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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Choiseul Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods Support Project

1.1. Beneficiary country

Saint Lucia

1.2. Contracting Authority

Banana Industry Trust

1.3. Relevant country background

Saint Lucia is an island in the Eastern Caribbean (Windward Island) located between Martinique, to its North, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, to the South. It is of volcanic origin with steep mountainous landscapes and wide flat valleys along with rugged undulating coastal terrain and central mountainous ranges, covered with tropical forest. As a result all the main drainage networks originate from the mountain ranges thus creating eleven major watersheds which supply most of the available water supplies in St. Lucia. These watersheds are Marquis, Roseau, Vieux Fort, Canelles, Troumasse, Fond, Dennery, Canaries, Soufriere, Cul de Sac and Fond D'or. Rainfall is the primary source of fresh water with 80% of the annual rainfall occurring from June to November.

The island has a population of 166,000 (*estimate*)¹ and Gross Domestic Product of over EC\$1.4 billion (~US\$526 million). Economic performance over the course of the last two decades has been steady attaining a peak growth rate of 5.4% in 2006. Much of this growth has been propelled by the tourism (*12.5 % GDP in 2006*), services and construction sectors; and to a much lesser extent manufacturing and agriculture, which has remained relatively stagnant for the last five (5) years, contributing a mere 3.2% to GDP in 2006.

The island's weakening rural economy, which is still dominated by bananas, continues to experience decline in its contribution to the national economy, as a direct consequence of the impact of several converging challenges and binding constraints. These include policy constraints, technical and institutional capacity gaps physical infrastructure and technological limitations, as well as inadequate enterprise development facilitation and investment promotion mechanisms. The low levels of agricultural productivity and a largely undiversified rural economy have contributed to economic stagnancy within this sector.

In many rural communities the principal economic activity consists of mainly aging small producers (*crop, livestock and fishers*) being forced to eke out a living in an extremely challenging, fragile and rapidly degrading natural environment, characterized by finite and limited land space, dwindling freshwater resources, inappropriate land husbandry practices, inadequate resource management support systems, and limited enabling facilities, incentives and production support services.

The rural community of Delcer is one such community whose economic activity consists of mainly aging small producers although there is some evidence that the younger generation is showing some interest in continuing the work of their fore fathers. There is one water intake within the gently sloping "watershed" of Choiseul that is used to supply pipe borne water to residents of the local communities along with providing water for irrigation purposes. This drainage basin is not protected from human activity and as a result the water is extremely turbid during rainfall periods. The absence of adequate forest cover in the village of Choiseul, along with poor waste, land, and soil management practices adopted by resource

¹ Social and Economic review of St. Lucia, 2006.

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users who utilizes the watercourse, are the main causes of the environmental degradation and resultant acute water problems experienced in this “watershed”.

1.4. Current state of affairs in the relevant sector

The Government of St. Lucia (GOSL) within recent decades has instituted major policy and policy support interventions to transform the rural economy. These interventions have included measures to inter alia, promote the conservation, improvement and sustainable utilization of the fragile and limited ecological resources in these areas, - including land, water and genetic resources (*biodiversity*).

For very compelling reasons the south-western corridor of the island inclusive of the village of Choiseul, has been specifically targeted because of the peculiar developmental and environmental challenges in these areas. Like most of the outlying rural communities on the central and south-western coast of the island, the village of Choiseul lags behind the rest of the island in terms of economic and social advancement. Much of this community appears to be untouched by the significant socio-economic strides made by the rest of the country since Independence.

For decades it has been noted that the major communities and settlements of Choiseul and environs remain severely challenged by several development-related constraints, in particular water scarcity, poor natural resource management practices (*a major contributor to land degradation and its associated socio-economic and livelihood implications*), endemic poverty, and chronic unemployment, which is manifested inter alia by an increasing trend of youth out-migration (*both seasonal and long term*). With regards to poor natural resource management practices several initiatives have been undertaken by the Government of St. Lucia to help stem these practices by providing technical support services, promoting crop diversification, greenhouse and low volume irrigation technologies and the promotion of advanced water use-efficient technologies. Most of these initiatives though useful, have proven to be inadequate to effectively address the complex and worsening situation of resource degradation combined with, social and economic deprivation.

