**TC ABSTRACT**

**I. Basic Project Data**

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| ▪ Country/Region: | REGIONAL/CCB - Caribbean Group |
| ▪ TC Name: | Supporting the Development of the Blue Economy in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States OECS |
| ▪ TC Number: | RG-T4169 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | DOHNERT DE LASCURAIN, SYLVIA EVA (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; DOHERTY BIGARA RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER (CSD/CCS) Alternate Team Leader; JUNE ALLEYNE (IFD/CTI); LIANA WELCH (IFD/CTI); ALEX SANCHIZ (IFD/CTI); GOMEZ, JUAN CARLOS (CSD/CCS); VILA SAINT-ETIENNE, SARA (LEG/SGO) |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Client Support |
| ▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC: | N/A |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract: | 16 Aug 2022 |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | OECS Secretariat |
| ▪ Executing Agency: | INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK |
| ▪ IDB funding requested: | US$200,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding: | US$36,000.00 |
| ▪ Disbursement period: | 18 months |
| ▪ Types of consultants: | Individuals; Firms |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit: | CSD/CCS - Climate Change |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: | CCB/CBA - Country Office Barbados |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):  ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | No  No |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Productivity and innovation ; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Environmental sustainability; Gender equality |
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**II. Objective and Justification**

2.1 The objective of this technical cooperation is to strengthen the policy and institutional framework for coordinating the development of the Blue Economy in the OECS member states linked to the Islands Management System Framework. The OECS Secretariat will be a key stakeholder in this project but it will also involve other relevant stakeholders in the Blue Economy sector across the OECS region

2.2 The OECS has recognized the need to harness the full potential of the blue economy, that is, its ability to enhance economic opportunity for local communities, while safeguarding ocean and coastal ecosystems and long-term sustainable development. As a result, the region has been involved in several recent efforts aimed at placing the blue economy on a more sustainable footing. To achieve this mission, there is the need for a strong policy and institutional framework to guide the process and ensure a successful outcome. It will require the strengthening of institutional capacity, at the level of knowledge, and agencies, that will help inspire and support innovation. It will also require greater sensitization or communication concerning the benefits and scope of the Blue Economy and will involve outreach to a very broad stakeholder base.

2.3 The operation is consistent with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB 3190-2) and is aligned with (i) the development challenge of productivity and innovation as it supports policies that will encourage technological development and foster innovation in the Blue Economy. The operation is expected to have a positive impact on the development of the blue economy related private sector through a clearer policy framework i.e. a strategic action plan, and better capacity of the OECS Secretariat and other participating agencies to support the growth of the sector. The operation is also aligned with the cross-cutting themes of: (ii) climate change since the blue economy approach promoted by it ensures the environmental sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems and provides means for a resilient and sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic ; (iii) institutional capacity and rule of law as the capacity building efforts support the strengthen the institutional capacity of the participating agencies to deliver on their mandates and (iv) gender equality and diversity, as the Blue Economy is an approach that pursues gender equality by integrating the interests of different genders into the sustainable use of ocean resources.

2.4 The operation is also aligned with the intervention areas of the Corporate Results Framework 2020-2023 (CRF) (GN2727-12), namely: (i) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and/or ecosystem services (including but not limited to the creation/management of marine and terrestrial protected areas); and (ii) support for new or improved environmental legislation and/or governance, including financial mechanisms and incentives targeted at promoting environmental sustainability.

2.5 The project is also aligned with the priorities of the "Proposal for the Establishment of the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility" (GN-2851), specifically Pillar II which seeks to enhance the legal, institutional, and regulatory framework for business and innovation climate.

2.6 The TC will complement the IDB’s Support to Economic Recovery in the Caribbean through Trade and Investment in Blue Economy RG-T4017 which seeks to develop and implement a BE Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotion strategy, using digital tools to create contents and generate more qualified leads at a lower cost.

