



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Bahamas Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Abaco, Andros, Grand Bahama, & New Providence):

I. Background

The project focus is on conservation and sustainable use of forested areas of high biodiversity significance and (mangrove) ecosystems critical to the adaptive resiliency of island communities. The project will integrate sustainable forest management and sustainable land management considerations and the value of ecosystems services (e.g., nutrient and water flow, a precious commodity on island ecosystems) into the land use planning process and build capacity. The gazettement of targeted Conservation Forests will stem habitat loss and degradation thereby safeguarding habitat for forest plants and animal species of global significance, including migratory species; increase the management effectiveness of forest of high priority conservation value and restoration of high value mangrove ecosystems. Through the development of alternative livelihoods, including agroforestry and non-timber forest products, pressure on forest resources will be relieved while providing opportunities for generation of income in remote coastal communities hard hit by the economic downturn and loss of tourism revenues. Adoption of sustainable forest and land management techniques will result in enhanced resilience to climate change, conservation of carbon stocks and reduction of emissions for forest deforestation and degradation resulting in significant annual carbon savings by benefit of the project through integration of forest domain into land use planning, improved forest management and avoided deforestation together with mangrove rehabilitation efforts estimate up to 381,151 tCO₂ eq avoided and potential carbon stock of up to 51,150 tCO₂ eq through targeted pilot rehabilitation of mangrove areas.

The GEF Project on “Bahamas Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Abaco, Andros, Grand Bahama, & New Providence)” will address a number of environmental priorities through the following components:

1. **Component 1:** The institutional systemic support & associated capacity building
 - a. The establishment of a forestry assessment and monitoring system which reduces the technical gap by contributing biodiversity and ecosystem services values into an updated inventory of forest ecosystems in the Pine Islands while sustainably monitoring Bahamian forest change in the long term;
 - b. Integration of Sustainable Land-Use and Sustainable Forest Management principles into National Land-Use Planning thru development of 2 sub-national plans for Andros and New Providence, in accordance with Planning and Subdivisions Act 2010.
2. **Component 2:** The expansion and improved management of forest and mangrove sector:
 - a. Facilitation of the establishment of the National Forestry Estate through the gazettement of three (3) categories of Forest Reserves, Protected Forests and Conservation Forests. In addition, incremental support will be provided for the development of the National Forest Plan for the Forest Estate, and the targeted management planning for 15% of planned Conservation Forest comprising of 22,410 ha on two (2) pilot areas on Abaco and Andros using SFM/REDD+ principles of community co-management that is expected to increase the carbon sequestration up to 5,661,077 tCO₂ eq.
 - b. **Rehabilitation of Mangrove Ecosystem in Davis Creek, Andros comprising of 50 ha to restore ecosystem services and increase carbon sequestration up to 14,563 tCO₂ eq.**

3. **Component 3: Sustainable Livelihoods:**

- a. Developing the concept of multi-functional conservation by enabling coastal communities thru effective provisioning of forest ecosystem services while promoting sustainable practices and community management of same. The two pilot projects are:
 - i. Native palm cultivation to support Indigenous Craft Industry on Andros and Grand Bahama
 - ii. Cascarilla bark Cultivation and Processing of Cascarilla Oil in Acklins and Crooked Islands

II. Overall Objective of the Consultancy

The objective of the contract is to provide necessary technical and operational expertise and implement restoration and management plan at Davis Creek Ecosystem and with the Forestry Unit, assisting the community and leading in implementing Component 2.3 of the Bahamas Pine Islands Project 2.3 Restoration of Mangrove system (50 ha). The activities are listed as follows : Activity 2.3.1 : Conduct specific site assessment and determine baseline analysis, Activity 2.3.2 Develop and commence implementation of Participatory based Site Specific Management Plans based on the SFM principles for restoring/rehabilitating degraded mangrove, Activity 2.3.3 : Develop and implement a community based monitoring of the rehabilitated mangrove site, Activity: 2.3.4 Research and Monitoring programme established for indicator species and Activity 2.3.5: Design and implement a comprehensive monitoring programme that involves the community.

