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**Terms of Reference**

**Consultancy to lead on the preparation of the National Protected Area System Plan for Trinidad and Tobago**

1. Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UN) is implementing a four year project, *Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago,* on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The overall project goal is to conserve globally important biodiversity and ecosystems in Trinidad and Tobago. The objectives are to facilitate the development of a new system of protected areas (PAs) for Trinidad and Tobago, consistent with country’s approved 2011 Protected Areas Policy, by:

* Proposing a new PA system for conservation of biodiversity;
* Increasing management effectiveness of PAs; and
* Increasing the capacity for sustainable financing of PAs management.

Given the 2011 approval of the Protected Areas Policy there is a need to revise the National Protected Areas System Plan so that it is in alignment with the approved policy and updated to include actual changes in land use, current scientific thinking and management practice.

1. Objectives and Scope of Work

The **principal objective** of the assignment is to prepare a National Protected Areas System Plan for Trinidad and Tobago**.**

1. Activities

The activities for this consultancy are:

* To prepare a first draft of a National Protected Area System Plan from conducting a literature review of key documents including but not limited to the:
* 1978 Organization of American States (OAS) assisted National Parks Systems Plan
* 1980 Systems Plan. A Policy for the Establishment and Management of a National Parks System in Trinidad and Tobago approved by the Government in 1982
* 1991 Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) which reviewed the 1980 National Parks System Plan and the draft legislation, and recommended funding of a 5-year development project for a National Parks and Protected Areas System under TFAP programme
* 1996 cabinet approved revised plan for parks and protected areas funded by the World Bank
* To review and make recommendations for the modification of the National Protected Areas Classification System described in the 2011 Protected Areas Policy taking into consideration any revisions of the IUCN classification system or any other reputable authority within the context of the national circumstance.
* To assess the sites currently listed as Protected Areas in Trinidad and Tobago and make recommendations on designating them under the new system. New sites may be proposed and sites no longer relevant should be taken out of the system. The key objective is to design a system of Protected Areas where all relevant ecosystems of Trinidad and Tobago are represented. Special attention should be paid to the connectivity among the Protected Areas through a system of ecological corridors where they exist or could feasibly be established and be incorporated under the National Protected Areas System.
* To recommend strategies to support the establishment of a National Protected Areas System.
* To draft in consultation with key stakeholders (i.e. a minimum of two workshops, one in Trinidad and one in Tobago, interviews and focus group discussions) a National Protected Areas System Plan document for Trinidad and Tobago
* To present a draft National Protected Areas System Plan document for Trinidad and Tobago to key stakeholders at a national consultation and document suggested revisions and comments submitted by the stakeholders

1. Outputs

The outputs of this consultancy will be:

* Draft of a National Protected Areas System Plan for Trinidad and Tobago drawn from a literature study of key documents
* Recommendations to adjust the proposed National Protected Areas Classification System
* Recommended strategies to support the implementation of the National Protected Areas System Plan
* Revised draft of a National Protected Areas System Plan for Trinidad and Tobago incorporating input of key stakeholders
* Report of the national consultation detailing how comments and revisions were incorporated into the final draft of the National Protected Areas System Plan

1. Timeline

The work should be completed by 30th September 2016

1. Remuneration

15 to 20 working days @ approx. US$ 400 plus Daily Subsistence Allowance for consultants from outside Trinidad and Tobago.

1. Application process

Persons interested in conducting the work are invited to present a short concept paper on how to implement the consultancy and a CV together with their applications. Applications should be submitted to Neila Bobb-Prescott, Chief Technical Advisor at [Neila.BobbPrescott@fao.org](mailto:Neila.BobbPrescott@fao.org) by 13th June 2016.