



**BE-CLME+ project: Promoting national blue economy priorities through Marine Spatial Planning (MES) in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (GEF Project ID 10211)**

Terms of Reference for a National Consultancy that Analyzes Data Needs and Gaps to Inform MSP in the Republic of Panama.

**1.0 Background and Justification.**

1.1 The BE-CLME+ Project is a regional initiative aimed at promoting the development of the blue economy in the Caribbean region through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA), the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EEP) and the development of sustainable climate-smart fisheries, value chains, and knowledge management in Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Panama. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is the Executing Agency of the project, while the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are the Co-implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

1.2 The Project Work Plan and Budget for the year 2023-2024 was approved by the Regional Steering Committee on September 29, 2023, and includes the need to conduct a national consultancy to perform a needs analysis and data gaps to inform MSP interventions in the country.

1.3 On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, a degree signaling Panama's commitment to ocean protection was signed, expanding the country's Banco Volcan Marine Protected Area from approximately 14,200 square kilometers to over 90,000 square kilometers. This expansion protects marine ecosystems and important fishing resources within Panama's national waters in the Caribbean Sea. With the funding of the China Ocean Development Foundation, the First Institute of Oceanography of the Ministry of Natural Resources undertook the Panama Ocean Spatial Planning Project, which aims to sign a memorandum of understanding on ocean space planning cooperation with the Panama International Maritime University and the Marine Coast Division of the Panama Ministry of Environment. Panama's National Ocean Policy articulates and guides the regulations and institutional actions of the government with the purpose of defining and specifying the interaction between public and private actors related to the conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of the oceans while safeguarding the national interest. Some of the main challenges that the country faces in terms of the preservation of its marine ecosystems consist of the implementation of existing regulations, strengthening inter-institutional coordination, systematizing the supervision and control of actions that could threaten the sustainability of the resources.

## 2.0 Consulting Objectives

The maritime spatial planning (MSP) process requires the collection of spatial data and information related to a variety of issues and processes, and data forms the backbone of any planning and decision-making process. Data for MSP provide an overview of the spatial distribution of human activities, marine ecosystems and hotspots, identify conflicts and shared spatial opportunities, and enable spatial exploration of future economic and climate scenarios.

The objective of this consultancy is to comprehensively assess data availability, data gaps and needs assessment to inform the MSP in Panama. Several Caribbean countries have ongoing MSP and Blue Economy development processes and, as such, these assessments will build on and complement the Blue Economy and MSP processes underway in Panama.

## 3.0 Key activities will include, but are not limited to, those listed below.

3.1 Assess the status of the MSP processes in Panama and the types and sources of data used to inform MSP.

3.2 Assess spatial and temporal data needs, and should include, among other things, pollution and habitat degradation linked to economic sectors active in the coastal zone, as well as anthropogenic, geographic/physical, biological, economic and social sources (including a prioritization of gender and other marginalized groups), physical and ecological patterns and processes, relative ecological importance of areas, ecosystem services, vulnerability and resilience, economic activities, benefits and impacts, distribution between current and emerging uses of blue space, existing management measures and future needs of existing uses or proposed uses of blue space.

3.3 Assess the availability and needs of relevant spatial and temporal data not covered in Section 3.2 of importance to inform national blue economy strategies.

3.4 Consult with the MSP authorities in Panama to confirm data and other needs not addressed in this TOR that may be necessary to inform MSP in the country.

3.5 Recommend data sources and collection methods to address identified data needs.

3.6 Identify capacity needs for data analysis and interpretation to inform the PEM.

3.7 Consult with the CRFM/UGP and be informed about the Environmental and Social Safeguards (SAS) activated by the BE Project: CLME+ and identify what data is needed to ensure that the MSP in Panama complies with the Environmental and Social Safeguards(ESS) activated by the project.



3.8 In coordination with the CRFM/UGP, organize and convene a virtual national workshop to present the results of the data gap and needs assessments to inform the MSP and discuss synergies with other national and regional activities and projects.

3.9 The Consultant will be responsible for providing the technical content of the assignment/ consultancy to the CRFM that is consistent with the CRFM’s communications guidelines. The content must be communicable to develop at least one (1) communication and visibility material on the assessment and data gaps to inform MSP in Panama. The communication and visibility material could include press releases, newsletters, flyers, brochures, website content, infographics, social media posts which will be submitted to the CRFM/PMU for review, vetting of content, and onward communication via the CRFM’s Knowledge Management and Information System and broader regional networks.

