



The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection

Ministry of the Environment and Housing

Terms of Reference for Vulnerability and Adaptation Consultant

Country: The Bahamas

Project Name: “Preparation of The Bahamas Third National Communication (TNC) and the Preparation of The Bahamas First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) to the UNFCCC”

Description of the assignment/services: The Services of a Consultant or Firm will be hired, as appropriate, to enhance local capacity and support in vulnerability and adaptation initiatives, in the context of preparation of the Third National Communication (TNC) for The Bahamas, in fulfilment of the reporting requirement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Project Deliverables/Period of Engagement: The Consultant or Firm will be paid on a deliverable basis and can be expected to be engaged between the period of February 2021 to December 2021.

Any request for clarification must be by standard electronic communication to the email addresses indicated under the “Submission” paragraph (Section 7).

1. BACKGROUND

Through The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) (formerly The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission), the Government of The Bahamas is currently conducting its Third National Communication (TNC) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the UNFCCC.

By virtue of a Project Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) office in Nairobi, the DEPP will serve as the Executing Agency in undertaking activities towards the fulfilment of obligations as identified in the deliverables for the TNC/BUR1 project.

One of the main objectives of the TNC/BUR1 process is to build local, individual and institutional capacity to implement the Convention. The TNC/BUR will strengthen the national capacities and further raise general knowledge and promote awareness on climate change and its effects. It will also strengthen the visibility of climate change issues on the national agenda through strengthened cooperation and increased involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process.



Decisions of COP 16 & 17 require developing countries to submit biennial update reports (BUR) containing updates of greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. Preparation of the BUR1 will fulfill the obligations of The Bahamas under the UNFCCC.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection's experience in regard to compilation and submission of reports under the UNFCCC is mainly limited to National Communications (NCs). As a party to the Convention The Bahamas is required to submit Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and National Communications (NCs) to the UNFCCC and Conference of Parties. The challenge of non-Annex 1 parties is: 1) to develop the institutional capacity, 2) improve data collection and data management processes and 3) further a transparent and accessible flow of information for international reporting and national decision making.

Successful implementation of the TNC/ BUR1 project will:

- i) provide a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of various socioeconomic sectors, using improved methodologies and for integrated assessment, and implement the national adaptation strategy;
- ii) include in the vulnerability awareness of incidents of loss and damage and climate-induced displacement and update implementation of the national adaptation strategy to take these into account;
- iii) further enhance public awareness on climate change issues, including loss and damage and displacement;
- iv) facilitate the integration of climate change concerns into national socio-economic planning processes, with particular emphasis on enhancing the understanding of the policy and decision makers on the importance of the integration of climate change and sustainable development, including enhancing the capacity of members of the NCCC;
- v) facilitate the assessment of existing policies measures for addressing climate change issues, any gaps as well as assessing their implementation;
- vi) identify existing constraints and gaps related to financial, technical, and capacity needs in order to facilitate further action.

The outputs below will be submitted as part of The Bahamas' TNC/BUR1 to the UNFCCC.



In regard to the Vulnerability and Adaption Assessment, some of the main project components will include (but is not limited to): selection of appropriate methodologies to assess vulnerability and adaptation, development of climatic scenarios, support the development of the National Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and identify the follow-up activities. These activities will support sustainable development and prove useful to policy makers to help formulate, prioritize, and strengthen adaptation initiatives for The Bahamas.

The outputs below will be submitted as part of The Bahamas' TNC/BUR1 to the UNFCCC.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Output 3.1: *A national vulnerability and adaptation assessment team established, and their technical capacity strengthened.*

Activities:

- 3.1.1 The Consultant will serve as team leader and provide expertise as well as carry out activities enumerated below. The Consultant, in consultation with the Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Working Group (VAAWG) will prepare the V&A report and ensure that workshops are carried out throughout the process in order to raise awareness and provide training and constraints will be identified and highlighted.
- 3.1.2 Organize the first national workshop on Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Team (VAAT) in the early phase of TNC implementation phase with the purpose to choose VAAT team members, consult relevant stakeholders and assess and choose an appropriate approach, tool and methodologies for conducting the V&A assessment;
- 3.1.3 Recommend and support on technical capacity building and training on chosen tools and methodologies, including training in climate risk assessment and modelling, assessing loss and damage and in developing nature-based solutions, including participation in international/regional/national workshops/meetings/training on V&A.

