



**BELIZE MARINE CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development

**TERM OF REFERENCE**  
**Consultancy to Review and Revise the**  
**Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations 2014**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Mangroves are an important component of the Belize Barrier Reef system, the world's second largest barrier reef system. They are ecological and economically important; ecologically, they provide shore protection and serve as nurseries for 74 species of reef fish and 178 bird species. Economically, mangroves contribute some US\$174-249 million per year to Belize's economy, via tourism recreation (US\$60-78 M), fisheries (US\$3-4 M), and shoreline protection (US\$111-167 M)<sup>1</sup>. Vegetation is predominantly red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), with some black mangrove (*Avicenna germinans*), white mangrove (*Lanuncularia racemosa*), and the buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*).

Zisman 1998 reported the total mangrove hectares as 78,511. Since then in 2008, CATHALAC/HRI updated Zisman data and this was expanded in 2010 by CATHALAC/WWF<sup>2</sup>. An on-the-ground validation exercise was done by the University of Belize's Environmental Research Institute, as a standard practice for the utilization of products developed from remote sensing imagery, to verify and document the accuracy of the mangrove classification<sup>3</sup>. The 2010 assessment of cover change showed a national loss of <4% (from 76,250 ha to 74,684 ha) with most clearance observed in development areas.

The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (BBRRS), inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996, is comprised of seven protected areas; Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve, Blue Hole Natural Monument, Half Moon Caye Natural Monument, South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Glover's Reef Marine Reserve, Laughing Bird Caye National Park and Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve. The seven protected areas that constitute the BBRRS comprise 12% of the entire Reef Complex. The reef complex is comprised of approximately 450 sand and mangrove cayes (UNESCO world heritage list - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764>).

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<sup>1</sup> Cooper et. al., 2009. Coastal Capital: Belize. The Contribution of Belize's Coral Reefs and Mangroves. WRI Working paper.

<sup>2</sup> Cherrington et. al., 2010. Identification of Threatened and Resilient Mangroves in the Belize Barrier Reef System. CATHALAC

<sup>3</sup> Cho-Ricketts and Cherrington. 2011. Validation of the 2010 Belize Mangrove Cover Map

During a monitoring mission in March 2009, the State Party reported the sale, lease and development of mangrove islands, noted the overall absence of overall policy and regulatory framework for managing the property, illegal fishing etc; hence, the BBRs was placed on the list of World Heritage in Danger. In order to achieve a desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger, one corrective measure is to strengthen, adopt, implement and effectively enforce the proposed Mangrove Regulation. This action together with the adoption of the Living Aquatic Resources Bill and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, "should provide a basis for ensuring that private housing and tourism-related development within the property is strictly regulated and does not threaten its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) including the conditions of integrity".

The purpose of this Consultancy is to strengthen and enable the adoption of the Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations 2014 to allow added protection for mangroves. The draft Regulations is at an advance stage of revision and needs to be finalized based on recent comments made by the Attorney General's Ministry (2014). Conservation of existing mangrove areas is crucial for the preservation of the overall health of the BBR ecosystems. Conservation of the mangrove cover is considered one key indicators that will need to be achieved in order to move towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-SOC-3189). Strengthening the mangrove regulation will lead to more sustainable use of the resources both within and surrounding areas of the BBRs. Also strengthening enforcement will assist in management and long-term protection of the BBRs.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this consultancy is to finalise the draft Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations 2014 to enable improved management of mangroves in an effort to ensure sustainable coastal development.

## **3. TASKS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Consultant is expected to work closely with the Project Coordinator, personnel from the Forest Department and identified stakeholders and is expected to compile and review all relevant documents pertaining to mangrove and coastal conservation and management to ensure consistency and avoid overlap and/or disconnect among the previously mentioned documents. The final product is the property of the Forest Department and the Government of Belize.

Below are the tasks to be done by the Consultant (including but not limited to):

1. Attend an initial meeting with the Project Coordinator and Forest Department to discuss project implementation.
2. Work along with the Forest Department to define the scope of work to be done and develop a work plan, which outline roles, responsibilities, and timelines;
3. Throughout the life of the project work closely with the Solicitor General's Office to ensure the outputs are consistent with their needs;
4. Prepare inception report, including detailed implementation plan and time-frame;

5. Review regional and international obligations and other legal or pertinent information that may have direct or indirect effects on mangroves;
6. Review relevant legislation, policies, and strategies governing the management of forests and coastal areas particularly the Draft Mangrove Legislation and legal review from the Office of the Solicitor General on draft regulations, Forest Act, Belize Coastal Zone Act, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Mines and Minerals Act and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for Belize, National Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for Belize, World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, etc. to ensure complementarity;
7. Revise draft mangrove legislation to include provisions for the zonation of mangrove ecosystems based on assessments and available data on the status of mangroves including coverage, deforestation rate and sensitive areas;
8. Consult existing draft mangrove regulations with relevant stakeholders to identify and validate additions and/or deletions to draft.
9. Revise draft Mangrove regulations and prepare relevant supporting documentation, draft bill, and cabinet paper in support of the newly drafter mangrove regulations.