The two principal development institutions based and operating within the community - the **Choiseul Cooperative Credit Union (CCCU)** and the **Bellevue Farmers Cooperative (BFC)** - are spearheading an economic revitalization initiative for the Community. Both institutions continue to be affected directly and adversely by the entrenched economic stagnancy in the community. They are both experiencing lower operating margins and increasing member delinquency. The Credit Union in particular understands well the direct correlation between the declining economic fortunes of the community's farming population and increasing delinquency in its lending portfolio. Of major importance to them is the sustainable use of its natural resources as it relates to water usage and irrigation.

Hence, the CCCU and the BFC have found it necessary to champion the search for a holistic intervention that should assist in addressing the core issues/constraints to development in the community and reverse the prevailing trend, by promoting sustainable livelihoods and responsible environmental management. The CCCU is committed to providing financial inducements and support to the range of economic activities that it is hoped will be generated as a result this initiative taking place.

It is envisioned that an appropriately designed intervention could be realized that will contribute substantially to the re-vitalization of rural livelihood, social stability, sustainable economic growth and more equitable and balanced community development.

The existence of privately owned lands in what is largely a deeply gorged and unstable topography, coupled with inadequate or unsustainable management frameworks, has led to many severe forms of environmentally degrading practices which contribute significantly to turbidity, agrochemical, and livestock effluent contamination of stream water. Some of these practices include unregulated changes in land use, inappropriate land cover, poor land and

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soil management practices, poor waste management, and the use of waterways as disposal points for agricultural and other waste.

Current water supply as reported by the local water supply operator indicates a chronic 55% daily water supply deficit experienced by all or most of the watershed's settlements. This represents the annual average as the situation becomes especially acute during the drier periods of the year. The problem of the inefficiencies in the use of water is compounded by the open channel system of water distribution that is currently being utilized in the Delcer area.

The water supply situation was also highlighted in the *Assessment of Poverty in St. Lucia* report (2006) which stated that; "Altogether, the main sources of water supply are distributed inequitably across household socio-economic status groups and will require infrastructural interventions within the public arena to enhance the quality of service delivery and reduce inequities. There are also problems across the various districts of St. Lucia." The response to this has been to ration domestic water supplies, resulting in a serious constraint to the development of some types of agriculture, economic growth sectors such as tourism, and other livelihood and health enhancement activities.

1.5. Related programmes and other donor activities:

Currently, there are no dedicated external donor initiatives within the geographical region under focus.

2. CONTRACT PURPOSE & EXPECTED RESULTS

2.1. Overall objective

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to more sustainable livelihoods in the northwest, rural/coastal community of Choiseul and its environs through sustainable usage of the Anse L'Ivrogne river for agricultural purposes

2.2. Purpose

The purpose of this contract is as follows:

- The revitalization of economic and social activity in the Choiseul municipal district through the direct involvement and combined efforts of the major indigenous development promoting agencies in the community and the youth.
- The promotion of more sustainable, diverse livelihood systems, through the effective use and efficient management of the fragile, finite and limiting natural resource base (*particularly land and water resources*).
- To conduct a needs assessment and explore the technological requirements towards the construction of a sustainable water distribution system for farmers in Delcer and its environs.

2.3. Results to be achieved by the Consultant

The main output will be:

1. A desktop review of pertinent documentation on the target area
2. Situational analysis of the agricultural and water resource capabilities that exist in the target area.
3. A Feasibility report on water availability and water infrastructure needs in the community as it relates to irrigation requirements. This must include (i) an assessment – technical, environmental, economic and financial - of available surface water supply in the Choiseul Anse L'Ivrogne catchment along with recommended mitigative measures, environmental and otherwise, to protect it (ii) Based on the

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foregoing supply/availability assessment, prepare technical designs, material requirements and costs of an appropriate irrigation supply system - from intake at source through to distribution - for the target area.

