

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

Position title	Technical Advisor for Biodiversity Planning and Management/Forestry Specialist
Project activity	Improving National and Local Capacities for Protected Areas Management
Location	EALCRP Project Implementation Office
Duration	12 months with performance-based extension
Procurement Plan	DM-MOERMKU-341742-CS-INDV
Tentative Start Date	September 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.

I Objective of Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to provide consultancy services to support the PIU in implementation of project activities specific to forestry and wildlife planning and management. The primary task is to support implementation of project activities related to Protected Areas (PA) Planning and Management, and Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecotourism Operations. The Consultant is expected to support the preparation of the Terms of References (ToR) and technical reports that are required for the various consultants and/or firms for goods or services to be engaged under specific project activities, including the monitoring and supervision over the project consultants and vendors. The consultant is expected to support development of capacity building programs, conduct in-house trainings, and collaborate on dissemination of project results.

In collaboration with the Project Coordinator, the Consultant will liaise and collaborate with key stakeholders and partners, including technical personnel from the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment (MERMKUCE), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy (MAFBGE), the Ministry of Tourism (MT) as well as other relevant stakeholders to gather their inputs ensuring seamless implementation of project activities.

II Key Responsibilities

- Support specific forestry related project activities, including stakeholder consultations and effectively mobilize necessary resources for their implementation as agreed with the Project Coordinator. A list of project activities specific to this assignment is appended.
- Assist in the preparation of Terms of Reference for the recruitment of consultants and ensure that technical inputs from the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division (FWPD) and other stakeholders have been addressed and clearly presented.
- Work in close collaboration with the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division (FWPD) ensuring smooth coordination and communication on implementation of activities and progress towards set targets.
- Provide assistance in the monitoring of project implementation in line with Project's Results Framework and collaborate in preparation of Quarterly Project Monitoring Reports.
- Assist in the development of capacity building programs, including "train the trainer" modules, and conduct in-house trainings for the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division staff.
- Support the project outreach through presentation of project activities and their impacts

on communities and beneficiaries, and preparation of inputs for communication materials which will be presented in various media and communication channels (project web-site, radio, newspapers, web portals, social media and similar).

III Qualifications and Experience

- Advanced diploma or higher in forestry or Protected Areas planning and management, natural resource management or Environmental Studies
- At least 15 years of experience in forestry or Protected Areas planning and management.
- Proven experience in development of capacity building programs and conduct trainings in the field of forestry and wildlife management.
- Demonstrated experience working with multinational agencies (World Bank, UNDP, GEF etc.).
- Understand national approval processes for recruiting national and international individuals or firms for goods or services consulting contract.
- Experience working on contracts and with national and international consultants.
- Fluency in English with the ability to write in a clear and concise manner.
- Knowledge of French and Creole is an advantage.
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office Applications and software for the design of communication materials.
- Strong teamwork skills and the ability to prioritize tasks and develop ideas to meet the project objectives.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Must be capable to provide support in the field

Reporting

The Consultant will provide reports monthly to the Project Implementation Unit Office and the Division of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division. Reporting schedule to be established.

APPENDIX-1

List of Project Activities specific for this Assignment

No.	Project activity	
Component 1		
1	1.1.1	Demarcation and Establishment of a Buffer Zone for the Morne Diablotin National Park
2	1.1.2	Update of Management Plans for the Morne Diablotin and Morne Trois Pitons National Parks and development the Cabrits National Park Management Plan
3	1.1.3	Revision of existing legal arrangements and management plan of the WNT
4	1.1.4	Assessment on the value of ecosystem services
5	1.2.1	Provision of training program and communication plan for co-management of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park
6	1.2.2	Provision of monitoring equipment and training for the Forestry Division
7	1.2.3	Assessment on the impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
Component 2		
8	2.1.1	Update of the GPS trail system for the WNT and PA feeder trails
9	2.1.2	Improvement of eco-tourism infrastructure and interpretation
10	2.1.3	Establishment of an electronic user fee system (e-ticketing)
11	2.2.1	Capacity building for development and maintenance of eco-tourism trails
Component 3		
12	3.1.2.	Demarcation and mapping program for the Kalinago Territory