

Tobago, 7 December 2014

To

Richard M. Huber

Division Chief

Biodiversity and Land Management

**Concept Note**

**for a**

**ReefFix Project in North East Tobago**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title**  | Marine Protected Area Monitoring and Co-Management Capacity Building |
| **Implementing Organisation(s)** | **E**nvironmental **R**esearch **I**nstitute **C**harlotteville (ERIC) |
| **Contact Details** | Aljoscha Wothke, Director, MPhil. Biology, PADI MSDT, PMP.c/o Charlotteville Shark Shacks, Campbellton, Charlotteville, TobagoWebsite: eric-tobago.org; Email: info@eric-tobago.org |
| **Project Purpose**  | Availability of environmental baseline data as well as organisational capacity of local CBOs is increased to contribute to the co-management of the planned Marine Protected Area in NE Tobago. |
|  **Background:**  Programme strategy/Country Business Plan objectives. | In March 2014 the Global Environment Facility approved a funding proposal by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to implement the project: “Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago”. One of the six national areas is the planned Marine Protected Area in NE Tobago. The following excerpt is cited from the GEF project proposal:*“The North-East Tobago Marine PA (Figure 1) covering an estimated 59,280 ha. This proposed PA hosts a significant proportion of Tobago’s coral reefs, including those at Man-o-war Bay and Speyside. These coral systems host a diverse ecosystem with representation from several globally threatened species.**Within the marine communities, the coral reefs are affected by both natural and anthropogenic factors including overfishing, habitat degradation, land-based pollution stresses and climate change induced events.*Furthermore, the GEF application highlights the importance of co-management for all PA’s in Trinidad and Tobago. The need and desire of NE Tobago communities to co-manage the proposed MPA was outlined in a study conducted in July 2013: “Final Report of the Marine Protected Area Specialist Team for the Project: Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/004/GFF) (Please find attached)”, and is based on interviews with 16 persons, representing nine (9) CSOs and private industry.Since June 2014 ERIC implements projects to gather reef biodiversity and health data as well to build capacity of members of local environmental CBOs to co-manage their marine resources. The current projects are supported by UNDP/GEF/SGP and the British High Commission In Trinidad.We are of the opinion that the purpose of this project aligns with the ReefFix Objectives by * improving capacity of local stakeholder to collect data about their marine resources
* providing baseline data for future MPA co-management efforts
* building the capacity of local stakeholders to create awareness and reach out to their home communities regarding a future MPA in NE Tobago.
 |
| **Project Summary**  | 1. **Marine Biodiversity Data**

The continuous sampling and analysis of marine environmental data in the planned Marine Protected Area in NE Tobago will provide coherent data that will support co-management of the site and be available to all stakeholders; research will include climate change related environmental factors such as temperature at various depths, sea water acidity, reef biodiversity and coral health using the Reef Check methodology. The data collected under this project will compliment data collected under a related UNDP/GEF/SGP project.1. **Improving Capacity of Local Participants to Collect Data**

The local participants of this project are will collect data using the internationally acknowledged Reef Check methodology. All participant are recently certified PADI Open Water Divers and Reef Check Eco Divers and require practise in data taking and recording. The local participants will be trained, guided and supervised by qualified ERIC staff (see annex).1. **Participatory Community Outreach Workshop**

The local participants will share their experiences regarding the health of the reef ecosystem in NE Tobago and the findings of previously conducted community talks (informal conversations with community members regarding their perceived threats and opportunities about the future MPA in NE Tobago, funded under a related UNDP/GEF/SGP grant). The local participants will facilitate the WS guided by ERIC. |
| **Outputs**: Indicate the project outputs/deliverables  | 1. Marine monitoring data taken using 30 dives (each site will require 4 dives), totalling 8 sampling events while under training by ERIC staff.
2. One NE Tobago stakeholder WS
3. One final report
4. One media story supplied to newspapers
 |
| **Activities**: Indicate the main activities that support each output | 1. At least 4 community participants further trained in taking Reef Check Data; 8 marine biological data sampling events in NE Tobago conducted, data gathered analysed and published.
2. Preparation and one final report
3. Composing and distributing one media story
 |
| **Total Cost of the Project** | US$ 10,440 |
| **Cost to ReefFix / OAS** | US$ 5,000 |
| **Co-funding** | The complementary UNDP, GEF, SGP project has a total cost of TT$ 584,867, of which TTD$ 315,000 are requested from SGP and TT$ 269,867 are contributed in-kind. |
| **Risk:**  | The only risk to the project is a lack of participation of the target members of NE Tobago CBOs.This risk is mitigated by:* ERIC staff has a long standing relationship with the participants and an 85 % attendance at all activities.
 |
| **Project dates** |  Start 15 January 2015 ; End 30 April 2015 |
| **Longer Term Impact** what long term impact is anticipated? | The marine resources co-management capacity of NE Tobago environmental CSOs is increased and utilised by governmental and non-governmental agencies. |

