**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Project Title: Supporting Sustainable Ecosystem by Strengthening the Effectiveness of Dominica’s Protected Area System**

**Post Title: Land Resource Consultant**

**Duration:**  6 months

**Organization:** ECU and Physical Planning Division

**Background**

**Morne Trois Piton National Park** (MTPNP) was designated as a National Park under the National Parks ND Protected Areas Act # 16 of 1975. MTPNP includes large highly scenic tracts of the most extensive almost undisturbed tropical forest in the Lesser Antilles and the headwaters of most of the major streams and rivers in the southern half of the island. These support a high level of biodiversity. The Park lies within a Conservation International- designated Conservation Hotspot, a WWF/IUCN Centre of Plant Diversity and a Bird Life-designated Endemic Bird Area. In 2011 the Revised Management plan recommended the following proposed buffer zone for the MTPNP WHS consisting of the establishment of a 305m buffer in the northern area of the park in the Pont Casse areas where approved building development has been granted to land owners. In other areas of the park a 200 m buffer was recommended.

**Noting the challenges faced by the communities on the edge of MTPNP and the threat that poses to the protection of MTPNP, the Government of Dominica initiated the project Supporting Sustainable Ecosystem by Strengthening the Effectiveness of Dominica’s Protected Area System. The project aims** **t**o demonstrate a model for effective integrated landscape management encompassing the strengthening of an existing PA (Morne Trois Pitons National Park) and establishment of its buffer zone in order to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecological functioning. The project has the following two components:

#### Component 1: Strengthening the core zone management of Protected Areas at systemic level and scale up innovative interventions at core zone of selected PAs to improve Sustainability.

**Component 2**: Establish and manage Buffer Zone as a key component of National Protected Area System and select experiences to be scaled up beyond the buffer zone

**Activity Description**

**2.2.2. Develop a land tenure and compensation review process.** Some lands in the proposed buffer zone are privately owned, regulating activities on these parcels of land will require change of tenure or flexible arrangements that can accommodate the emerging management arrangements. This Project will help develop land tenure and compensation review processes to address land tenure issues and conflicts within the PA buffer zone, which is necessary to ensure support for and willingness to abide by guidelines and sustainable management strategies for PA buffer zones. The option of transferring development rights to another location will also be explored as a possible low cost long-term compensation option**.**

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities**

* The consultant will conduct a reconnaissance of the area being considered for the buffer zone. The aim of this reconnaissance is to determine land occupation, use and ownership.
* Work with the Physical Planning Department to determine which occupants have title to the land they occupy.
* Work with persons on state land to understand their socio economic conditions and recommend a suitable arrangement that will not lead to eviction.
* Conduct consultations with private land owners within the proposed buffer zone to ascertain the most amenable form of land management acceptable to the land owners.
* Develop a compensation plan for private land owners.
* Provide a set of recommended approaches to allow for private land owners to support the establishment of a buffer zone.
* Liaise with Physical Planning, Surveys, Land owners and other relevant bodies to arrive at an acceptable land tenure package for both crown and private lands.
* Determine the financial implications of implementing the land tenure measures you have recommended.

**Qualifications & Experience**

* Advanced university degree (MSc or equivalent or better) Land Survey, Geography, Planning, Management or similar discipline
* At least 10 years of experience in Natural Resource Management, Land use or Forest Management.
* At least 5 years’ professional experience related to Resource management and reporting
* Experience working with land owners, farmers and or squatter communities
* Demonstrated leadership ability and technical ability to communicate complex ideas verbally and in writing
* Knowledge of Dominica’s social structure and development challenges

**Skills:**

* Proven ability to provide technical guidance to a wide range of stakeholders to achieve stated project objectives
* Strong data management, reporting and analytical skills
* Knowledge of the proposed buffer zone and interpersonal relationship with communities and individuals in the area.
* Excellent interpersonal skills
* Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks
* Proficiency in computer software application.

**Language Requirements:**

* Excellent English, both written and oral