Output 3.2: *The approaches, tools and methods to be used under the V&A assessment updated and validated.*

Activities:

- 3.2.1 Identify pertinent data and information available and decide on approaches, tools and methods to be used for V&A assessment in compliance with guidelines in Decision 17/CP.8, paragraphs 30-31;



- 3.2.2 Update IPCC scenarios and projections using representative concentration pathways (RCPs) and latest assessment reports and guidelines.

Output 3.3: *Current vulnerability assessed, adaptation experience and adaptive capacity explored.*

Activities:

- 3.3.1 Identify and describe climate risks and potential impacts including 1) climate variability, extreme events and hazards, 2) assess impacts including loss and damage and climate-induced displacement 3) develop risk assessment criteria and vulnerability indices 4) assess current climate risks;
- 3.3.2 Identify and describe vulnerability (to both socio-economic conditions and climate) including identifying key vulnerable groups (using a priority system), identify incidents of loss and damage (including non-economic loss and damage) and climate-induced displacement, and assessing current vulnerability.
- 3.3.3 Explore adaptation experiences and adaptive capacity including by 1) scoping and synthesis of information on existing policies and measures relevant to adaptation 2) assess the current system's capacity to adapt to current climate hazards.

Output 3.4 *future climate risks assessed, potential scenarios developed, and future vulnerability outlined.*

Activities:

- 3.4.1 Describe potential future climate trends, risks and opportunities, including through 1) clarifying system sensitivities to climate change 2) identify appropriate planning horizons 3) developing climate scenarios 4) linking scenarios to impact models, 5) undertaking risk analyses (these may be sector specific).
- 3.4.2 Develop and describe prospective natural resource management conditions and environment trends according to the priority ranking system developed and impacts on socio-economic conditions;
- 3.4.3 Identify national decision-making processes that either pose potential barriers to incorporating adaptation into development planning, or that provide important opportunities to build adaptive capacity, evaluate policies and programs related to the priority ranking system for their potential support to national adaptation efforts in the context of sustainable development.

Output 3.5 *Vulnerability assessment for key area(s) to be performed. Climate risks and vulnerabilities identified and assessed.*

Activities:

- 3.5.1



- 3.5.2 Analyze current vulnerability of key area(s) identified by VAAT according to the priority ranking system;
- 3.5.3 Describe potential future vulnerability of the key area(s), including analysis of pathways that link the present vulnerability to future risks;
- 3.5.4 Identification for options for interventions which can lead to the development of adaptation responses, in compliance with guidelines of Decision 17/CP.8, paragraph 36 (taking in to account existing national initiatives such as the Ministry of Environment and Housing survey on ideas for adaptation priorities for access to the GCF simplified adaptation portal).

Output 3.6 *Adaptation measures assessed and described in the context of mainstreaming concerns into national development plans and decision-making*

Activities:

- 3.6.1 Assess to what extent climate change is taken into account in national and sectoral policies and plans and evaluate measures and barriers for adapting to climate change in key areas, including those highest ranking in the ranking system developed;
- 3.6.2 Assess synergies between climate risks, adaptation and mainstreaming;
- 3.6.3 Recommend, select and prioritise adaptation options for policies and measures including description, costs, impact and barriers to implementation and cross-check results with stakeholders.