4. Develop a comprehensive assessment of the crop suitability and water requirements relevant to the particular locale and, provide a basis for the crop enterprise range on which the proposed design was developed. In addition, the relevant soil and water management regime for sustainable crop production should be described.
5. Preparation of Tender dossier to procure approved supplies.
6. Prepare tender dossier to procure the services to supervise system construction.

3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

3.1. Assumptions underlying the project intervention

- Technical assistance is available and/or can be accessed;
- Partnerships and collaboration among primary stakeholders (*state and non-state*) remain firm and functional during and post-initiative implementation;
- Institutions accept responsibility;
- Clients amenable to adopt recommendations;
- Information is readily available for decision making.

3.2. Risks

- The absence of sustained key stakeholder support (*state and non-state*);
- Critical activities are not effectively and efficiently implemented (*such as, institutional & technical support, required access to infrastructure & facilities and timely delivery of required data/information, supplies and support services*).

4. SCOPE OF THE WORK

4.1. General

4.1.1. Project description

The targeted geographical area routinely experiences the adverse effects of severe water deprivation on an annual basis. The area experiences very low annual rainfall (*approx. 1500 mm/ year*), 75% of which falls during the rainy months (*June – November*), resulting in severe water shortages during the drier months, December – May. This is both a limiting factor and serious constraint to the principal forms of economic activity in the community mainly agriculture and related value added production, arts and craft, etc. Water scarcity has resulted in endemic poverty, widespread disillusionment and despondency particularly among the youth, mass migration, and other readily identifiable perverse manifestations including poor resource management practices (*land & water*), decreasing soil fertility and increasing land and ecological degradation. The situation has been exacerbated by the prevailing land tenure patterns and relationships, characterised by many producers operating on leased and/ or family lands. It is proposed that these problems can be arrested with a sustainable water distribution system and proper integrated resource management systems.

The planned initiative should :

- § Promote more efficient resource use;
- § Reduce the many family and community-related conflicts, as a direct result of the inadequate access to the available resources;
- § Reduce accelerated soil erosion and the general land and environmental degradation, which contribute to the declining socio-economic situation of this sub-region.

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- § Address technical and agri-business capacity issues: - supply-side & value-added production aspects, technical support services, institutional strengthening (*state & non-state, including community-based mechanisms*) and other relevant support systems;
- § Promote community mobilization and empowerment needs, including building/strengthening of partnerships and inter-sectoral business relations among stakeholders;
- § Address other physical infrastructure requirements, such as drainage, soil and water conservation measures, necessary related structural and land stabilisation works, community human resource development and services facility.

4.1.2. Geographical area to be covered

The District of Choiseul in the central western corridor of St Lucia and in particular the major communities of Delcer, la Pointe, Morne Sion, Mougouge, Victoria, etc

4.1.3. Target groups

Target groups and beneficiaries include, inter alia:

- Producer organisations/ cooperatives/ groups: - farmers (*crop & livestock*), fishers, craft and cottage industry producers;
- Choiseul Cooperative Credit Union;
- Relevant private sector partners, such as the Water & Sewerage Company Inc. (WASCO), hoteliers, primary commodity purchasers, etc.;
- Youth organisations and willing individuals;
- Community development groups, including willing special interest groups.

