, social and environmental safeguards and financial management, and serves as a shared resource for all World Bank financed project in Dominica.

II. Project Description

Leveraging Eco-tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica (LETBP)

The LETBP project aims to coordinate and optimize the Government's approach to Protected Areas (PAs) and forest systems and support the Government in its efforts to conserve biodiversity as part of its pursuit to establish Dominica as an eco-tourism destination. This will be achieved by improving regulation and enforcement of its natural capital, and by improving the Government's capacity to mitigate potential negative impacts. The project consists of three components each addressing key development and sustainability constraints for eco-tourism and biodiversity protection and mutually supporting the overall Project Development Objective "*to improve management of Dominica's three national parks and the Waitukubuli National Trail*".

Key barriers identified to be addressed through the project implementation include (a) a limited integration of PAs planning and management into national key development processes (land-use planning, agriculture, forestry management, etc.); (b) a lack of awareness at the decision-making level of the value of the country's biodiversity; and (c) insufficient baseline data, weak monitoring capacities, and information needed to measure threats at the ecosystem level. Project components set out policy, investment, and capacity building and awareness raising interventions to promote conservation through the development opportunities provided by nature-based tourism, in pursuit of the Project Development Objective and Dominica's National Biodiversity Objective.

The first component (*Protected Areas Planning*) will support strengthening the institutional framework for PAs planning and management for three national parks (The Morne Trois Pitons National Park, The Morne Diablotin National Park and The Cabrits National Park) and the Waitukubuli trail network. This component will also assist in improving national and local capacities for PAs monitoring and management through a strong stakeholder engagement approach and will also include a thorough assessment on the role and value of ecosystem services as well the impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

The second component (*Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecotourism Operations*) will enhance the physical and institutional environment for the protection of biodiversity through the sustainable use of landscapes along the Waitukubuli National Trail (WNT) and in the three National Parks. This component will also improve financial management and visitor management which will greatly contribute to revenue mobilization, increased visitor experience and promotion efforts. The third component (*Sustainable Livelihoods*) will support in enhancing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods Indigenous Kalinago Peoples along the Waitukubuli National Trail and the areas surrounding the Protected Areas to engage in the expansion of eco-tourism activities. This will be

accomplished through investment in sustainable land use and through the preservation and inter-generational transfer of traditional Kalinago knowledge.

The project will strengthen biodiversity protection, financial management and build capacity for the national parks and the national trail system personnel, as well as of local communities. The direct project beneficiaries include communities and their members in targeted landscapes, farmers, tour guides, entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). Women to include the Kalinago bear the heavy burden of ensuring the livelihood sustainability of rural households and as of such are expected to benefit significantly. Benefits are expected to include improved access to skills training for business development, finance and markets, improved local governance, and subsequently more profitable community or individually-owned businesses and increased household income.

III. Objective of Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide Services for development of the overarching Management Plans for the Cabrits National within the first Component of the LETBP project under the activity *Development of the final Management Plans for three national parks*.

The creation of final drafts of management plans must be carried out through a structured planning process, according to the principles of participatory planning and adaptive management. The planning process, as well as the content and structure of management plans, should follow the IUCN *Guidelines for management planning of protected areas*, and the *UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* with regards to ~~the~~ Fort's Shirley's tentative nomination for the UNESCO cultural heritage site.

In accordance with the *Guidelines for management planning of protected areas*, the process of developing the final drafts of management plans for national parks will be performed in three stages:

1. Preparation and structuring of the planning process.
2. Determining the context and development of the core part of the plan.
3. Preparation of the final drafts management plans.

The management plans development in its core part will include undertaking an environmental and socioeconomic inventory and analysis.

Specific Objectives:

The final management plan for the Cabrits National Park has to cover both terrestrial and marine components of the park management. It should also reflect the existing protected areas management framework through a synthesis of all national policies, strategies, and plans, as well

as international commitments, and arrangements compared to current practices and the proposed improved management arrangements.

The management planning process should be performed through a structured and highly participatory planning approach, considering findings, analyses, and recommendations derived from previous planning documents, the most recent available data and inventory records, and the research work. The management planning process should consult at least the following existing national policies and planning documents:

- Final Draft Business Plan for Cabrits National Park 2023-2028, UNEP 2022
- National Forest Policy 2022
- Draft National Blue Economy Roadmap for Dominica, 2022
- Dominica Forest Note, WB 2021
- National Protected Areas System Plan, UNDP 2020
- Cabrits National Park Marine Section Management Plan, OECS 2007
- The Cabrits National Park Socio-Economic Evaluation of existing and proposed livelihood opportunities, WB, OECS 2010
- Environmental and Socio-Economic Studies for Cabrits National Park, OECS 2007
- Sustainable management plan and structure for the Waitukubuli National Trail, 2013

The core parts of the final draft of the management plan include:

- Evaluation of the implementation of the previous management planning documents for respective protected areas,
- Evaluation of the state of the protected area values with an emphasis on the target species and habitat types based on the analysis of available data,
- Stakeholders' analysis with the definition of levels and ways of their inclusion in the planning process and capacity building programme, and
- Consultation with all relevant stakeholders to revise management goals (based on the evaluation of the protected area state, goals, and measures for conservation of species, habitat types, historical and cultural localities and other values) and to define appropriate activities and the management plans' implementation monitoring framework.

