

TERMS OF REFERENCE – SHORT-TERM CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR:

Activity 3.1.2 Support for obtaining the declaration of the swamp as a protected area

Start Date: 11 November 2024

End Date: 11 December 2024

All Services shall be carried out personally by the Contractor. The Services shall include:

- 1) The scoping and development of a full Terms of Reference (ToR) for *Activity 3.1.2.: Support for obtaining the Declaration of the Swamp as a Protected Area*, of the South Oropouche River Basin (SORB) Project.
- 2) An accompanying ToR Evaluation of Firms Document which will identify and detail how the scope of evaluation will be defined, developed and verified for the consulting firm (CF) that is to bid for the consultancy.
- 3) Lead a meeting with all project-identified key stakeholders of this activity to obtain technical and other input pertinent to key stakeholders including the Institute for Marine Affairs (IMA), Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries (MALF) and other relevant ministries, institutions and agencies.
- 4) The Terms of Reference should include and detail the following:
 - a. Background and purpose
 - b. Contextualise the project.
 - c. Aim of the Contract
 - d. Breakdown of Scope and Activities of the Proposed Contracted Services
 - e. A Schedule
 - f. Details for bidding firms or how to submit and what should be included.
 - g. Qualification and Scoring Criteria for the CF (to also be included in the Evaluation of Firms)
 - h. Language Requirements
 - i. Submission Checklist
 - j. Timeline of Selection Process and Project
 - k. Deliverables and Schedule
- 5) When developing the ToR, be sure to include provisions that prioritize the engagement of local contractors and/or labourers. This ensures that our SORB communities benefit directly from the project and fosters economic growth.
- 6) The ToR is to be accompanied by a full budgetary breakdown of tasks and timelines (both Microsoft Excel and PDF formats).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR ToR DEVELOPMENT

A National Wetland Policy was developed in 2001 and a National Wetland Committee was appointed in 2004. At that time, the possibility of listing the Godineau Swamp as a Ramsar site was considered.

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However other areas in the country such as the Caroni Swamp were eventually prioritized at that time for the process of obtaining the protection status.

The Godineau swamp is one of the largest wetlands in the country and is a habitat for several species, including birds such as the Scarlet Ibis, which was categorized as an Environmental Sensitive Species (ESS) in 2018. A small fraction of the swamp is a forest reserve, but the remaining larger part of the area has no protection status. The Project proposes to undertake the necessary procedures to obtain the protection status as a Ramsar Site or as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). This initiative has been supported at the formulation stage by national government stakeholders such as the IMA and the EMA, which will follow-up on the process in the case it takes longer than the period for Project's implementation. The linkage of the management plan of the swamp with a legal figure such as a protected area, is critical for the sustainability of the planning restoration actions over time and thus the Project considers that this activity should be promoted in any case. The budget includes a part-time dedication of a senior consultant for preparing the necessary documents for the request to the corresponding institutions.