**Activity Based Budget**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity 1: Reef Health Data Sampling and Capacity Building** | **Unit** | **#** | **Unit Cost [US$]** | **Subtotal [US$]** | **ReefFIX [US$]** | **In - Kind [US$]** |
| Reef Check Dives | Person Dive | 32 | $40 | $1,280 | $1,280 |   |
| Eco Diver Stipends | Dive Days | 32 | $40 | $1,280 | $600 | $600 |
| Data Entry and Analysis | Day | 3 | $100 | $300 |   | $300 |
| Data Publication | Day | 1 | $500 | $500 |   | $500 |
| ERIC Training Fees | Day | 6 | $500 | $3,000 | $1,500 | $1,500 |
| **Subtotal Activity 1** |  |  |  | **$6,360** | **$3,380** | **$2,900** |
| **Activity 2: Community Outreach Workshop** | **Unit** | **#** | **Unit Cost [US$]** | **Subtotal [US$]** | **ReefFIX [US$]** | **In - Kind [US$]** |
| ERIC Training Fees | Day | 3 | $500 | $1,500 | $500 | $1,000 |
| Venue | Day | 1 | $120 | $120 | $120 |   |
| Catering | Pax | 20 | $20 | $400 | $400 |   |
| Presentation Material | Mix | 1 | $200 | $200 |   | $200 |
| Community Facilitator Stipends | Day | 15 | $40 | $600 | $600 |   |
| **Subtotal Activity 2** |   | 40 | $40 | $1,600 | $1,620 | $1,200 |
| **Activity 3: Administration, Reporting** | **Unit** |  | **Unit Cost [US$]** | **Subtotal [US$]** | **ReefFIX [US$]** | **In - Kind [US$]** |
| Final Report | Day | 1 | $500 | $500 |   | $500 |
| Media Story | Day | 1 | $500 | $500 |   | $500 |
| Liaison with ReefFix | Day | 2 | $500 | $1,000 |   | $1,000 |
| Telecommunication / month | Month | 4 | $20 | $80 |   | $80 |
| Office Usage / month | Month | 4 | $100 | $400 |   | $400 |
| **Subtotal Activity 3** |  |  |  | **$2,480.00** | **$0.00** | **$2,480.00** |
| **Totals** |   |   |   | **$10,440.00** | **$5,000.00** | **$6,580.00** |

**About The Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville, ERIC**

ERIC is a not-for-profit organisation of senior experts in conservation, resource management, rural development, marine / terrestrial ecology and responsible tourism. ERIC's team is comprised of practitioners with decades of site-specific experience in North East Tobago and the wider Caribbean. The team has a proven capacity to secure substantial funding, successfully manage and implement small and multi-million dollar projects and has worked with government, business and not-for profit organisations across a wide range of sectors including, energy, health, tourism, development, resource management and agriculture. The team has the capacity to engage creatively and dynamically with the complex role envisioned for the implementing organisation in this project.

ERIC is registered as a Not For Profit Organisation with the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago on 5 May 2011 under the Companies Act

**Mission Statement:**

*“We value and integrate diverse knowledge and experiences to manifest a mutually beneficial community of people and the environment for the responsible stewardship of North-East Tobago, from ridge to village to ocean”.*

* + Names of Board Members:
		- Mr Aljoscha Wothke, Chief Executive Director, Marine Biologist, Project Manager;
		- Ms Joanna Moses-Wothke, Director, Educator, Sustainable Tourism Expert;
		- Dr Keith Gibson, Director, Resilience and Sustainability
		- Dr Adana Mahase-Gibson, Secretary, Veterinarian, Project Manager;
	+ Names of Honorary Members:
		- Ms Lanya Fanovich, Member, Biologist, Science and Management of Tropical Biodiversity and Environment;
		- Mr Ryan Mohammed, Member, Aquatic Biologist.

