

GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, RURAL MODERISATION, KALINAGO UPLIFTMENT AND
CONSTITUENCY EMPOWERMENT**

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Services Required	Land and Survey Services
Contract Description	Demarcation and Buffer Zone Establishment for the Morne Diablotin National Park
Location	EALCRP Project Implementation Office
Duration	1 Year
Procurement Plan	DM-MOERMKU-439667-CS-CQS
Tentative Start Date	October 2024

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). GEF financing is channelled through the World Bank, as a GEF ‘implementing agency’. As such, LETBP is being implemented alongside other World Bank financed operations in Dominica, namely Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (EALCRP).

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) coordinates the day-to-day management and execution of the EALCRP and 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), under the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD), which supports on procurement, social and environmental risk management, 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) management 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 manage PAs in line with international best practice to simultaneously promote biodiversity conservation and economic development. The project consists of three components each addressing key pillars 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 PA monitoring and management through a strong stakeholder engagement approach and will 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 enhanced opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the Kalinago Community along the Waitukubuli National Trail and the areas surrounding PAs to engage in and benefit from Dominica's nature-based tourism sector. This will be accomplished through investment in sustainable land use and through the preservation and inter-generational transfer of traditional Kalinago knowledge and livelihood training to better integrate in tourism value chains.

The project will strengthen biodiversity protection, financial management and build capacity for the national parks and the national trail system personnel, as well as 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, including within the Kalinago Community, 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, all while promoting conservation of Dominica's rich biodiversity endowment.

III. Objective of Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide Land and Survey services within the first Component of the LETBP project under the activity *Demarcation and Establishment of a Buffer Zone for the Morne Diablotin National Park*. A Land and Survey company is expected to collaborate and consult with the company assigned for the update of the Morne Diablotin National Park Management Plan.

The Morne Diablotin National Park Improved Management Plan 2011-2016 recommended the establishment of a buffer zone around the Morne Diablotin National Park, consisting of a depth of 200 meters on the northern and western boundaries on privately-owned lands adjoining the park, and 500 meters along the eastern and southern boundaries consisting of all state-owned forest lands. The total acreage of the proposed buffer zone would amount to 2,793.65 acres, of which 358.99 acres are privately owned.

This assignment will help develop land tenure and stakeholder engagement processes to address land tenure issues and conflicts within the Morne Diablotin National Park buffer zone which is necessary to ensure support for and willingness to abide by guidelines and Protected Areas (PA) sustainable management strategies.

Boundary demarcation and buffer zone establishment are important tools for national park protection and management and it has to be developed in a highly participatory manner. Buffer zones serve as zones outside a protected area from which people can derive material or economic benefits, but also provide wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. The establishment of a National Park buffer zone should attach great importance to ecosystem functions but also to its cultural service functions, such as scientific research, education, and public recreation.

Specific Objectives:

- 1) Identify and define boundaries of a buffer zone through a desk review and stakeholder consultations to define indicators and criteria for the buffer zone designation process taking

into consideration ecological conditions, watersheds, key species, land uses, and socioeconomic conditions of communities in an area adjacent to the MDNP boundaries.

- 2) Identify all relevant stakeholders including private property land owners and determine the amount of land from each landholder that will be affected by the creation of a buffer zone.
- 3) Conduct extensive stakeholder consultations (workshops, conducted and/or semi-conducted interviews) to identify development priorities and conservation strategies that address critical threats to biodiversity and ecological functioning of the proposed buffer zone area. These would include, land owners, Ministry of Agriculture personnel and other experts to determine the best use of specific portions of the land within a buffer zone.
- 4) Develop a land tenure and forest owner engagement process. Regulating activities on privately owned lands will require a change of tenure or flexible arrangements that can accommodate emerging PA management arrangements.
- 5) Create a mapping of the MDNP boundary and a buffer zone in GIS, and develop maps and GPS boundary tracks.
- 6) Demarcate the proposed buffer zone with signposts. Signposts should also be erected at the boundary of the MDNP.

The PIU and the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division will in collaboration with the Ministry of Legal Affairs ensure that the buffer zone areas are officially established under existing laws and regulations.

Note that the above consultation processes and any strategies developed should be in line with principles set out in environmental and social risk management instruments prepared for the project, including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Process Framework¹.

IV. Key Responsibilities

1. Conduct preparatory activities that include a literature review and preparation of preliminary map based on the technical description provided in the Morne Diablotin National Park Improved Management Plan 2011-2016.
2. Coordinate with the Physical Planning Division, Lands and Surveys Division, the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division, and Division of Agriculture to assure compliance with existing policies and current development programmes.
3. Conduct a reconnaissance of the area being considered for a buffer zone and visit the communities around the MDNP to determine land occupation and ownership, and to understand the socioeconomic conditions and land tenure in and around the park.

¹ The final versions of these documents are available at <https://piu.agriculture.gov.dm/safeguards>

4. Coordinate with the Land and Surveys Division and Registry of Lands to determine which occupants have title to the land they occupy.
5. Based on the reconnaissance of the area, and the information on ownership status of lands in the proposed buffer zone prepare a stakeholder engagement plan included but not limited to, workshops timetable, methodology and means of consultation, list of stakeholders, situation analysis and recommended conservation actions.
6. Conduct extensive stakeholder consultations and workshops (at least 3) to identify human utilization (visitor use, land use, use of medicinal plants, agroforestry techniques and similar), and to raise awareness of the soundness and benefits of the buffer zone demarcation.
7. Develop indicators and criteria for the buffer zone designation process taking into consideration ecological conditions, watersheds, key species, land uses, and socioeconomic factors.
8. Liaise with the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division, Physical Planning Division, Lands and Surveys Division, Division of Agriculture, land owners and other relevant stakeholders to arrive at an acceptable land tenure package for both State and private lands.
9. Develop a co-management agreement (involving vulnerable groups, women, and youth) for a buffer zone defining the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.
10. Develop maps and the buffer zone boundaries in a GIS environment using remote sensing images, network big data, and other resources considering the challenge of rugged mountainous terrain and tropical weather conditions.
11. Design and erect the signposts using standardized, internationally accepted signage for the Protected Areas buffer zones with geotagged photos.
12. Prepare the Final report including the process overview, findings, maps, and recommendations for land-use practices and conservation actions in the buffer zone.

