



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Technical Assistance to assess the distribution of Seagrass Beds within the Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area (St. Ann) and the Hellshire Bay/Half Moon Bay-Portland Bight Protected Area (Clarendon and St. Catherine)**

### **PROJECT: A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean (H2O)**

#### **LOCATION: Jamaica**

#### **1. Background**

The project *A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean* (H2O) is part funded with a grant from the European Union (EU) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) in the amount of EUR 4.9 million (\$859,506,060), as well as a contribution from the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) of EUR 1.1 million (\$192,950,340). The H2O project will be implemented over 5 years, beginning in April 2021. The executing agency of the H2O project is the Planning Institute of Jamaica in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, particularly the Public Gardens Division and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, as well as the National Environment and Planning Agency.

#### **2. The Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area (ORMPPA)**

The ORMPPA coastal and marine habitats include open water and seagrass beds/communities, coral reefs, estuaries, sandy beaches and rocky shores. Of these habitats, coral and coral reefs, seagrass beds, estuarine areas, sandy and rocky shores are specific biological features (marine conservation targets) that are representative of the Jamaica's biodiversity. A wide variety of marine species can be found within the ORMPPA including corals, fish, invertebrates and marine mammals. Coral reefs in the ORMPPA provide provisioning services e.g. habitat and food for fish and other marine organisms, genetic materials, biochemical products, valuable fishery products and material for sandy beaches.

#### **3. The Hellshire Bay/Half Moon Bay-Portland Bight Protected Area**

The Hellshire Bay/Half Moon Bay-Portland Bight Protected Area is located within the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA). This particular location has significant value noting the varying use of the bay for economic and recreational activities. The Climate Change Action Plan for the PBPA identified the PBPA as one of Jamaica's ecosystems ranked high as a national conservation priority. The protection of natural resources within the protected area is to be achieved through activities related to monitoring, public awareness, education and sustainable livelihoods.

#### **4. Scope of Works**

- i. Validation of remotely derived datasets and associated map outputs obtained through previous projects and or assessments conducted within the target area
- ii. Ground-truthing points to validate seagrass mapping analysis conducted (degraded, natural and new areas)
- iii. Mapping of fishing grounds (e.g. trawling areas) and boating
- iv. Mapping potential sites for future restoration activities
- v. An Assessment Report on the status of the seagrass beds including: the identification and description of seagrass species diversity and distribution included associated species such as macro algae; and, indications of seagrass health (e.g. seagrass aerial cover, above and below ground biomass, shoot density)
- vi. An Analysis Report comparing the data in the Assessment Report against physical baseline data locally registered (for available parameters): Climate; Bathymetry; Rainfall; Air and Water temperature; Tidal variation; Salinity; and, Water turbidity
- vii. An Analysis Report on the anthropogenic and future climate change impacts on seagrasses habitats in the Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area and the Hellshire Bay/Half Moon Bay-Portland Bight Protected Area
- viii. Use the available climate change scenarios for Jamaica (State of the Jamaica Climate Change Reports 2012, 2015, 2019 etc) and available information for Ocho Rios and Hellshire Bay within the Coastal Risk Atlas and correlate potential climate change and anthropogenic impacts observed in the current assessment to predict changes and recommend management practices to protect the seagrasses habitat in the Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area and Hellshire Bay/Half Moon Bay-Portland Bight Protected Area.
- ix. A benefit and value transfer analysis using the literature review and relevant survey techniques to conduct the economic valuation of the seagrass ecosystem services in the target area
- x. Organize and execute at minimum three workshops on the importance of seagrass ecosystems and introduction to various restoration techniques with relevant government entities and local stakeholders as guided by the NEPA at the beginning, during and towards the end of the consultancy
- xi. Identification of degraded areas for rehabilitation during the assessment.

#### **5. Selection criteria**

The following selection criteria will be applied to the tenderers:

##### **Financial reference criteria for legal persons:**

- the average annual turnover of the tenderer must exceed the annualised maximum budget of the contract i.e. the maximum budget stated in the contract notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year (minimum annual turnover requested may not exceed 2 times the estimated annual contract value, except in duly justified cases motivated in the tender dossier); and
- Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last year for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium this criterion must be fulfilled by each

member.

**Financial criteria for natural persons:**

- the available financial resources of the tenderer must exceed the annualised maximum budget of the contract i.e. the maximum budget stated in the contract notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year (minimum annual turnover requested may not exceed 2 times the estimated annual contract value, except in duly justified cases motivated in the tender dossier); and
- the financial situation of the tenderer should not be in deficit, taken into account debts, at the beginning and end of year.

**Professional criteria for legal persons:**

- has a professional certificate appropriate to this contract, such as marine biology, ecology and/or conservation biology or a related field; and,
- at least 3 staff currently work for the tenderer in fields related to this contract.

**Professional criteria for natural persons:**

- has a professional certificate appropriate to this contract, such as marine biology, ecology and/or conservation biology or a related field; and,
- is currently working/has worked during the past 3 years as manager/team-leader etc. with 3 collaborators in fields related to this contract.

**Technical criterion for legal persons:**

- the tenderer has provided services under at least two (2) contracts each with a budget of at least that of this contract in marine biology, ecology and/or conservation biology or a related field which were implemented at any moment during the following period: 2012-2022.

**Technical criterion for natural persons:**

- the tenderer has worked successfully on at least two (2) contracts and/or projects with a budget of at least that of this contract in fields related to this contract in the past ten years.

**Maximum Budget** - \$24.0 million Jamaican dollars

**Implementation period of Tasks** - 9 months.

**Deadline for the submission of Expression of Interest to the electronic mail address below is** - June 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

**Contact Information** – [projectsjobs@pioj.gov.jm](mailto:projectsjobs@pioj.gov.jm)

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