**III. Description of Activities and Outputs**

3.1 **Component I: Strengthening the policy and strategy framework for the development of the OECS Blue Economy.** The development of a legislative gap analysis in the OECS countries with established National Ocean Policies (NOPs) and the development of a regional strategic plan in a holistic and integrative approach for the Blue Economy sector in the OECS.

3.2 **Component II: Strengthening Coordinating Mechanisms and Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems.** An institutional capacity building program for the OECS to improve its planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, accountability, and investment attraction for Blue Economy Development.

3.3 **Component III: Implementation of Gender Sensitive Communication Strategy .** Knowledge generation and dissemination efforts to increase awareness among public sector stakeholder and male and female entrepreneurs on the definition and strategic importance of the blue economy for growth in the OECS.

3.4 **Component IV: Monitoring and Evaluation .** This component will cover expenses related to compiling and analyzing data required for a final evaluation for the project.

**IV. Budget**

**Indicative Budget**

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| **Activity/Component** | **IDB/Fund Funding** | **Counterpart Funding** | **Total Funding** |
| Strengthening the policy and strategy framework for the development of the OECS Blue Economy | US$100,000.00 | US$0.00 | US$100,000.00 |
| Strengthening Coordinating Mechanisms and Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems | US$70,000.00 | US$0.00 | US$70,000.00 |
| Implementation of Gender Sensitive Communication Strategy | US$25,000.00 | US$0.00 | US$25,000.00 |
| Monitoring and Evaluation | US$5,000.00 | US$0.00 | US$5,000.00 |
| **Total** | **US$200,000.00** | **US$0.00** | **US$200,000.00** |

**V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure**

5.1 The execution of this TC will be carried out by the Bank through the Climate Change Division (CSD/CCS) in coordination with the Competitiveness and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI) and the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF), approved under GN-2851. Project output indicators will be monitored following the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework of the CCPF. The activities to be executed are included in the Procurement Plan (Annex III) and will be contracted in accordance with Bank policies as follows: (a) AM-650 for Individual consultants; (b) GN-2765-1 and Guidelines OP-1155-4 for Consulting Firms for services of an intellectual nature and; (c) GN-2303-20 for logistics and other related services. The execution period is expected to be 18 months, and the disbursement period 20 months.

5.2 As per Annex 10 of document GN-2629-1, the Bank is the proposed executing agency given the Bank has demonstrated its ability to coordinate and motivate action among diverse stakeholders across the region and the blue economy is a highly specialized subject matter that requires technical expertise to ensure the selection and hiring of quality consulting services. Furthermore, the OECS Secretariat faces the usual challenges of any institution, that is constrained resources and competing mandates, which in this particular case exists in addition to the mandate of moving forward all matters related to the blue economy. Therefore, the assistance the Bank will offer as the executing agency is crucial for the successful implementation of the TC’s components and the delivery of its proposed products. A letter from the OECS Commission requesting that the IDB acts as the executing agency has been included in the Annexes.

**VI. Project Risks and Issues**

6.1 Cooperation from Implementation Partner. A key assumption of this TC is the full support of the OECS Secretariat as an active partner in implementation. The OECS Secretariat was involved in the preparatory research activities which informed the development of the TC, chiefly through facilitation of stakeholder engagement. Considering the goal of this programme to have equitable impact across all beneficiary member states, it is essential that key stakeholders in all 6 countries be sensitized and onboarded to the programme in the shortest possible time.

6.2 A key risk to the development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Blue Economy is the availability of relevant data pertaining to the various pillars of the concept. To mitigate this risk, the involvement of all key ministries and agencies across the OECS will be required to gain access to data and useful information.

6.3 Multi-Agency input required: Most of the activities in this project will require the input of several public and private sector entities and stakeholders. To mitigate this risk, all relevant departments and agencies will be included in stakeholder consultations, ensuring frequent and effective communication to maintain cooperation. In addition, a key output of this TC is the design of an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure continuous and active participation of relevant stakeholders.

**VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".