

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: BL-T1088-P001

Selection Method: Full competitive selection

Country: *Belize*

Sector: *Climate Change and Sustainable Development*

Funding – TC #: *ATN/OC-16387-BL*

Project #: *BL-T1088*

TC name: *Design and Preparation of the Sustainable Development Plan for the Caracol Region*

Description of Services: *The objective of the consultancy is to develop an eco-system based Sustainable Development Plan for the Chiquibul-Mountain Pine Ridge-Caracol Complex (CMCC) in close consultation with public and private stakeholders and to identify investment opportunities.*

Link to TC document: <https://www.iadb.org/Document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-1376546437-23>

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: October 9th, 2018, 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include *(i) an environmental and ecosystem service assessment for the CMCC, (ii) evaluation of the ecosystem service trade-offs involved in alternative development scenarios being considered by the GoB, and (iii) development of an ecosystem-based Sustainable Development Plan with cross-sectoral investment opportunities including sustainable productive activities relevant for the local communities living in and around the area of influence. The Sustainable Development Plan will guide the region’s development, taking the value of the CMCC natural capital into consideration during the planning and investment decision-making process. The plan will be developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders to understand community best interests and ensure broad stakeholder endorsement of the final product. Performance of services is expected to be complete within a fifteen-month (15) period.*

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-2765-1. 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 below 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: robinc@iadb.org with copy to milagrosal@iadb.org

Inter-American Development Bank

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Draft Summary of Terms of Reference:

The Chiquibul-Mountain Pine Ridge-Caracol Complex (CMCC) consists of four contiguous protected areas which can only be accessed by the Caracol Road connecting this region to the main George Price Highway. The Caracol Archaeological Reserve, the largest known Mayan archaeological complex in Belize, along with the Mountain Pine Ridge and the Chiquibul Forest Reserves and the Chiquibul National Park, are part of a tri-national bioregion forming the largest remaining contiguous block of tropical broadleaf forest north of the Amazon. The Maya Mountain Massif, where the CMCC is located, has been described as a storehouse for biodiversity with over 700 species of fauna and 662 species of flora (ERI, 2015). There are several stakeholder communities including El Progreso, San Antonio, Cristo Rey, Georgeville, Cool Shade, Upper Barton Creek, Augustine, Santa Elena and San Ignacio, some of which are comprised of Mayan descendants who continue to preserve their natural and cultural heritage.

Development in the area could potentially contribute to rapid land use change within and in the vicinity of the CMCC that could lead to significant losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Depending on the development path chosen, there could be significant trade-offs in natural capital that could threaten the biodiversity and ecosystem services upon which future sustainable growth depends. Given the highly pristine and undeveloped character of the CMCC, there is a need to analyze alternative development scenarios, assess natural capital trade-offs and prepare an ecosystem-based sustainable development plan that maintains the long-term contribution of the region to the national economy and balances land and natural resource use with environmental protection and local livelihoods.

Management and operations in the area is divided amongst various stakeholders, ranging from cultural resource managers (National Institute of Culture and History), natural resource managers (Friend for Conservation and Development), regulators (Forest Department), security (Belize Defense Force, Police Department), and private concessionaires, to name a few. This creates a myriad of issues in integrated biodiversity and landscape management, especially so due to the lack of an integrated development and management plan for the region. As a result of current development initiatives in the region, the focus of the Government to strengthen this via a comprehensive development plan for the region is seen as positive and necessary move towards integrated management of such a sensitive and valuable region in Belize.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in consultation with the Government of Belize (GoB) is seeking the services of a consulting firm to:

- Conduct an environmental and ecosystem service assessment for the CMCC;
- Evaluate the ecosystem service trade-offs involved in alternative development scenarios being considered by the GoB, and;
- Develop an ecosystem-based Sustainable Development Plan with cross-sectoral investment opportunities including sustainable productive activities relevant for the local communities living in and around the area of influence. The Sustainable Development Plan will guide the region's development, taking the value of the CMCC natural capital into consideration during the planning and investment decision-making process. The plan will be developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders to understand community best interests and ensure broad stakeholder endorsement of the final product.

The consulting firm or consortium must possess the following qualifications: demonstrated experience and in-depth expertise in ecosystem-based physical or master planning, including aspects related to: (i) ecosystem services assessment; (ii) protected area management, (iii) natural sciences, (iv) rural development; (v) ecotourism; (vi) environmental economics, (vii) participatory planning and social sciences, (viii) agriculture; (ix) forestry and (x) disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. Previous

experience working in projects financed by multi-lateral and bilateral organizations in Latin America is desirable. Experience with tropical forests and ecosystem services is also preferred. Prior experience working on natural resources management projects in Belize is also preferred.

The total expected duration for the execution of the consultancy is fifteen-months.