V. Qualifications and Experience Required

The contracted company should:

- Be a legal entity with business license granted by a competent authority
- their core business in surveying with over 5 years of experience,
- Have a past portfolio of at least 3 similar projects or assignments in Protected Areas,
- 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 a team leader and additional experts that the Consulting Firm must make available during the execution of the assignment.

The Team shall consist of, at minimum:

- Team Leader
- Project engineer/Land surveyor
- Forester
- Land Tenure Specialist
- GIS Data Specialist
- Field workers

The Team Leader must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences, Business Administration, Economics or related discipline. A master's degree or better is an asset.
2. At least 7 years of relevant project management experience.
3. At least 1 project related to Natural Resources management.
4. Demonstrated knowledge on the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.
5. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
6. Fluency in English with the ability to write in a clear and concise manner.
7. Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office Applications and software for the design of communication materials.
8. Strong Analytical and Report Writing Skills.
9. Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks.

The Project Engineer/Land surveyor must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. University bachelor's degree in Land Survey, Physical Planning, Geography, or similar discipline. A master's degree will be considered an asset.
2. Must be of good standing certified Geodetic Engineer who is licensed to practice as a land surveyor in keeping with the laws of the Commonwealth of Dominica.
3. At least 7 years of relevant experience as Project Engineer.
4. At least 5 projects of a similar nature including cadastral projects. Experience in projects involving demarcation and/or delineations of Protected Areas and/or buffer zone boundaries would be an added advantage.
5. Working experience in social safeguards, with a track record in developing social policies, data collection surveys, identifying social risks, and working on gender, indigenous peoples, stakeholder engagement matters.
6. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
7. Fluency in English with the ability to write in clear and concise manner.
8. Ability to communicate in Creole language will be considered an asset.

The Forester must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. University bachelor's degree in natural sciences (Forestry, Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Conservation Biology) or similar discipline. A master's degree will be considered an asset. An associate degree with a minimum of 15 years of practical work experience in a related field will also be considered.
2. At least 7 years of professional experience in Protected Areas Planning and Management.
3. Good knowledge of forestry surveying and GIS mapping.
4. Experience in working with indigenous people, conducting beneficiary consultations, and stakeholder engagement/participation will be considered an asset.
5. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to understand team needs and develop ideas to meet the assignment objectives.
6. Knowledge of the institutional framework for Protected Areas in Dominica.
7. Fluency in English with the ability to write in clear and concise manner.
8. Ability to communicate in Creole language will be considered an asset.

Land Tenure Specialist must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. University degree (bachelor's or better) in Land Survey, Geography, Physical Planning, Environmental Law, Natural Resources Management, or similar.
2. At least 5 years of professional experience in Protected Areas management, Land use planning and/or Forest management.
3. Experience working with land owners, farmers and/or squatter communities.
4. Demonstrated technical ability to develop and effectively communicate complex ideas to a variety of stakeholders, in both technical and user-friendly language.
5. Knowledge of the institutional framework for Protected Areas in Dominica.
6. Knowledge of Dominica's social structure and development challenges.
7. Work experience in the Caribbean will be considered an asset, specifically in Dominica.
8. Ability to communicate in Creole language will be considered an asset.

The GIS Data Specialist must possess the following minimum requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree in GIS, Geography, Earth Science, Urban Planning, Natural Sciences, Environmental Science, Social Sciences, or related field. Master's degree will be considered an asset.
2. At least 3 years of professional experience in GIS, spatial, geospatial, or related projects.
3. Good knowledge of Geographic information and related computer systems such as the ArcGIS software suite and related software tools.
4. Knowledge of integrating spatially GIS from a wide variety of sources.
5. Experience with technologies employed to gather spatially relevant data in field research, including GPS receivers, connected mobile devices, and unmanned aerial systems

(UASs).

6. Effective organizational skills, ability to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and work both independently and within the team.
7. Detail oriented with good analytical and logical skills.
8. Oral and written proficiency in English.

All surveying and mapping works shall be managed and operated in accordance to the good practices as recognized by the Geodetic Engineers (GE) profession. Works must be performed in accordance with the guidelines for Land Surveys of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

All surveying and mapping equipment for the execution of the assignment shall be provided by the respective Service Provider and must be calibrated and in good working condition at all times. Surveying and Mapping must be done using Global Positioning System (GPS), Total Stations, and Real Time Kinematics (RTK) with correct ancillary equipment for GPS.

Must have the capacity to provide support in the field

VI. Reporting & Quality Assurance

Reporting will be to the Project Implementation Unit Office and the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division.

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 Bids.

Quality control by the Service Provider shall include a check list containing the following: Evidence of Instrument Calibration; Project Management Plan (PMP) and progress map including GPS Field Sheets; Approved Geographic Position of Reference Points; Final List of Position.

VII. Terms of Assignment

The post is expected to be awarded for a duration of twelve (12) months. The assignment is expected to commence in October 2024.