

BE-CLME+ Project: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (GEF Project ID 10211)

Terms of Reference for a National Consultancy to Conduct Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP in Guyana

1.0 Background & Justification.

1.1 The BE-CLME+ Project is a regional initiative aimed at promoting blue economy development in the Caribbean region through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), development of climate-smart sustainable fisheries value chains, and knowledge management in Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Panama. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is the Executing Agency for the project, while the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations are the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Co-Implementing Agencies. Day-to-day project implementation is achieved via a Project Management Unit (PMU) located within the CRFM and supported by the CRFM Secretariat. The four-year GEF 7-funded project is valued at USD 47,879,901 million. The full project financing grant provided by the GEF is USD 6,222,018 million, with the co-financing of USD 41,657,883 million.

1.2 The 2023-2024 BE: CLME+ Project Workplan & Budget was approved by the Regional Steering Committee on 29th September 2023, and calls for a national consultancy to conduct data gap and needs assessments to inform MSP.

1.3 Through Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme, the Government of Guyana recently completed its bespoke national Maritime Economy Plan (MEP). The MEP serves as a strategic overview of Guyana's maritime economic potential; and is viewed as a basis for further dialogue and action to support economic growth, livelihoods and jobs, reduce losses from natural disasters, extreme weather events and climate change. In addition to embracing the future development of its marine resources along the blue economic pathway, the MEP embodies all the principles outlines in Guyana's Economic Development model- low carbon, resource efficiency and social inclusion. The plan describes and recognises the maritime economy in terms of bedrock/traditional sectors such as fisheries, tourism and shipping, and emerging sectors such as offshore oil and gas, renewable energy aquaculture and ecosystem services. Twenty-Two (22) high level sectoral actions are identified in the MEP. The Suggested Strategic Requirements for the Fisheries, Aquaculture, Mariculture, and Ecosystem Services Implementation Pathways identified in the MEP is of particular importance as it calls for science-based decision- making, strategic assessments, and ecosystem valuation; all of which rely on data and information. Additionally, the MEP recognises that the current MSP process, which focuses on MPA, requires a more comprehensive planning process which should have a range of outputs, *inter alia*, data gaps and needs assessment that can be used to inform MSP for Guyana.

2.0 Objective of the Consultancy.

The process of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) requires the collection of spatial data and information related to a variety of issues and processes and data forms the backbone of any decision-making and planning process. Data for MSP provides an overview of spatial distribution of human activities, marine ecosystems, and hotspots, identifies conflicts and shared space opportunities, and allows spatial exploration of future economic and climate scenarios.

The objective of this consultancy is to comprehensively assess data availability, data gaps, and an assessment of needs to inform MSP in Guyana. Several countries in the Caribbean have ongoing MSP and Blue Economy development processes, and as such, these assessments shall make every effort to build on and complement ongoing BE processes in Guyana.

3.0 Key Activities will include, but not be limited to those listed below.

3.1 Prepare Inception Report and Workplan: The consultant will need to prepare a detailed workplan outlining, amongst others, the activities to ensure the successful delivery of; the schedule, inclusive of milestones of the project and performance monitoring and evaluation; etc. Contingencies must be built into planning to allow the consultant to adapt to changing conditions. In preparing the workplan the consultant will conduct an inception meeting with the CRFM, Protected Area Commission (PAC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Fisheries Department (FD) and other relevant agencies upon commencement of the assignment to:

- a) Review the process for the conduct of all activities within the scope of services;
- b) Determine roles and responsibilities,
- c) Discuss the basis on which this work will be implemented, and
- d) Finalise the work plan and schedule. A final work plan and inception report (Product 1) on the outcome of the inception meeting will be prepared by the consultant and submitted to the CRFM for review and approval.

3.2 Assess spatial and temporal data availability and needs relevant to MSP and Blue Economy Planning in Guyana: The consultant will assess the status of MSP and BE processes in Guyana and the types and sources of data being used to inform MSP. This will include, *inter alia*;

- a) Spatial and temporal data on pollution and habitat degradation linked to economic sectors active in the coastal zone as well as anthropogenic sources, geographic/physical, biologic, economic, social (including a prioritization of gender and other marginalized groups), physical and ecological patterns and processes, relative ecological importance of areas, ecosystem services, vulnerability and resilience, economic activities, benefits and impacts, distribution among current and emerging uses of the blue space, existing management measures, and future needs of existing or proposed uses of the blue space.
- b) Spatial and temporal data needs for the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries and the use of fisheries conservation or management areas as Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures.

- c) Focus group sessions with fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to conduct a use survey to map the areas such as aquaculture/mariculture farms, fishing grounds for different species, nursery areas, spawning aggregations sites, and landing site locations. Shapefiles can be created and overlaid with existing benthic habitat layers and bathymetry as appropriate.
- d) Assess the availability and needs for relevant spatial and temporal data not covered in Section 3.2 of importance to inform national maritime economy strategies and MSP. Consideration should be given to availability as well as potential resource and acquisition costs where applicable. In addition to identifying the gaps/data needs, an outline of the datasets that are top priority for the MSP would be beneficial. The assessment should also consider data to assess the viability of emerging and new maritime economy activities by sector.

3.3 Undertake Stakeholder Consultations and interviews: In consultation with the MSP authorities in Guyana and other relevant stakeholders, the consultant will determine and confirm the data and other needs not addressed in the ToRs that may be necessary to inform MSP in Guyana. The terms to access data from data producers and sources, including an assessment of barriers to access data should also be determined. The consultations and interviews should also identify the resources, institutional and technical capacity needs to inform and sustain data collection, analysis and interpretation to inform MSP.

