

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST **CONSULTING SERVICES**

Selection #: RG-T4169-P002

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 Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the Blue Economy, with capacity building for the OECS Commission and other Relevant Line Ministries and Agencies

[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: *March 6, 2023*, 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 Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the Blue Economy, with capacity building for the OECS Commission and the OECS Member States inclusive of national ocean governance committees/national inter-agency coordination mechanisms drawn from relevant line ministries and agencies in the third quarter of 2023. The consulting firm will facilitate the collection, management, assessment and dissemination of BE related data in a consultative and transparent manner according to the modalities established in the Strategic Action Plan established in Component I. The tech-based framework should incorporate regularly reporting requirements through the National Ocean Governance Committees, the OECS Commission and the relevant agencies mandated to promote the development of the BE in the region. Finally, it is expected that Blue Economy MRV skills and tools are improved throughout the OECS member states.

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 Caribbean, the OECS Commission 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. Perform an assessment to define the institutional arrangements for the monitoring, reporting, verification, dissemination, and sustainability over time of sectoral BE data. It will include a mapping of stakeholders, institutional mapping of the different entities, their responsibilities over data and their capacities to further collect, share, review data sets.
3. Develop a draft for the indicators to be monitored, identifying potential duplication/alignment with data being collected under the climate change and biodiversity agendas.
4. Ensure diffusion and cohesion with existing national and regional tools/reporting systems to ensure consistency, transparency and standardization in the monitoring and reporting of BE data across the region.
5. Design, develop and deploy a Monitor Report and Verification (MRV) system as a regional platform for the monitoring, reporting and verification of BE data. The necessary processes for the operationalization of the MRV System should also be developed and the system should allow for transfer to the OECS Commission. The platform will support monitoring of the ECROP 2020 SAP. The system will ensure it is aligned to the Nationally Determined Contributions and NBSAP of all countries, as well as the ETF system the countries may be developing under the Paris Agreement to avoid duplication of efforts and foster synergies.
6. Develop a protocol to ensure all entities and stakeholders will understand their role and will commit to fulfilling the tasks requested as well as meet to coordinate all steps.
7. Design and implement capacity building workshops/ training sessions for data compilers, suppliers and platform users with the aim of strengthening relevant line ministries to utilize the system

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)

1300 New York Ave, NW, Washington DC 20577, USA

Attn: Jennifer Doherty Bigara Rodriguez CC: Liana Welch

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Summary of Terms of Reference

1. Background and Justification

- 1.1. 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 efforts aimed at placing the blue economy on a more sustainable footing and operationalize its definition to harness sustainable development.
- 1.2. The OECS has made significant advancements in the frameworks and tools necessary for a successful Blue Economy enabling environment. Primary policy frameworks are the Revised Eastern Caribbean Regional Oceans Project and Strategic Action Plan (Revised ECROP 2020), and national ocean policies (NOPs). The primary tools are national coastal master and marine spatial plans (CMSPs) and, a regional marine spatial planning framework (RMSPF) for cross-boundary/ jurisdictional collaboration. The frameworks and tools were delivered through the Global Environmental Fund (GEF)/ World Bank funded Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project, (CROP), 2017-2021, which focused on preserving and strengthening the “resilience of coastal and marine resources, and implementation of regional policies to stimulate blue growth”. The OECS Ocean Governance Team (OGT) monitors the implementation of the Revised ECROP 2020, and interlocking national ocean governance committees (NOGCs) coordinate and monitor the implementation of NOPs and CMSPs.
- 1.3. 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 behavior 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 Caribbean (UBE C) project addresses “institutional strengthening, policy formulation, MSME advancement, governance and direct investments in infrastructure development within the marine and coastal areas of Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint 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).
- 1.4. To further coalesce the work completed by the OECS Commission, 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.
- 1.5. 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 Commission the aforementioned body of work conducted will serve to complement the planned results of this TC. Specifically, component II," Strengthening Coordinating Mechanisms and Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems" aims at improving its planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, accountability, and investment attraction for Blue Economy Development.

- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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:
 - a) Increase productivity in firms.
 - b) Increase employment, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.
 - c) Generate and sustain exports within and outside the region.
 - d) Foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- 1.8. The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) is looking for a Consulting Firm to provide expertise to develop a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the Blue Economy, with capacity building for the OECS Commission and the OECS Member States inclusive of national ocean governance committees/national inter-agency coordination mechanisms drawn from relevant line ministries and agencies.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. The main objective of this consultancy is to strengthen the capacities among stakeholders in the OECS to advance the Blue Economy by improving MRV and partnership creation at the national and regional scales. The consultancy also aims to provide a tech-based reporting system that will enhance transparency, enable the integrated use of resources, and facilitate information sharing and coordination by the OECS Commission and the ministries and agencies responsible measure the Blue Economy in the OECS.

3. Scope of Services

- 3.1. The consultancy will facilitate the collection, management, assessment and dissemination of BE related data in a consultative and transparent manner according to the modalities established in the Strategic Action Plan established in Component I. The tech-based framework should incorporate regularly reporting requirements through the National Ocean Governance Committees, the OECS Commission and the relevant agencies mandated to promote the development of the BE in the region. Finally, it is expected that Blue Economy MRV skills and tools are improved throughout the OECS member states.