Terms of Reference


Analytical Study on the Sustainable Ocean Economy

1. Background

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and its Member States have been exploring avenues to strengthen economic resilience in the face of multi-dimensional challenges now amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In exploring trade related policy options that could drive a post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and support long-term economic vitality and resilience, the Member States have requested the OECS Commission to provide analysis on responses to the opportunities and challenges related to: Sustainable Ocean Economies — blue economy; the Digital economy; Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); and the Multi-dimensional Nature of Vulnerability.

2. Specific tasks

1. The consultant will work closely with the Head of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s International Trade Policy Section and the Ambassador of the OECS Permanent Delegation in Geneva to undertake the following tasks:

a) Prepare an analytical paper focusing on issues relevant to OECS countries and the Blue Economy. This work will focus on securing environmental, economic and social benefits from the sustainable harvesting of marine resources. This work will draw upon existing regional strategies including the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project and other ongoing initiatives.

b) Specifically, the paper will analyse the critical importance of the blue economy for OECS Member States’ economies, given the land mass to marine space ratio, comprising a large number of economic activities including fisheries, tourism, energy, maritime transportation, mineral extraction, etc. It will highlight how the blue economy, and specifically the development of new oceans-related industries and strategies, can be used to support continued sustainable economic growth in OECS countries.

c) The paper will build on the existing literature and policy initiatives to identify gaps and actions related to sustainable and environmental preservation, and the types of resources needed for OECS countries to sustainably use the blue economy.

d) The paper will provide a set of recommendations with respect to actions that can be pursued at the national, regional (i.e. OECS) and international level to help OECS countries pursue strategies to advance the blue economy.
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3. Essential qualifications, skills and experience

a) Education:

An advanced university degree (Masters or PhD preferred) in an area that is demonstrably related to international trade and economic development issues, such as International Economics, International Law or International Relations.

b) Skills and experience:

i. A minimum of ten (10) years of work experience in the area of international trade, investment, and the sustainable development of ocean economy goods, services and technology sectors.

ii. At least seven (7) years of experience in policy-oriented research and analysis, as reflected in peer-reviewed publications or technical reports for national, regional or international organisations, especially in the OECS region.

iii. Proficiency in the use of word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation software.

iv. Excellent communication skills (oral and written) - complete fluency in English is required.

v. Ability to work effectively under tight deadlines.

vi. Ability to set and meet own priorities and work with limited supervision.

4. Expected output

The expected output would be a 25-page analytical paper.

5. Timeline

The consultancy will commence on 8 March 2021 and end on 31 March 2021. The consultant will deliver the first draft of the paper to the Secretariat no later than 19 March 2021 and a final paper, which incorporates all suggestions and comments, by 31 March 2021.

6. Fee

An all-inclusive fee of £10,000