BE-CLME+ Project: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (GEF Project ID 10211)

Terms of Reference for a National Consultancy to Conduct Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP Implementation in Saint Lucia

1.0 Background & Justification.

1.1 The BE-CLME+ Project is a regional initiative aimed at promoting blue economy development in the Caribbean region through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), development of climate-smart sustainable 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 for the project, while the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations are the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Co-Implementing Agencies. Day-to-day project implementation is achieved via a Project Management Unit (PMU) located within the CRFM and supported by the CRFM Secretariat.

1.2 The 2023-2024 BE: CLME+ Project Workplan & Budget was approved by the Regional Steering Committee on 29th September 2023, and calls for a national consultancy to conduct data gap and needs assessments to inform MSP Implementation in Saint Lucia.

1.3 Funded by the World Bank, the Government of Saint Lucia completed a report titled "Saint Lucia's National Ocean Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2035)" under the GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP). A product of the National Ocean Plan 2020 was the St. Lucia's Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan (2020-2035) and is viewed as the catalyst through which Saint Lucia can enable the transition to a blue economy. Also, this plan contains Saint Lucia's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that identifies goals and outcomes which are aligned with many aspects of the BE-CLME+ Project such as the Systems Plan (MMAs/MPAs), Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy Skills Strategy, and Sustainable Finance Mechanism.

The committee responsible for the coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating the implementation of the National Ocean Policy (NOP) is the National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC). It was formed for the purpose of working with the Ministry or Ministries/ Department(s) with responsibility for Sustainable Development, Ocean Governance and Coastal Zone Management. They are comprised of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Sustainable Development and Environmental Division/CZMU, Department of Tourism (DoT), Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, Ministry with responsibility for foreign affairs, as well as cross-cutting agencies such as Customs, Immigration, Legal, Royal St. Lucia Police Force (Marine Police), and the Ministry with the responsibility for Finance/Economic Development. The NOGC provides advice to the Government of Saint Lucia on the management of the marine space under the jurisdiction of Saint Lucia. They are the Focal Point for the BE-CLME+ project and will act as the lead implementation agency to facilitate information acquisition, acquisition costs, and other logistical areas such as organizing meetings with critical stakeholders and the Consultant. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) is responsible for promoting the sustainable development of Saint

Lucia's fisheries sector through participatory management and sustainable use of the fishery resources. They will assist in on the ground project implementation.

2.0 Objective of the Consultancy.

The process of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) requires the collection of spatial data and information related to a variety of issues and processes and data forms the backbone of any decision-making and planning process. Data for MSP provides an overview of spatial distribution of human activities, marine ecosystems, and hotspots, identifies conflicts and shared space opportunities, and allows spatial exploration of future economic and climate scenarios. The objective of this consultancy is to comprehensively assess data availability, data gaps, and an assessment of needs to inform MSP implementation in Saint Lucia. This assessment shall make every effort to build on and complement ongoing BE processes in Saint Lucia

3.0 Key Activities will include, but not be limited to those listed below.

3.1 Assess the status of MSP processes in Saint Lucia and the types and sources of data used to inform MSP development and implementation.

3.2 Assess spatial and temporal data needs to include *inter alia*, pollution and habitat degradation linked to economic sectors active in the coastal zone as well as anthropogenic sources, geographic/physical, biologic, economic, social (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 among current and emerging uses of the blue space, existing management measures, and future needs of existing or proposed uses of the blue space.

3.3 Assess availability and needs of relevant spatial and temporal data not covered in Section 3.2 of importance to inform national BE strategies. Consideration should be given to availability as well as out-dated data sources, and potential resource acquisition costs where applicable. Where applicable, efforts should made to build upon and update data sources.

3.4 Consult with the MSP authorities in Saint Lucia to confirm data and other needs not addressed in this TORs that may be necessary to inform MSP implementation in the country. Also, understanding the terms to access data from data producers and sources, including an assessment of barriers to access data.

3.5 Consult with the NOGC to confirm data and other needs not addressed in this TOR that may be necessary to inform MSP in the country, and recommend data sources and collection methods to address data needs identified. Such recommendations should be feasible and achievable considering the country's context.

3.6 Identify resources and capacity needs to inform and sustain data analysis and interpretation to inform MSP implementation.

3.7 Consult with the CRFM/PMU and be informed of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) triggered by the BE: CLME+ Project and identify what data is needed to ensure MSP in Saint Lucia complies with ESS triggered by the project.

3.8 In coordination with the CRFM/PMU, organize and convene a virtual national workshop to present the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation and to discuss synergies with other national and regional activities and projects.

3.9 Develop at least one (1) communication and visibility material on the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation conducted for Saint Lucia. These materials 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 network.

4.0 Expected Outcomes and Deliverables.

4.1 The consultant(s) are expected to deliver the following products:

Product 1: Inception Report detailing activities, milestones, timeline, and a robust methodology to carry out the assignment.

Product 2: Draft Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation in Saint Lucia.

Product 3: Final Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation in Saint Lucia and virtual national workshop to present the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation.

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

5.0 Project Schedule and Milestones.

Deliverable	Date	Payments
Product 1: Inception Report detailing activities, milestones, timeline, and a robust methodology to carry out the assignment.	0.5 month after contract signature	10% of contract value
Product 2: Draft Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation in Saint Lucia.	2.5 months after contract signature	50% of contract value
Product 3: Final Report – Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation in Saint Lucia and virtual national workshop to present the results of the Data Gap and Needs Assessments to Inform MSP implementation.	4.0 months after contract signature	40% of contract value
Product 4: Materials consistent with Section 6.0 of 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 applicable) and a folder with the list of bibliographic references used to develop the analysis. All materials must be delivered in English and in Spanish, in the case of materials used to

for assessments in Panama.   Products 2 and 3 must be delivered in both English and Spanish. All reports, studies, plans, drawings, source code, technical data, specifications, and any other material prepared by or worked upon 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 Regional Project Coordinator and the Seafood Value Chain Specialist of the BE: CLME+ Project on the assignment.

7.0 Acceptance Criteria.

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

8.0 Consultant's Effort and Required Skills

8.1 This consultancy has been estimated to require a maximum of 35 Consultant Days.

8.2 Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Master's Degree in Marine Management, Fisheries Science, Coastal Zone Management, Natural Resource Management, or Marine Science.
- Training in Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy and/or Geographic Information Systems will be a distinctive asset.
- Minimum of 7 years' experience working as a technical expert in one of the marine fields listed above.
- Work experience in any or all the project countries.
- Experience in the elaboration of MPA management plans, CZM plans, or MSPs will be extremely valuable.
- Ability to work with senior government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities.
- Experience working with resource users across multiple sectors, especially in the fisheries, protected areas, tourism, and maritime transport, etc.
- A good understanding of biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, Marine Spatial Planning.

9.0 Application and Selection Procedure.

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

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

9.3 Interested consultants should submit their Application Cover Letter outlining why they believe they are best suited for this assignment and CV in PDF format by 10th January 2024 to secretariat@crfm.int, and delmar.lanza@crfm.int.