

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SHORT TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT A HYDROLOGICAL STUDY OF THE MASON RIVER PROTECTED AREA (ST. ANN AND CLARENDON, JAMAICA)

PROJECT: A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean (H2O)

LOCATION: St. Ann and Clarendon (Jamaica)

Background

The project *A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean* (H2O) is part funded with a grant from the European Union (EU) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) in the amount of EUR 4.9 million (\$859,506,060), as well as a contribution from the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) of EUR 1.1 million (\$192,950,340). The H2O project will be implemented over 5 years, beginning in April 2021.

The executing agency of the H2O project is the **Planning Institute of Jamaica** in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, particularly the Public Gardens Division and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, as well as the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

The **Mason River Protected Area (MRPA)** covers about 115 hectares of relatively flat land with several small depressions, located at an elevation of about 670 m within the hilly countryside of upper Clarendon and lower St. Ann. The site is significant as it is the only documented upland wetland of its type in Jamaica and includes a peat bog as well as scrub savannah and marsh. There are over 400 plant species of which about 90% are indigenous and 11% are endemic. Among the flora are the insectivorous species of which there are six (6), three (3) of which are native and three (3) introduced. There are numerous animal species including bats, birds, lizards, butterflies, and other insects.

The **MRPA** is located in between the communities of McNie and Mason River (Clarendon) and Douglas Castle (St. Ann). The total population of the districts immediately surrounding the Protected Area is about 2,372. The nearest town is Kellits (Clarendon) about 4 km away. Although the wider area (Lluidas Vale) is known for sugarcane, the local communities produce mainly yam and vegetables.

The **MRPA** has two management zones (each with sub-zones):

1. *The Reserve* – is the core zone of 47 hectares geared at preserving the unique, upland wetland ecosystem and plant communities. *The Reserve* is comprised of two sub-zones – i) a Conservation Sub-Zone – to provide facilities and services for management of the site, researchers and visitors (comprising the Field Station and existing Trails); and, ii) a Restricted Use Sub-Zone – to provide for the strict protection of the wetland ecosystems (comprising the remainder of the Reserve).

2. *The Multiple Use Zone* – a surrounding zone of 68 hectares with the objective of involving the local community in supporting conservation in ways that benefit them but are not detrimental to management of the Reserve. *The Multiple Use Zone* is comprised of three sub-zones; i) a Water Protection Sub-Zone; ii) the Community Centre Sub-Zone; and, iii) the Sustainable Use Sub-Zone.

The Reserve and the Water Protection and Community Centre Sub-Zones and parts of the Sustainable Use Sub-Zone have been under the management of the Institute of Jamaica since 1963 and the site is managed to protect the wetland ecosystem and for research and education. The key conservation targets (e.g. scrub savanna, marsh, peat bog, birds, water quality) and their threats are identified, with invasive species, fire, water pollution and cutting of trees being of particular concern. Climate change was also identified as a threat to the ecosystem which will require conservation action, monitoring and research.

The PIOJ is seeking participants in the above-mentioned tender procedure, to assist persons in determining their suitability for participation in the planned tender, see the attached document providing further details on:

- Contract Description
- Specific Work
- Conditions of Participation
- Selection and award criteria
- Maximum contract budget and contract duration

Kindly submit a signed cover letter declaring your interest along with the requisite information to determine your eligibility, in electronic format to projectsjobs@pioj.gov.jm no later than **October 8, 2021**.