



**Economic Valuation of Bahamian Marine Protected Areas
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Title of Position: Natural Resource Economic Valuation Consultant

Contracting Agency: Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF)

Date of TOR: February 2017 – July 2017

EXTENDED DEADLINE for proposal submission: 31st January 2017

I. Background:

Government leaders in ten Caribbean countries and territories, including The Bahamas, have committed to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), a regional agenda to protect and effectively manage 20% of marine and coastal habitats by 2020. The Bahamas aims to build on our existing protected areas to create a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) that covers at least 20 percent of nearshore ocean habitats (20% of the archipelagic baseline from land out to 12 nautical miles) by the year 2020. Ensuring marine protection requires more than simply setting aside acreage. Effective implementation and management of protected areas is also critical to fulfill national conservation targets and mitigate projected climate change impacts.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Bahamas National Trust (BNT), and The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) have partnered with Oceans 5 to implement a three-year project, *“Realizing The 2020 Goal: Advancing the Expansion & Effective Management of the Marine Protected Areas System in The Bahamas”*. The Nature Conservancy is the lead implementing agency for the Realizing the 2020 Goal project. In addition to project management and oversight, TNC will focus on increasing sustainable funding for protected areas management within the network. The Bahamas National Trust is responsible for helping to design a new set of protected areas based on cutting edge science while employing innovative strategies to increase the effective management of existing areas within the Bahamas National Protected Areas System. This project is complemented by other related programs such as *Reversing The Decline of Bahamian Coral Reefs* (RTD) a 10 year program led by The Perry Institute for Marine Science, which is aimed at improving the health of coral reefs throughout The Bahamas. A key component of the RTD program is the creation and management of MPAs.

With funding from both the Realizing the 2020 Goal and RTD programs, The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) will contract a consultant to execute an economic

evaluation of ecosystem services within the network and develop and implement a communications plan that will help strengthen public awareness and support for marine protected areas in The Bahamas.

II. Purpose of Consultancy:

The costs of actively managed MPAs are more tangible to calculate, but the economic benefits are much harder to conceptualize. Defining benefits in economic terms is needed to raise wider support for MPAs and to find opportunities for financing mechanisms. This project seeks to compare the economic value of ecosystem services for the Bahamian network of marine protected areas over a 25-year time horizon under two scenarios: without active management and with active management. Management includes increased protection for resources within the MPA (e.g., no-take, limited take, etc.), improved infrastructure for accessing locations (e.g., moorings, land-based access) and the implementation of site-based educational and outreach programs. The difference between the management scenarios would then serve as an estimate of the value of management itself, which could be compared to the financing required. The project would assess ecosystems services and actual/potential economic opportunities/benefits of MPAs to communities. It would be expected to include 3-5 MPAs – representing a variety of management regimes, with the ability to extrapolate to the entire network.

III. Deliverables:

- Literature/data review of information available on economic value of species/habitats/marine protected areas relevant to The Bahamas;
- Valuation of strategically selected areas (3-5) through collection of primary data including workshops and focus groups (may be proposed or existing but should include some where no primary data currently exists)
- Projected valuation of current MPA system through 2015 (i.e. the first 10%)
- Projected valuation with additional 10% (i.e. 20% protection)
- Relevant summary for insertion into MPA white paper with focus on economic benefits
- Powerpoint presentation which will be used when communicating with relevant stakeholders on the nature of this work

IV. Contractor's Qualifications:

The selected consultant should have previous experience in valuing ecosystem services of protected areas in the Caribbean or similar areas. Additional qualifications include:

- Minimum of a Master's level degree in a relevant field;
- Minimum of 5 years experience in economic valuation of ecosystem services or natural resource management;
- Ability to work independently and multi-task;
- Must be organized and able to meet deadlines;

- Ability to compile large amounts of information succinctly into a coherent report for conservation practitioners and government officials; and
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

V. Timeline

The consultancy is expected to run for 6 months, from February 2017 to July 2017, with specific dates to be determined for the interim deliverables including draft and final reports.

VI. Budget

The budget for this consultancy is not to exceed \$65,000.

VII. Submission of Proposals

Interested bidders should submit proposals no later than 31st January 2017 (EXTENDED DEADLINE). All submissions should include at a minimum the following details:

- Relevant experience of the consultant/firm;
- Key personnel within the firm that are expected to work on this project along with their relevant experience, if applicable;
- Detailed synopsis of past experience with particular emphasis on valuing ecosystem services;
- Proposed methodology and work plan;
- Detailed budget that includes cost for personnel, travel, workshops, focus groups, etc. (as appropriate).

VIII. Contact

Submissions should be sent by email to the following address:

Casuarina McKinney-Lambert
Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF)
casuarina@breef.org
242 327 9000