#### **4. DELIVERABLES**

The following deliverables will be submitted by the Consultant to the Project Coordinator:

- i. Inception report;
- ii. Report on review of existing legislation and consultation on the draft mangrove regulations;
- iii. Draft Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations (or as directed by the Solicitor General's Office) and supporting cabinet paper;
- iv. Report on the outcome of Consultation Sessions with stakeholders during the consultancy period.
- v. Final report

#### **Schedule of Deliverables**

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Timeline (Calendar weeks)</b>
Inception report	No later than 3 weeks after signing of contract
Report on stakeholder consultation meeting	
Report on review of relevant legislation and consultation on the draft mangrove regulations	No later than 7 weeks after signing of contract
Draft Bill and cabinet paper	No later than 10 weeks after signing of contract
Final report	No later than 12 weeks after signing of contract

#### **5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Law or a field related to environmental and/or natural resource governance;

- At least 5 years of professional experience in drafting legislation, legal analysis and assessment in the areas of environmental management, natural resources management or sustainable development and asset;
- At least 5 years of experience in drafting and/or working within the national legislative system in Belize;
- Ability to handle a large volume of work in an effective and timely manner.
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders in a collaborative way.

## **6. TARGET**

This Consultancy will primarily target key government agencies such as the Forest Department, Fisheries Department, Department of the Environment, Geology and Petroleum Department, Lands and Survey Department, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute and the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. Other stakeholders such as Private Developers, Protected Areas Co-managers, Fishers, etc. must also be consulted during this consultancy.

## **7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Belize, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development with fiduciary management assistance from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) and the World Bank as Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE), is responsible for the implementation of the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project (MCCAP) in the coastal areas of Belize. The Project Implementing Agency Group (PIAG) housed within the Fisheries Department and staffed by full-time and part-time consultants is responsible for the coordinating MCCAP implementation. The PIAG consists of a Project Coordinator (PC), a Senior Technical Officer (STO), staff from Fisheries Department, and fiduciary staff of PACT. The PC will be directly supervised by the Fisheries Administrator.

MCCAP is a five year project designed to implement a priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System and its productive marine resources. Specifically, the project will support:

- i. improvement of the reef's protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Replenishment (no-take) Zones in strategically selected locations to strengthen climate resilience,
- ii. promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef, and
- iii. Building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the overall health of the reef ecosystem and the climate resilience of coral reefs.

MCCAP will benefit three Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), namely, the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR), and the South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR). These MPAs are fished by fishermen mainly from 12 coastal communities, namely: 1) Consejo Village, 2) Corozal Town, 3) Copper Bank Village, 4) Chunox Village, 5) Sarteneja Village, 6) Belize City, 7) Dangriga Town, 8) Hopkins Village, 9) Sittee River Village, 10) Riversdale Village, 11) Seine Bight Village, and 12) Placencia Village.

Component 1 of the project is aimed at supporting the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in Belize by strengthening the legal framework for management of marine protected areas and coastal zones through support for, *inter alia*: (i) the review and reform of Belize's legal

and institutional framework for protected areas; (ii) the review of mangrove regulations; (iii) the review and reform of the CZM ACT; and (iv) the implementation of an ICZM plan.

**Management structure**

- The Consultant will report to the MCCAP Project Coordinator, located at the Fisheries Department, Belize City.
- The MCCAP Project Coordinator will provide regular technical assistance to the Consultant and will also serve as the liaison between the Consultant and the Forest Department.

**8. DURATION OF THE CONSULTANCY**

The expected start date of the Consultancy is March 2016. The total duration of the Consultancy should not exceed 4 months.

**9. REPORTING**

Two electronic copies on suitable storage media for MCCAP records and the Forest Department, (Microsoft Word and printable version) and three hard copies of all reports must be submitted to the MCCAP Project Coordinator. The documents must be written in English. The PIAG is responsible for approving the final versions of the reports in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee and Project Steering Committee.

**10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The results to be achieved by the Consultant are specified in Section 4 above. Progress to achieving these results will be measured by the main Monitoring and Evaluation indicators:

- i) Timeliness of works and other services provided;
- ii) Technical outputs prepared, finalized and approved by PIAG/Forest Department;
- iii) Met project objectives and activities.

The Consultant may suggest additional monitoring tools for the duration of this project.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE (For Contract Only)**

Payments will be made on the basis of review and acceptance of deliverables as stipulated below.

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>% proposed payment</b>
Inception report	20
Report on review of relevant legislation and consultation on the draft mangrove regulations	30
Draft Bill	40
Final report	10