III. Tasks

The Consultant will provide the following services to the Department of Environment Planning and Protection and the Forestry Unit in support of implementing Component 2.3:

Further to our meeting, here are the draft Deliverables:

1. Analysis of pre-existing data and reports done by previous consultant and develop a report based on same, i.e. gap analysis.
2. Travel to Andros, conduct preliminary site specific assessment to determine the baseline data to complete point 1. Submit a baseline data report
3. Use the information to develop a participatory based Site Specific Participatory Based Management Plan
4. Engage the environmental groups and community to be part of the restoration process.
5. Conduct a 4 -5-day restoration work other environmental groups (BAMSI/ Central Andros High School/ ANCAT/ BNT/ ForFar)
6. Develop a Guide for the monitoring of indicator species within Davis Creek
7. Host Town Meeting and Stakeholder meetings about the plans and the future of Davis Creek as part of the community monitoring along with DEPP & Forestry Unit
8. Develop descriptive signage for observation stations at 4 points to assist with monitoring
9. Link to an open-source framework.

Time span: September 2022 to February 2023

Qualifications

1. More than four (4) years' experience in Environmental and Marine Science
2. A bachelor degree and experience in mangrove restoration or propagation.
3. Familiarity with The Bahamas' National Parks and Marine Protected Areas
4. Familiarity with priority conservation species in The Bahamas
5. Familiarity with Bahamian biodiversity
6. Experience in Community Engagement and proven ability to work with other government and private entities, stakeholders and local communities

7. Possess strong analytical, communication, writing and reporting skills and exhibit excellent organizational skills
8. Possess the ability to work across disciplines
9. Effective time management skills and ability to work within deadlines

IV. Key Deliverables and Timetable

Activity	Deliverable	Timeframe	Notes
Analysis preliminary Raw Data from (2015 -2021) on Davis Creek to determine baseline data. Conduct a Gap assessment.	Draft and submit Preliminary Report	September 2022	Analyze raw data for preliminary report
Conduct preliminary assessment on Davis Creek Site and determine baseline data.	Travel to Davis Creek conduct a preliminary assessment-	October -2022	1 -2 day trip to Andros to conduct preliminary report for the purpose of developing a site specific management plan
Develop a feasible Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration Plan to be implemented in Central Andros Community: based of findings in initial analysis and preliminary site assessment	Submit Site Specific Participatory Based Management Plan – include work plan	November 2022	Use all data available to draft a feasible restoration effort on the Davis Creek Site.
Implement management Plan and Research and Monitor the indicator species in Davis Creek	Travel to Davis Creek utilize a Community Based/Participatory Restoration and Management Strategy on site	Decemeber 2022	Involve Community, Members of Forestry Unit, BAMSI,etc
Provide implementation of management plan and conduct restoration at site.	Conservation Forest Management Plan Implementation Guide	January 2023	
Host/ Conduct Town Meeting with relevant stakeholders assistance from DEPP, Forestry Unit, BAMSI etc. for the implementation of Davis Creek Management Plan and potential Signage.	Host Meeting with Organizations to discuss the future of management on site.	January 2023	Possible community signage
Submit Final Plan	Submit Final Plan	February 2023	

V. Methodology:

The company will conduct and complete tasks of Component 2.3 the Bahamas Pine Islands Project ‘Restoration of Davis Creek, 50 hectares’ support the Forestry Unit and other participatory organizations at all phases of the project as described above to derive wherever possible the necessary synergies from tasks/activities, that will allow for all the stakeholders and beneficiaries to be involved in the implementation of the full-size project.

VI. Reporting Structure:

By virtue of a Project Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection will serve as the National Executing Agency to facilitate the successful execution of deliverables identified under the Bahamas Pine Islands project. The consultancy group or organization will report to the Director of the Forestry Unit and the Bahamas Pine Islands Project Manager and work in coordination with identified Forestry Unit staff for the performance of tasks as they are completed.

Note: All data collected and compiled by the Consultant(s) shall remain property of the Government of The Bahamas.

VII. Language(s)

Fluency in written and spoken English is required.

VIII. Required Documentation

Curriculum Vitae with a cover letter

Kindly respond via email to careers@depp.gov.bs, as well as cc: cjohnson@depp.gov.bs, with the referenced position in the subject title.