3.10 The consultant shall provide data/information collected from workshops and other activities such as voice recordings, videos, and photographs from interviews, focus groups, etc. as applicable to support communication and visibility material.

#### 4.0 Expected Results and Deliverables.

4.1 Consultants are expected to deliver the following products:

**Product 1:** Initial report detailing activities, milestones, schedule and a solid methodology to carry out the task.

**Product 2:** Draft report: Assessment of needs and data gaps to inform MSP in Panama.

**Product 3:** Final report: Assessment of data gaps and needs to inform MSP in Panama and virtual national workshop to present the results of the assessments of data needs and gaps to inform the MSP.

**Product 4:** Materials consistent with Section 6.0 of these Terms of Reference.

#### 5.0 Project schedule and milestones.

Deliverables	Date of delivery	Disbursements
<b>Product 1:</b> Initial report detailing activities, milestones, schedule and a solid methodology to carry out the task.	7 days after signing the contract.	10% of the contract value.
<b>Product 2:</b> Draft report: Assessment of needs and data gaps to inform MSP in Panama.	2.5 months after signing the contract.	40% of the contract value.
<b>Product 3:</b> Final report: Assessment of data gaps and needs to inform MSP in Panama and virtual national workshop to present the	4.0 months after signing the contract.	50% of the contract value.

results of the assessments of data needs and gaps to inform MSP.		
<b>Product 4:</b> Materials consistent with Section 6.0 of these Terms of Reference.		

## 6.0 Reporting Requirements.

6.1 The consultant will present the deliverables following the schedule established in section 5 of these terms of reference. The deliverables must include reports in Word, PowerPoint presentations and other documents used as the basis of the analysis (including other formats such as Excel spreadsheets, etc. as appropriate) and a folder with the list of bibliographic references used to develop the analysis. **Products 1,2 and 3 must be delivered in both English and Spanish.** All reports, studies, plans, drawings, source codes, technical data, specifications and any other materials prepared or worked on by the consultant exclusively for the CRFM under this Agreement are the sole and exclusive property of the CRFM and, as such, the CRFM has exclusive title, rights and interest in all such material, including the right of dissemination, reproduction and publication. The consultant will also work closely with the BE: CLME+ Project Regional Project Coordinator and Marine Spatial Planning Specialist on this consultancy.

## 7.0 Acceptance Criteria.

7.1 Payments will be authorized once the CRFM accepts the products specified in the TORs. The CRFM will have up to three weeks to provide written comments/recommendations to the consultants' reports. Unless previously determined, the CRFM will generally accept deliverables once the consultant or consulting firm confirms the following: (i) receipt and further inclusion of comments/recommendations in a revised version and (ii) provision of a date for submission of the revised versions of the submitted deliverables. Consultants are expected to include these comments two weeks after receipt.

## 8.0 Consultant effort and skills required.

8.1 It has been estimated that this consultancy will require a maximum of 35 Consultant Days.

8.2 Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Master's degree or postgraduate degree in Environmental Management, Marine, Fisheries Sciences, Coastal Zone Management or Marine Sciences, planning plans, or similar.
- Training in Marine Spatial Planning and/or Blue Economy will be a distinct advantage.
- Knowledge of the Panama's national context
- Minimum of 7 years of experience working as a technical expert in one of the marine fields listed above.
- Work experience in some or all of the project countries.



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- Experience in developing MPA management plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management or PEM plans will be extremely valuable.
- Ability to work with senior government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities.
- Experience working with resource users in multiple sectors, especially in fishing, protected areas, tourism and maritime transport, etc.
- Good knowledge of biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, blue carbon, and Marine Spatial Planning.
- Technical proficiency (spoken and written) in English and Spanish

## 9.0 Application and Selection Procedure.

9.1 Interested consultants are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae (CV), a statement of availability, and a statement of no conflict of interest in English and Spanish.

9.2 CVs will be evaluated against the criteria described in Section 8.2 and recruitment will be subject to successful price negotiation with the selected consultant.

9.3 Interested consultants must submit their application cover letter describing why they believe they are best suited for this task and their CV in PDF format by the **22 May 2024** a [secretariat@crfm.int](mailto:secretariat@crfm.int) and [delmar.lanza@crfm.int](mailto:delmar.lanza@crfm.int).