4.2. Specific activities

The consultant will;

- i. Review available relevant documentation including project completion reports of pertinent initiatives undertaken within the last decade in the target areas, inclusive related statistical data (*social, economic, ecological assessments*)²;
- ii. Undertake a thorough review of the water supply infrastructure and services in the community, considering qualitative and quantitative supply and demand issues (*domestic, agriculture & industry and ecological requirements*) in the short, medium and long term;
- iii. Assess existing and the potential for additional water abstraction interventions on the Anse L'Ivrogne River and its general stability and ecology, taking into consideration the dependant communities, coastal and near-shore ecosystems. The capacity of the Anse L'Ivrogne river/catchment to satisfy future community water supply requirements using internationally acceptable, independently verifiable, and demographic and impact indicators including runoff to maintain downstream ecosystems must be assessed.
- iv. Determine crop suitability and water requirement, and outline the soil and water management practices required for sustainable production
- v. Determine and prioritize environmental mitigative measures that must be implemented if any specified additional abstraction of water is deemed feasible and sustainable;
- vi. Examine current land and water resource management practices in the identified region, identifying and prioritising the technical, infrastructural, social, economic, institutional and legislative aspects that will require attention/ re-dress;

² See some proposed references in Annex.

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- vii. Prepare a draft report of the activities undertaken in (i) to (vi), outlining findings, recommendations and options the proposed way forward to be extensively reviewed with all key stakeholders;
- viii. Present design and cost information for the proposed project concept.
- ix. Preparation of relevant tender dossiers.

4.3. Project management

4.3.1. Responsible body

The Banana Industry Trust (BIT) will oversee and supervise the contract and project implementation on behalf of the beneficiary country.

4.3.2. Management structure

The consultancy services contract shall be between the Consultant and the Contracting Authority on behalf of the Client [The Community of Choiseul].

The Consultant shall be responsible to and report to the BIT and the Client concerning all aspects of the professional services to be rendered.

The Contracting Authority will appoint a project manager who will be the point of contact with the Consultant during the execution of the consultancy.

Substantial changes in the scope of work defined by the TOR's can only be made by mutual written agreement among the Client, the Consultant, the BIT and the NAO.

4.3.3. Facilities to be provided by the Contracting Authority and/or other parties

The consultant is responsible to provide his/her facility, equipment and supply for executing this contract.

5. LOGISTICS AND TIMING

5.1. Location

The consultant will be required to operate throughout the District of Choiseul, and particularly in the Delcer/La Point area.

5.2. Commencement date & Period of execution

The intended commencement date is May 2008 and the period of execution of the contract will be six (6) weeks from this date. Further additional services under this contract are not anticipated

6. REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Personnel

6.1.1. Key expert 1

The consultant must be:

- Professionally trained in Civil Engineering, Environmental Management, Water Resource Management or Hydrology;
- Must have at least ten (10) years of relevant professional experience in rural development;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Experience in water programme design;
- Fluent in English.

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6.1.2. Key Expert 2

Agricultural Specialist

The specialist must possess post-graduate training in agronomy/agricultural business management or a closely related field, with at least five (5) years relevant work-related experience.

6.1.3. Other experts

The Consultant shall select and hire other experts as required according to the profiles identified in the Terms of Reference

6.1.4. Support staff & backstopping

To be provided by the consultant

The Consultant should pay attention to the need of ensuring the active participation of local professional skills where available. Full participation of the target beneficiaries is expected.

Note: Civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the beneficiary country cannot be recruited as experts, unless special official permission is granted by the relevant Authority.

6.2. Office accommodation

The costs of the office accommodation are to be covered by the consultant.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Reporting requirements

The consultant is required to submit the following reports:

- An inception report after one (1) week of the commencement of the assignment;
- A draft final report within one (1) week after the completion of the consultancy;
- A final report one (1) week after receipt of comments on draft final report.

7.2. Submission & approval of progress reports

Three (3) copies of the progress reports referred to above must be submitted to the Project Manager identified in the Contract. The Project Manager is responsible for approving the reports. The progress reports must be written in English.

7.3 Special requirements

It is expected that expert would have amongst other abilities and skills the following:

- Good English writing and reporting skills;
- Good communication skills;
- Computer literate;
- Team player;
- Good track record.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1. Definition of indicators

Achieving programme objectives and realizing expected outcomes will be the main indicators for a successful project. However, indicators on effective project implementation include the achievement of the following milestones indicated in section 7, subsection 7.1 – reporting requirements.