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Country: Bahamas

Institution: Inter-American Development Bank

Sector: Fisheries/Consulting Services

Deadline: 7 January 2019

Status: Published

Loan N°./Financing:

Project: Community Based Conch Management in the Family Islands

Title: MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTANCY

Project ID: BH-T1056

TERMS OF REFERENCE for MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTANCY Community Based Conch Management in the Family Islands

The Bahamas National Trust has received financing from the Japan Special Fund for Poverty Reduction (JPO) through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the *Community Based Conch Management in the Family Islands* pilot project for the services of a Consultant who will work with the project manager, project stakeholders, and other consultants to develop a Management Plan for the East Grand Bahama National Park. **Background and Justification**

Conch is an important source of income for Bahamian communities, a staple in their diet, and is important to cultural identity. This resource contributes to food security for economically-challenged fishing communities in New Providence and the Family Islands. Overfishing, particularly of juveniles, undermines the sustainability of the conch fishery throughout the country. Low population levels have made conch fishing economically unviable for many fishers, and natural disasters (e.g. tropical storms) pose serious risks for the resilience of fishers. In general, consumers are uninformed about the severity of the resource depletion, limiting the ability for fishers to capture benefits from fishing sustainably. The decline in conch stocks threatens the livelihoods of over 9,000 fishers who are considered vulnerable with limited alternative employment opportunities. If stocks are to be restored and community livelihoods maintained, there is a need to provide multiple incentives to fishers and their families to change behavior towards more sustainable fishing practices.

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) is the Executing Agency for this program, and will carry out activities in the following four (4) components, with a view of increasing the socioeconomic benefits derived from the conch fishery in two pilot Family Island communities in Grand Bahama:

Component 1: Improving conch fisher livelihoods. The beneficiaries of this component will be conch fishers and communities provided with increased skills/capacity to market value-added conch products and alternative livelihoods (aquaculture and tourism). Fisher communities will also have increased resilience from diversified sources of income.

Component 2: Establishing community-based management of a marine protected area. With this component, conch fishers and communities will have increased capacity to manage their conch fishery and marine area responsibly.

Component 3: Creating a domestic market for responsibly fished conch through Sea-to-Sale traceability and local branding. The aim of this component is to have conch fishers committed and engaged in a robust traceability program, and create sustainable markets for conch products.

Component 4. Audit, evaluation and coordination. This component will monitor, evaluate, and disseminate the results of the project.

The primary objectives of the Consultancy are to:

- Create a Stakeholder Matrix for the East Grand Bahama National Park;
- Develop a Zoning Plan for East Grand Bahama National Park; and
- Develop a Management Plan for the East Grand Bahama National Park.

Duration:

This assignment is expected to commence by February 1st, 2019 and be concluded in 6 months.

Deliverables:

1. Project workplan for the Consultancy.
2. Facilitate stakeholder workshops and meetings for management plan and zoning plan development, and produce summary reports for at least three community meeting trips conducted on the ground in East Grand Bahama.
3. Development of Stakeholder Matrix
4. First Draft Zoning and Management Plan for the East Grand Bahama National Park.
5. Final Draft Zoning and Management plan for the East Grand Bahama National Park.

Payment Schedule:

- 10% mobilization fee and acceptance of project workplan.
- 10% on delivery and acceptance of Deliverable 1.
- 20% on delivery and acceptance of Deliverable 2.
- 30% on delivery and acceptance of Deliverable 3.
- 30% on delivery and acceptance of Deliverable 4.

Qualifications/Experiences/Competencies:

- At least a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Science, Marine Science, Climate Change, or related field.
- Proven experience in drafting management plans and zoning plans.
- Proven experience in marine issues related to marine resource management.
- More than 5 years of experience conducting community meetings or equivalent
- Experience working with government and non-government organizations
- Experience working in small communities
- Experience working in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Caribbean and or The Bahamas
- Experience in GIS and data collection, e.g. interviews, surveys and focus groups
- Proven experience with qualitative and quantitative analyses
- Excellent written and oral communication

The Consultant is being selected in accordance with procedures set out in the InterAmerican Development Bank Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-9).

How to Apply:

Full proposals inclusive of CVs and budget breakdown according to payment schedule should be submitted electronically to science@bnt.bs by January 7th 2019 no later than 5:00 pm.

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