

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Preparation of an Inventory Report informing of the terrestrial diversity of the flora and fauna and invasive species on Sint Maarten**

#### **General Background**

With the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles on October 10, 2010, Sint Maarten emerged as a new self-governing country within the Dutch Kingdom. In that regard, the Government of Sint Maarten has embarked on building and national development in cooperation with UNDP under a program to produce a National Development Plan and build capacity to manage and measure the country's socio-economic development. A pillar to guide the medium to long term development of Sint Maarten is the country's MDG report produced in January 2011. The report identifies challenges for Sint Maarten, notably in dealing with issues relating to poverty and the environment. In order to address those challenges and accelerate achievement of MDG Goal 1 (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger) and Goal 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability) Sint Maarten applied the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). As a result of the MAF exercise, a country action plan was produced identifying four interventions and prioritized solutions to rapidly tackle the most pressing issues relating to poverty and the environment on Sint Maarten. In regard to the interventions relating to the environment, the country action plan identifies and gives priority to the need to undertake a terrestrial biological inventory of the flora and fauna of Sint Maarten.

#### **Objective of the Consultancy**

The last biological inventory was undertaken in 1996, one year after hurricane Louis. Since then, Sint Maarten has considerably developed which has caused significant stress on the terrestrial flora and fauna. The island also struggles with a notable presence of invasive species. The objective of the consultancy is to undertake a general terrestrial biological inventory of native flora and fauna on Sint Maarten with an inventory of terrestrial invasive species. This will be achieved by producing a database of the references concerning terrestrial natural resources complemented with verified and established field observations in order to provide up to date documentation of the biological diversity and conservation values of terrestrial species. The inventory of invasive species is to be obtained from field observations.

The knowledge obtained from a general biological inventory and invasive species inventory will assist in policy making and in the establishment of a terrestrial protected nature park as an agreed deliverable in the MAF country action plan as the best means of affording protection for terrestrial species and ecosystems.

The consultancy is open to any interested institute/organization/firm or individual consultants. If an organization or firm should tender, preference will be given to a professional heading the consultancy with a support team consisting of Masters or Ph.D. students.

#### **Scope of Work**

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (VROMI) and the Nature Foundation of Sint Maarten, the consultant will produce:

1. A biological Inventory report – a technical document based on available scientific data (literature research) and field collected data of terrestrial flora and fauna on Sint Maarten and their associated ecosystems. The biological inventory will cover a variety of geographical regions on Sint Maarten as represented by the attached vegetation map. Such regions cover coastal drylands, coastal wetlands, hill slopes, forested slopes, hilltops and valley ecosystems such as evergreen seasonal forests, mangrove ecosystems, mixed deciduous and draught deciduous evergreen and succulent shrub lands in to be identified representative areas.
2. An invasive species Inventory. – An inventory based on literature research and field observations. The invasive species covered in this review are confined to terrestrial species and include: weeds, plant diseases and invertebrate pests of plants, and vertebrate animal pests.

**Deliverables**

The Plan of approach with time frame for the consultancy to deliver 1 and 2 shall be no longer than 6 months.

1. Inception report - It will show a work plan proposed action, method of research and schedule.
2. Interim draft biological report and invasive species inventory, written in English
3. Final Biological report and Invasive species inventory, written in English

**Consultancy Costs**

For the purposes of this consultancy, St Maarten will meet all transport and lodging costs. **All requirements must be specifically identified.**

**Payment Modality and Schedule**

The UNDP standard method of payment is the output based lump sum scheme and the payment will be made in three installments upon satisfactory completion of the following deliverables:

1. First Installment – 20% upon submission of the inception report which outlines methodologies and timelines for work program delivery;
2. Second Installment – 50% upon submission and acceptance of the interim draft report by the project board; and
3. Third Installment – 30% upon submission and acceptance of the final report by the project.

**Evaluation Criteria and Weight**

The consultant will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria. Maximum obtainable score is 100. Technical criteria (including proposed work plan and approach) and expertise of consultant is 70 and for financial 30.

**Required Education, Skills and Competencies**

The consultant should:

1. Hold a Masters qualification or higher in biological science or related field;
2. Have at least 5 years' experience in biological science;
3. Demonstrative background in conducting biological inventories with peer reviewed publications;
4. Experience of working in tropical ecosystems confronting urbanization an advantage;
5. Demonstrated capacity to work as a team;
6. Good analytical and organizational skills;
7. Proven ability to work under pressure;
8. Good capacities for strategic thinking and planning; and
9. English language fluency. Dutch would be an advantage.