Output 3.7 *Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Measures of TNC compiled and validated*

Activities:

- 3.7.1 Compile the vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures report for TNC;
- 3.7.2 Circulate the draft chapter for internal and external review;
- 3.7.3 Organize a stakeholder workshop to present draft chapter;
- 3.7.4 Incorporate comments received from the review and finalize the chapter on Vulnerability and Adaptation for inclusion in the TNC.

4. DELIVERABLES

The Consultant shall provide the deliverables associated with the Scope of Works, inclusive of the following:

- 4.1 An inception report and detailed schedule of activities in alignment with the approved workplan (present a work plan within 14 days after the contract is signed).



4.2. Lead the first national workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment as referenced in SOW 3.1.2 including preparation of workshop material, power point presentations and recommendation report after the workshop .

4.3. Selection and application of appropriate methodologies to assess V&A, and climatic scenarios developed

4.4. Developed the national strategy on adaptation to climate change (making special considerations to the documentation of issues associated with gender) in consultation with the VAAWG, and identified follow-up activities

4.5. Recommendations provided on capacity building in the sub regional, regional and international trainings on integrated assessment modeling.

4.6. Draft the V&A Chapter (making special considerations to the documentation of issues associated with gender) to be presented by the consultant for circulation, revision and internal validation by DEPP, NPC, VAAT and NPAC

4.7 A presentation of findings at a validation workshop on a date to be determined.

4.8. Final draft of the V&A Chapter integrating comments from DEPP, NPC, VAAT and NPAC, for inclusion in the TNC.

5. REPORTING

The Consultant shall report to the Director of the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection and work in coordination with the National Project Coordinator (NPC).

The Consultant is expected to:

5.1 Liaise and consult with the various stakeholders under the NC project, inclusive of the VAAT, and VAAWG

5.2 Participate in coordinating meetings with DEPP, NPC, VAAT and VAAWG

5.3 Submit progress reports and final reports to DEPP and NPC – inclusive of anticipated and completed activities & expenditure – as guided by the approved project workplan (all reports should be sensitive to the issue of gender throughout the execution of each activity).

Note: All data collected and compiled by the Consultant shall remain property of the Government of The Bahamas

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications:



- A post-graduate degree in Climatology/Environmental Sciences/Environmental Engineering/Natural Resources Management/Social Sciences or a related field along with a minimum of eight (8) years' experience in an area relevant to climate change.
- Experience in the preparation of at least two (2) National Communications to the UNFCCC;
- Comprehensive understanding of climate change, its impacts to society (for example: loss and damage, displacement, etc), particularly small island developing states (SIDS) and their sustainable development issues (national development programmes and priorities, and socio-economic circumstances).
- Experience in the Caribbean will be considered an asset.
- Demonstrate knowledge of and experience in the analysis of: current national, regional and international policies, related to climate change adaptation
- Demonstrable knowledge of key V&A assessment methodologies, guidelines and tools (e.g., IPCC guidelines, NAPA guidelines, adaptation tools, priority ranking system), particularly in consideration of the constraints of SIDS;
- Previous experience in conducting V&A assessments;
- Experience in leading a team of experts to conduct the various sector assessments;
- Experience with the application of sectoral impact models and outputs from climate models;
- Strong proven ability to analyze corresponding socio-economic impacts of V&A assessments;
- Experience in working with multi-stakeholder groups including, government and non-governmental organizations, and vulnerable groups, is also desirable;
- Extensive experience in technical report writing and presentation;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

7. SUBMISSION

The Consultant should submit CVs via email to careers@depp.gov.bs and CC: chamilton@depp.gov.bs; or deliver in hard copy (in a sealed envelope) to:

Department of Environmental Planning and Protection
Ministry of the Environment and Housing
Ground Floor



Charlotte House

Charlotte and Shirley Streets

P.O. Box N-7132

Nassau, The Bahamas.

Re: Rochelle Newbold – Vulnerability and Adaptation Consultant (TNC/BUR1 Project)

Applications for this position will be accepted until January 25th, 2020 at 4:59pm ET.