The final draft of the management plan must include the following chapters:

1. Introduction and context
2. Planning process and stakeholder engagement
3. Description of the Protected Area values
4. Protected Area Management
 - a) Evaluation of the situation by topic, definition of general and special management objectives and indicators; management activities and indicators for the implementation, priorities, time schedule and partners etc.
 - b) Zoning
 - c) Budget plan
5. Literature
6. Annexes

IV. Key Responsibilities

1. Conduct preparatory activities that include a literature review and preparation of the detailed work plan. The proposed work plan should include the methodology for the planning process and stakeholder engagement and should be based on existing policies, strategies, and planning documents approved by the Cabinet, the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment (MERMKUCE), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, (MAFBGE).
2. Prepare a stakeholder analysis that contains a stakeholder engagement plan and a comparative analysis of human capacities, resources, and organizational procedures that are currently in place in the national parks system and those that will be needed for the implementation of improved management.
3. Conduct extensive stakeholder consultations (workshops, conducted and/or semi-conducted interviews) to update management priorities and conservation strategies that address critical threats to biodiversity and ecological functioning for respective protected areas. At least three group stakeholder workshops have been planned with at least 15 participants from different stakeholder groups.
4. Conduct a biodiversity inventory and prepare a socioeconomic analysis integrating social and environmental considerations in the proposed improved management and planning.
5. Develop improved management framework for Cabrits National Park taking into consideration ecological conditions, key species, invasive alien species, land uses, watershed management, tourism activities, infrastructural projects in the protected areas' proximity, and socioeconomic factors.
6. Prepare the final draft management plans that will consider comments and final inputs from all stakeholders and the wider public. An improved management framework for the Cabrits National Park should be presented to a wider public in a simplified infographic manner.

V. Qualifications and Experience Required

The contracted company should have a core business in protected areas planning and management with over 10 years of experience.

The contracted company should:

- Present a past portfolio of at least 5 similar projects or assignments;
- Show previous experience in conducting similar assessments in the Caribbean or small island developing states (SIDS); and
- Demonstrate previous experience working with international development agencies.

The service will be provided through the activities of the team leader and additional experts that the contractor must make available during the execution of the assignment.

The Team shall consist of, at minimum:

- Team Leader,
- Biodiversity Expert for tropical ecosystems,
- Expert for Cultural Heritage

The Team Leader must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. Advanced university degree (MSc, equivalent or higher) in one of the key areas of expertise (e.g., natural resource management, environmental economics, ecotourism) or another related educational background.
1. At least 10 years of relevant project management experience.
2. Demonstrated experience working with national governments, communities, and diverse stakeholder groups.
3. At least 5 projects with similar assignments of satisfactory completion, outlining the description of work and specific role.
4. Proof of experience in applying or engaging in community participatory approaches to natural resource management.
5. Demonstrated experience leading field and/or research teams.
6. Demonstrated knowledge on the World Bank Environmental and Social Policies; the World Bank Environment and Social Framework and laws of the Commonwealth of Dominica.
7. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
8. Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks.
9. Fluency in English with the ability to write in a clear and concise manner.
10. Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office Applications and software for the design of communication materials.
11. Strong Analytical and Report Writing Skills.

The Biodiversity Expert must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. Advanced university degree (MSc, equivalent or higher) in one of the key areas of expertise (e.g., marine conservation, biology, botany, ecology, zoology, tropical forest management) or another related field.
2. At least 10 years of relevant experience as an expert in the ecology of tropical species and habitats.
3. At least 5 projects with satisfactory completion, including terrestrial and marine inventories or similar, with a description of work and specific role.

4. Good knowledge of surveying and GIS mapping in protected areas.
5. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
6. Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks.
7. Work experience in the Caribbean would be an asset, specifically in Dominica.
8. Fluency in English with the ability to write in clear and concise manner.
9. Ability to communicate in Creole language will be considered an asset.

The Cultural Heritage Expert must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. Advanced university degree (MSc, equivalent or higher) in one of the key areas of expertise (e.g., history, geography, museology, anthropology, archaeology) or another related field.
2. At least 10 years of professional experience in cultural history with knowledge of the values and restoration of the heritage sites in the Caribbean, in particular.
3. At least 5 projects in the area of protection, preservation, and interpretation of cultural heritage, including restoration of cultural artifacts with a description of work and specific role.
4. Demonstrated understanding of social safeguard procedures and track record in contributing to social research and analytical reporting.
5. Experience working with local communities and indigenous people, conducting beneficiary consultations, and stakeholder engagement/participation will be considered an asset.
6. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
7. Work experience in the Caribbean would be an asset, specifically in Dominica.
8. Ability to communicate in Creole language will be considered an asset.
9. Fluency in English with the ability to write in clear and concise manner.

VI. Reporting & Quality Assurance

To the EALCRP Project Implementation Unit Office and the Division of Forestry

The Service Provider shall operate a Quality Assurance (QA) system throughout the execution of the engagement. The nature of the QA system will be described in the response to Call for proposal.

Quality control by the Service Provider shall include a check list containing the following: Detailed Work Plan, Stakeholder Analysis, Environmental and Social Analysis, Workshops signature lists, Draft Management plans for Cabrits NP, Communication materials etc.

VII. Terms of Assignment

The contract is expected to be awarded for a duration of twelve (12) months. The assignment is expected to commence in June 2023.