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**Call for Expressions of Interest to Conduct a Socioeconomic assessment in and around six pilot protected areas**

1. **Context**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing the GEF-funded four year project, *Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago*. The overall project goal is to conserve globally-important biodiversity in Trinidad and Tobago. The project is being implemented in six pilot protected areas (PAs); Northeast Tobago, Main Ridge, Matura, Nariva, Trinity Hills and Caroni (see <http://eppd-tt.blogspot.com/p/gef-improving-forest-and-protected-areas.html>). About 1.5 million people live within 2 km radius of these PAs alone. However, the extent and nature of interactions between them and PAs are not clearly known. This limits the formulation and implementation of strategies for improving management effectiveness as envisaged in the project. Also, the impacts of establishing PAs remain unknown in the absence of reliable data. Strengthening the baseline data thus could help in ensuring social safeguards and promoting sustainable supply and use of ecosystem services.

1. **Aim of the assessment**

This assessment intends to examine the interactions between PAs and the communities living in and around six pilot PAs. The study will examine their socioeconomic attributes, reliance on PAs for various needs if any and opportunities for sustaining and enhancing biodiversity-related ecosystem services.

1. **Tasks envisaged**
2. Take stock of socioeconomic information available for the six PAs and build a database
3. Considering the FAO Social Safeguards(see <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf>), data needs assessment by stakeholders and information gaps identified, adapt the survey instruments at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/forestry-modules/en/> and other relevant sources to fit the local context and collect socioeconomic data in and around PAs using a mutually agreed methodology, including with the National Statistical Office, preferably with tablet surveys (e.g. Collect Mobile).
4. Collect and provide socioeconomic data (gender-disaggregated) in an agreed format and other inputs to integrate them in a Management Information System
5. Prepare a detailed report on the socioeconomic characteristics of the people, reliance on PAs for various needs and opportunities for sustaining and enhancing biodiversity-related ecosystem services in a mutually agreed format.
6. **Topics to be covered:** Possible topics include:

* Dependency of people on PAs (including most important forest and wild products collected/services used, household income related to PAs out of total income, resources use for energy, health and construction), interactions with PAs, including negative externalities if any prior to the project.
* Positive and negative impacts due to project implementation (in the context of social standards at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf>, with particular reference to ESS 2, 6, 8 and 9), including an analysis of potential losers and outlining risk mitigating actions for potential impacts on them.
* Other relevant aspects below as needed
* Perceptions on institutional/regulatory framework related to PAs and their effects on the ground, including community involvement in decision-making and awareness regarding boundaries, law enforcement and penalties, occurrence of forest changes/clearance etc.
* Land tenure and asset base and how to sustain livelihoods and enhance social capital.
* Vulnerability (including shocks and coping strategies, source of resilience).
* Livelihood systems and strategies (farm, non-farm, off-farm, migration; gender-wise), including food security, income, health, well-being, social status. Also, most important problems faced by the community, main livelihood opportunities, main priorities of the community.
* Social acceptance on key activities planned in the project (e.g. new restrictions on PAs).
* Awareness and perceptions on ecosystem services, including PES (e.g. user/visitor fee)

The above topics needs to be discussed with stakeholders, PA sub-committees and FAO Technical Officers and finalized after the information needs assessment.

1. **Duration:** Nine months.
2. **Outputs:**
3. A database of existing socioeconomic information available for the six PAs by first month.
4. A short report (maximum 15 pages) excluding annexes on Information Needs Assessment, detailed methodology, including those for the surveys/interviews, and adapted survey instruments for the study by third month.
5. Socioeconomic data in the suitable format to integrate to the Management Information System by eighth month and for a “State of the Protected Areas in Trinidad & Tobago” report.
6. Report covering the topics mentioned above (maximum 40 pages excluding annexes) by ninth month.
7. **Service provider’s profile:**

* Experience in socioeconomic data collection on natural resources, including designing and conducting social surveys preferably at national level
* Good understanding of the socioeconomic issues related to PAs in Trinidad and Tobago
* Excellent report writing skills

1. **How to apply**

Instutuions interested in conducting the work are invited to send a short concept paper (explaining how the tasks will be implemented) inclusive CVs of proposed personnel and budget to Neila Bobb-Prescott ([Neila.BobbPrescott@fao.org](mailto:Neila.BobbPrescott@fao.org)), Chief Technical Advisor by 8th May, 2017.