All members are active volunteers.

The Directors and Secretary of ERIC form an executive board which holds collective responsibility to ensure that the organisation’s activities are fair, transparent and align with our objectives.

Members of the executive board are assigned as project managers to specific projects and are then responsible for the implementation of such projects and reporting back to the board.

The board members meet personally / virtually at least once a week.

The board is elected for a period of five years.

**Objectives of ERIC**

* to provide sound scientific data to support the design of sustainable coastal zone livelihoods through participatory resource management and policy making;
* to provide capacity building to CSOs in Tobago which are active in sustainable natural resource use and improvement of livelihoods;
* to provide a research and training field station for community environmental activists, university students and researchers;
* to raise community awareness of the value and sustainable use of natural resources, while fostering pride in natural assets;
* to foster regional and international knowledge exchange;
* to provide an independent monitoring facility for the marine and terrestrial environment for the North East Tobago region;
* to provide the experience of applied science to secondary school students;
* to support community based science tourism and voluntourism in North – East Tobago.

The main beneficiaries are the communities in NE Tobago.

***Project Location***

ERIC has leased the property of Shark Shacks in Charlotteville for a period of two years, starting from mid-March 2014, the facility has meeting and training space and is partly equipped for underwater research and monitoring activities.

Members of our group, which will manage the proposed project, have led on the implementation of the following projects:

* Marine Protected Area Specialist: Assessing the planned Marine Protected Area in North East Tobago regarding community perception, eco-tourism potential, protection of endangered species, needs assessment, and capacity development needs. Providing input to a funding proposal to the GEF titled “Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago”; client FAO.
* Project management: IADB funded project: “Piloting the Integration of Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Tobago: Public Awareness and Dissemination Program, South West Tobago.
* National Demonstration Project Manager T&T, Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme;
* Project management: UNDP GEF Pilot Project “Belle Garden Wetland, Tobago Sustainable Community Based Wetland Assessment for the Improvement of Conservational and Educational Efforts, including the development of an eco – tour guiding product”;
* Team Leader: Aquatic Faunal Survey in the North Eastern District, client Petrotrin.
* Team Leader: Aquatic Faunal Survey for the South Eastern District (Penal, Barrackpore, Wilson); client Petrotrin.
* TA: Capacity Development to strengthen the UNDP, Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Programme National Steering Committee in Trinidad and Tobago and 8 grantee organisations.
* TA: Technical assistance for the “Establishment of an Eco – Edutainment Trail at Top River Waterfall, Parlatuvier, Tobago” funded by UNDP / GEF / SGP;
* The manager for the proposed project has an MPhil. in Biology with a focus Ichthyology; his thesis described the distribution, ecology and ethology of A. anableps in Trinidad. He is further a PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certified Master Scuba Diver Trainer with over 800 dives in Tobago.
* Members of our team have led the implementation of projects with a budget up to US $ 5,000,000.
* The project manager for the proposed project has 15 years of experience working with community stakeholders in NE Tobago.
* Members of our organisation have been working with communities in NE Tobago for over 15 years in the areas of conservation, marine and terrestrial research, sustainable tourism, waste water management, organic agriculture and CSO capacity building.
* Notably since 2009 we have worked closely with potential partner organisations for the proposed project: Speyside Eco Marine Park Rangers, North East Sea Turtles and the Parlatuvier Village Council.

***Project Team***

**Aljoscha Wothke**, ERIC Director, Project Manager, MPhil, PADI MSDT

Aljoscha holds a MPhil in Biology, is a certified project manager and a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer since 25 years.

He has sound experience regarding the implementation of UNDP, GEF, SGP projects, has worked with stakeholders in NE Tobago for over 15 years and is highly familiar with the proposed MPA development.

Aljoscha will act as the project manager for this project, deliver the dive training, conduct the community talks related workshops and supervise all biological training and monitoring activities.

**Lanya Fanovich**, ERIC Honorary Member, MSc

Lanya holds a MSc in Science and Management of Tropical Biodiversity and Environment from the University of the West Indies. She will be the biologist in charge for all marine research activities e.g. biodiversity assessments, monitoring, and identification. She has further experience in teaching/demonstration and ArcGIS, Geoinformatics Software.