

Request for Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for the development of a Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Economic Development (MED)

Title of Project: Building Capacity for Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Land Management and Strengthening the Capacity of the Ministry of Economic Development for pre-Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund

Project Objective: The overarching objective is to strengthen the capacity of the NDA and address institutional gaps that inhibit its ability to successfully access climate finance through the GCF.

Delivery Partner: Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) – GCF Direct Access Entity

Background

Belize, like many other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), is particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. The country's low-lying coastline and sectoral vulnerabilities to climate risk coupled with limited access to national financial, technological, and technical resources to build the country's resilience, led to a ranking of #9 on the Climate Change Vulnerability Index for the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Taking a proactive approach to building climate resilience, the Government of Belize has prioritized the capacity building of national institutions which can access climate finance and implement bankable projects and programmes. International funding agencies such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) offer support to developing countries who are working to achieve climate adaptation and mitigation in accordance with their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, but these funds can only be accessed through accredited entities or national direct access entities.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a unique global platform established to respond to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. GCF was established to limit or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in developing countries, and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Given the urgency and seriousness of this challenge, the Fund is mandated to make an ambitious contribution to the united global response to climate change.

GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme supports country-driven initiatives by developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda. The Readiness Programme provides grants and technical assistance to National Designated Authorities (NDA) and/or Focal Points (FPs). Readiness funding can also be deployed to strengthen Direct Access Entities (DAE).

Currently, Belize has one national direct access entity to the GCF which limits the scope and scale of climate finance that can be accessed. With this in mind, the Government of Belize is aiming to enhance its national capacity by seeking the accreditation of additional institutions whose mandates are in alignment with the priorities of both the Fund and the Government, and who can aid in maximizing Belize's access to critical climate finance.

The Government of Belize has identified the Ministry of Economic Development as a key actor in assisting the country to channel climate finance. The Ministry's mandate is to promote economic development through planning and coordination. MED also serves as the focal point for all international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, and houses four units: the Belize-EU Cooperation, the Climate Finance Unit, the Policy and Planning Unit, and the Central Executing Unit. Work under an ongoing readiness grant identified gaps in MED's operations such as the lack of a Strategic Plan to guide its long-term vision and work of the organization. This readiness grant seeks to strengthen the internal capacities and functions of MED to attain GCF accreditation by addressing the above gap. In doing so, Belize will be able to access international climate finance via an entity with a unique role as the direct focal point of the Government of Belize for financing, strategic planning, and liaising with the public and private sector for project development and implementation, inclusive of climate change projects.

Hence, under Output 1.2.2 of the GCF Readiness 10 Project, PACT is interested in identifying a consulting team to undertake the development of the MED Strategic Plan inclusive of the organization's long-term goals for the development of the country in line with national priorities and climate adaptive needs.

Objective of Consultancy

Develop a MED Strategic Plan including a new strategic direction and/or revised mandate that will set objectives that support and are aligned with MED's mandate and will correspond with annual implementation plans and budgets.

More specifically, the Strategic plan will:

- define/clarify mission, vision, values, objectives, and strategy of the organization.
- define strategic priorities and actions.
- develop an effective internal evaluation mechanism.
- propose improvements to the organizational functions and structure to ensure its alignment with the new strategic direction.

Deliverables & Estimated Timeline

Deliverables	Timeframe
<p>Inception Report and detailed work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief executive summary of inception meeting • Detailed scope of work • Methodology • Timelines (Gantt Chart) • Milestones including stakeholder engagement. <p>The selected consultancy team, in their response to this ToR and based on the results of the inception meeting, will be expected to develop, and submit an updated methodology and work plan which detail specific activities, timeline, and their sequence with specified due dates agreed upon between the consulting firm and Project Team including MED CEO and GCF Readiness 10-Project Team.</p>	<p>No later than two (2) weeks after signing of contract.</p>
<p>Draft Strategic Plan w/Interim Progress Report on consultancy delivery including updated workplan if changes were made, challenges, lessons learnt, recommendations for implementation of remainder of consultancy.</p>	<p>No later than four (4) months after signing of contract</p>
<p>Validated Strategic Management Plan for MED with the associated workshop report, with gender disaggregation consideration.</p>	<p>No later than five (5) months after signing of contract</p>
<p>Final Training Materials, Training Report on the new Strategic Plan for MED, reflecting gender considerations and post training assessment data integrated in the report.</p>	<p>No later than six (6) months after signing of contract</p>

Qualifications and Experience

The consultancy requires that the service provider is a firm fielding a consultancy team that should consist of international AND local experts. The firm is required to have 10+ years' experience in development of strategic plans for public sector organizations, experience in institutional assessment and development, organizational performance monitoring (tracking) and performance evaluation, project management, adaptive planning management, stakeholder engagement, group facilitation, communications, climate resilience, meeting management, technical writing, and active listening.

The successful firm will demonstrate a minimum of at least two (2) similar assignments within the past five (5) years. The Team Leader should have at minimum a master's degree in a relevant field such as Project Management, Climate Change, Communications, Public Policy, and Planning and demonstrated experience in the areas of Strategy Development, Climate Finance and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Expression of Interest

- Interested firms are asked to submit a detailed technical proposal for the deliverables. The technical proposal should include proposed methodology, work schedule, quality control and quality assurance. The technical proposal shall also describe the composition of the team and relevant years of experience. They must also provide the most recent Curriculum Vitae of all members of the Consulting team.
- A financial proposal shall also be submitted and will include a budget for activities to be carried out under the consultancy and aligned with the proposed workplan. Those interested should present the technical and financial proposal that responds to the contents of this ToR no later than 5:00 pm (Central Standard Time), May 31st, 2023. The proposal should be addressed to:

Mr. Radin Santos
Procurement Officer

Protected Areas Conservation Trust

Re: Expression of Interest – *Development of a Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Economic Development*

Soft copies should be sent via email to:

Procurementofficer@pactbelize.org and projectmanager2@pactbelize.org

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the International Competitive Bidding Method.

PACT is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against protected characteristics (gender, age, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability).

PACT is not liable for any costs incurred by applicants in submission of their application.