

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST **CONSULTING SERVICES**

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: RG-T4169-P001

Selection Method: Simplified Competitive Selection

Country: Regional

Sector: IFD/CTI-Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division

Funding – TC #: ATN/CO-19595-RG

Project #: RG-T4169

TC name: *Supporting the Development of the Blue Economy in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States OECS*

Description of Services: Consultancy to Develop a Legislative Gap Analysis and Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Development of the Blue Economy in the OECS Member States.

[Link to TC document](#)

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: *January 14, 2022*, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

To access the IDB Portal, the firms must generate a registration account, including **all** the data requested by the Portal. In the event that any of the information requested is not included, the firm will not be able to participate in this or any other Bank-executed selection process for operational work. If the firm has been previously registered, please validate that you have **all** the firm's information updated and complete before submitting an expression of interest.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the development of a Legislative Gap Analysis and Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Development of the Blue Economy in the OECS Member States in the second quarter of 2023. The consulting firm should establish the necessary legislative framework for the implementation of the strategies highlighted in the National Ocean Policies (NOPs) of the OECS member states. More specifically, the consultancy should develop a Legislative Gap Analysis Report to assess current gaps and opportunities to promote the implementation of the National Ocean Policies (NOPs) and the overall development of the Blue Economy from a governance perspective. The consulting firm should also assess whether the existing legislative framework constrains the development and expansion of key Blue Economy industries (e.g., mariculture). Additionally, the consulting firm should develop a Strategic Action Plan to support decision-makers in the OECS to promote investments and policy planning on the Blue Economy.

Key Activities

The consulting firm will carry out the following key activities that will facilitate the achievement of the objective of the project:

1. Conduct inception meetings and finalize work plan. Meetings are to be held with the relevant staff of Compete Car

ibbean, the OECS Secretariat and the various line ministries in each member state via teleconferencing, videoconferencing or face-to-face, where practical, to review and discuss the assignment, clarifying the roles and responsibilities and the extent of logistical support to be provided to the Consultant. A work plan should be prepared and submitted within two weeks of the commencement of the engagement.

2. Review the existing legal framework and background documentation on institutional and related initiatives to mainstream the blue economy in each OECS member state.
3. Review the OECS Model Legislations developed under CROP relating to Fisheries and Marine Pollution to develop a more in-depth understanding of the legislative reforms necessary to operationalize the recommendations from the NOPs.
4. Review the international best practices relating to the legislative and regulatory framework of the development of the blue economy in the OECS.
5. Prepare a Legislative Briefing Document that will be submitted as input for drafting of new legislation and regulations. The briefing document should identify any gaps, duplications, overlaps and inconsistencies that may exist within existing framework and offer legal advice with recommendations on the structure and scope of new bills and proposed amendments. The document should also address the shortcomings identified to support to the streamlining and updating of the processes involved in implementing the NOPs.
6. Assess institutional and policy frameworks in the OECS to identify gaps and opportunities to mainstream the Blue Economy. The consultants should propose the required adjustments to governance arrangements based on international best practices. Governance features that constrain the development of key industries should also be identified, and solutions proposed.
7. Identify opportunities and gaps to mainstreaming the Blue Economy as a sustainable economic development approach in the OECS. This activity supposes identifying potential public and private investments in the Blue Economy.
8. Draft a strategic action plan based on the findings of the legislative gap analysis with the overarching goal of supporting decision-makers in the OECS to promote investments and policy planning on the Blue Economy.
9. Conduct consultation workshops with relevant stakeholders to obtain feedback and improve the Strategic Action plan proposal.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](#) - GN-2765-4. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above in the draft summary of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to:

Inter-American Development Bank

Division: Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation (IFD/CTI)

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DRAFT Summary Terms of Reference

Background and Justification

The OECS member states have 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.

The OECS has made significant advancement on the tools necessary for a successful Blue Economy, particularly in the area of policy through the 2020 Eastern Caribbean Regional Oceans Project (ECROP). Within the ECROP framework, the OECS has implemented further Blue Economy solutions through Global Environmental Fund/ World Bank funded Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (2017-2021) which focused on preserving and strengthening the “resilience of coastal and marine resources, and implementation of regional policies to stimulate blue growth”. ECROP has resulted in the development of national ocean policies (NOP), coastal master and marine spatial plans (CMSP) and national ocean governance committees (NOGC).

Additionally, with support from the Government of Norway, the region has embarked on the Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through Reduction of Marine Pollution (ReMLit) project which seeks to “harmonize policy and legislation related to waste management, influence positive behaviour change with respect to waste practices, and to assist with the implementation of concrete interventions on the ground to reduce marine litter at the country level”. Comparably, the World Bank- funded Unleashing the Blue Economy in the Eastern Caribbean (UBEEC) project addresses “institutional strengthening, policy formulation, MSME advancement, governance and direct investments in infrastructure development within the marine and coastal areas of Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines”. A sustainable Blue Economy in the OECS will be dependent on these types of efforts, together with programming that is closely linked to climate change resilience. The mitigation and adaption ecosystem services of a healthy ocean are being recognized as key components in helping countries address the impacts of climate change. The OECS member states recognize this important connection and has incorporated elements of the Blue Economy into its Green-Blue Economy (G-BE) Strategy and Action Plan (SAP).

To further coalesce the work completed by the OECS Secretariat, 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.

The technical cooperation RG-T4169 aims at supporting the OECS member states to strengthen the policy and institutional framework for the development of the Blue Economy. Through close coordination with the OECS Secretariat the aforementioned body of work conducted will serve to complement the planned results of this TC.

Component I, "Strengthening the policy and strategy framework for the development of the OECS Blue Economy" aims at 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.

The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) is multi-donor Trust Fund supported by the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Government of Canada, the Caribbean Development Bank; and administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The CCPF is currently supporting the region, through other technical cooperation projects, to further the development of the blue economy. Similar assistance is being extended to complete similar work within Barbados and Belize.

The purpose of CCPF is to support the region in driving competitiveness and sustainable economic growth. The program focuses on: (i) supporting firms to grow, innovate and enter new sectors and markets; and (ii) promoting an environment that enables innovation and growth. More specifically, the CCPF's objectives are to:

- Increase productivity in firms.
- Increase employment, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.
- Generate and sustain exports within and outside the region.
- Foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) is looking for a Consulting Firm to provide expertise to develop a Legislative Gap Analysis and Regional Strategic Action Plan for the advancement of the Blue Economy in the OECS Member States.

Objectives

The main objective of this consultancy is to strengthen the policy and strategy frameworks to develop the Blue Economy in the OECS by developing an overarching Legislative Gap Analysis and a Blue Economy Strategic Action Plan for the OECS.

Scope of Services

1. The consultancy aims to establish the necessary legislative framework for the implementation of the strategies highlighted in the National Ocean Policies (NOPs) of the OECS member states.
2. The consultancy should develop a Legislative Gap Analysis Report to assess current gaps and opportunities to promote the implementation of the National Ocean Policies (NOPs) and the overall development of the Blue Economy from a governance perspective. The consultants should also assess whether the existing legislative framework constrains the development and expansion of key Blue Economy industries (e.g., mariculture).
3. Additionally, the consultancy should also develop a Strategic Action Plan to support decision-makers in the OECS to promote investments and policy planning on the Blue Economy.