3.5 Prepare Data Gaps and Needs Assessment Report: Based on the results and findings from 3.1 to 3.3, the consultant will assess and prepare a draft data gap and needs assessment report. The report should include recommendations for data sources, acquisition costs (where applicable), and collection methods to address data needs identified. Such recommendations should be feasible and achievable considering the country's context. A final report will take into consideration the feedback and input from stakeholders at the national validation workshop (activity 3.6), and include an executive report for the steering committee with the prioritization of the main gaps and recommendations.

3.6 Convene a National Validation Workshop and Prepare Workshop report: In coordination with the CRFM/PMU, the consultant will organize and convene a virtual national workshop to present and validate the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP and to discuss synergies with other national and regional activities and projects. The consultant will prepare a final national workshop report which would include, workshop activities and discussions, next steps, and a gender disaggregated list of participants.

3.7 Consult with the CRFM/PMU and be informed of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) triggered by the BE: CLME+ Project and identify what data is needed to ensure MSP in Guyana complies with ESS triggered by the project.

3.8 Prepare communication and visibility material: At least one (1) communication and visibility material will be developed on the Data Gaps and Needs Assessment to inform MSP in Guyana. The Consultant will be responsible for providing the technical content of the assignment/ consultancy to the CRFM that is communicable and consistent with the CRFM's communications guidelines. The communication and visibility material could include press releases, newsletters, flyers, brochures, website content, infographics, social media posts which will be submitted to the CRFM/PMU and relevant national agency for review, vetting of content, and onward communication via the CRFM's Knowledge Management and Information System and broader regional networks. The consultant will provide data/information collected from workshops and other activities such as voice recordings, videos, and photographs from

interviews, focus group consultations, etc. as applicable to support the development of communication and visibility material.

4.0 Expected Outcomes and Deliverables.

4.1 The consultant(s) are expected to deliver the following products:

Product 1: Inception Report and workplan detailing activities, milestones, timeline, and a robust methodology to carry out the assignment.

Product 2: Draft Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP in Guyana.

Product 3: Final Report - Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP in Guyana, and Report on virtual national workshop to present the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP.

Product 4: Communication and Visibility material and Materials consistent with Section 6.0 of these Terms of Reference.

5.0 Project Schedule and Milestones.

Deliverable	Date	Payments
Product 1: Inception Report detailing activities, milestones, timeline, and a robust methodology to conduct the assignment.	0.5 months after the contract signature	10% of contract value
Product 2: Draft Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP in Guyana.	2.5 months after the contract signature	50% of contract value
Product 3: Final Report - Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP in Guyana and Report on national workshop to present the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP.	4.0 months after the contract signature	40% of contract value
Product 4: Communication and visibility materials, Materials consistent with Section 6.0 of Terms of Reference		

6.0 Reporting Requirements.

6.1 The consultant will present the deliverables following the schedule established in section 5 of these terms of reference. The deliverables must include reports in Word, PowerPoint presentations, and other documents used as the basis of the analysis (including other formats such as Excel spreadsheets, etc. as applicable) and a folder with the list of bibliographic references used to develop the analysis. All materials must be delivered in English. All reports, studies, plans, drawings, source code, technical data, specifications, and any other material prepared by or worked upon by the consultant exclusively for the CRFM under this Agreement are the sole and exclusive property of the CRFM and as such the CRFM has exclusive title, rights, and interest in all such material including the right of dissemination, reproduction, and publication. The consultant will also work closely with the Regional Project Coordinator and the Marine Spatial Planning Specialist of the BE: CLME+ Project on the assignment.

7.0 Acceptance Criteria.

7.1 Payments will be authorized once the CRFM and FAO accepts the products specified by the TOR. The CRFM and FAO will have up to approximately three weeks to provide written comments/recommendations to the consultant(s) reports. Unless previously determined, the CRFM and FAO will generally accept the deliverables once the consultant or consulting firm confirms the following: (i) receipt and additional inclusion of comments/recommendations in a revised version and (ii) provision of date for presentation of the revised versions of the submitted deliverables. The consultant(s) are expected to include these comments two weeks after receipt.

8.0 Consultant's Effort and Required Skills

8.1 This consultancy has been estimated to require a maximum of 35 Consultant Days.

8.2 Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Master's degree in Marine Management, Fisheries Science, Coastal Zone Management, or Marine Science is desirable
- Training in Marine Spatial Planning and/or Blue Economy will be a distinctive asset.
- Minimum of 7 years experience working as a technical expert in one of the marine fields listed above.
- Work experience in any or all the project countries.
- Experience in the elaboration of MPA management plans, CZM plans, or MSPs will be extremely valuable.
- Ability to work with senior government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities.
- Experience working with resource users across multiple sectors, especially in the fisheries, protected areas, tourism, and maritime transport, etc.
- A good understanding of biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, and Marine Spatial Planning.

9.0 Application and Selection Procedure.

9.1 Interested consultants are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae (CV), a declaration of availability, and a declaration of no conflict of interest.

9.2 CVs will be evaluated against the criteria described in Section 8.2 and contracting will be subject to a successful price negotiation with the selected consultant.

9.3 Interested consultants should submit their Application Cover Letter outlining why they believe they are best suited for this assignment and CV in PDF format by **July 16th 2024** to secretariat@crfm.int and delmar.lanza@crfm.int