Developed policy briefs that summarize the main results and recommendations of the legal and policy analysis conducted by MAR Fund for the MAR Region

1. Introduction

The Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) is a regional environmental fund whose primary goal is to protect the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion (MAR) shared by Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. Its mission is to drive regional funding and partnerships for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Reef.

The MAR Fund is carrying out the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI). The objective of the Initiative is to increase the resilience and ability to recover of the Mesoamerican Reef -and of the environmental and cultural services it provides-, through capacity building, regulations, economic incentives and financial sustainability required for effective and timely restoration.

Four key strategies guide the initiative:

1. To ensure sustainable long-term funding for continuous and emergency restoration through the establishment of an Emergency Fund and other innovative mechanisms such as, for example, creating insurance mechanisms for reefs;
2. To support and develop reef restoration and rehabilitation in the region;
3. To develop alternative sources of income and new employment opportunities for local communities, based on resource conservation; and,
4. To promote the commitment of governments from all four countries in the region through the development of policies and regulations aimed at facilitating the restoration of reefs.

The Reef Rescue Initiative is carried out by the MAR Fund, with the support of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), with the participation of the four countries that share the Mesoamerican Reef System. The implementation and advances of the RRI is supervised by Technical Supervisory Committee –TSC-, which is represented by MAR Fund, the CCAD and the biodiversity and natural resources agencies of the four countries of the MAR.

2. Background

MAR Fund has prepared a regional and by-country analysis of the existing regulatory framework and public policy, and existence (or lack) of legal instruments to enable financing mechanisms for reef restoration.
On the basis of this analysis, the MAR Fund has developed general recommendations for implementing legislation to enable reef insurance, reef restoration, and emergency response actions at the country and regional level.

Main analysis conducted include:

1. A legal analysis of the current legislation and regulations related to reef restoration and financial mechanisms for reef conservation in the MAR Region and by country.
2. A map of the main actors involved in the implementation of legislation at the country level and at the regional level.
3. A systematization of results was conducted to provide key information and to discuss the main findings, results, recommendations and lessons learned during the legal analysis with the governments of the four countries and with regional authorities.
4. A public policy analysis was developed to learn about the enabling policy framework, by country and regionally, for the implementation of new financial mechanisms, such as the insurance model and the emergency fund, and for putting in place emergency response capacities for reefs in the four MAR countries.
5. A policy analysis to explore the economic rationale and policy considerations for including coral reefs in asset valuation and climate change-related risk assessments, and investing in innovative financial instruments to support coral reef conservation and restoration following damage from hurricanes and ship groundings, such as insurance.

Given the importance of the analyses listed above, MAR Fund and the TSC require the services of a consultant to develop concise, practical and action-oriented policy briefs that summarize the main findings of the legal and policy analyses and recommendations conducted for the MAR Region.

3. Objective of the consultancy

Develop five (5) policy briefs that provide the main findings and recommendations of the legal and policy analysis conducted by MAR Fund, and summarized above, for the MAR Region.

4. Main tasks and responsibilities of the consultant

1. Desk revision of the legal and policy analysis documents developed by MAR Fund from 2017 to 2019, as described in these terms of reference.
2. Develop five (5) policy briefs (one for each country and one regional), in English and Spanish.
3. Prepare the final and approved documents, well edited and layout. Add diagrams, images and others as needed.
4. Coordinate and maintain constant communication with the Reef Rescue Initiative Coordinator and technical team.

5. Policy briefs will include, at least the following content

1. Title
2. Executive summary
3. Introduction and background information
4. Approaches and results

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1 Electronic copies of the documents will be provided by MAR Fund.
5. Conclusions and policy recommendations
6. Key references and sources of information

- Explain why it is important for the governments of the MAR to enable coral reef conservation and restoration as natural asset for climate change adaptation, financing mechanisms for coastal protection and risk mitigation (such as reef insurance) and emergency response actions. And, how these actions are linked to the Central American Policy of Integral Risk Management (PCGIR in Spanish).

5. Expected products of the consultancy

1. Time table for the consultancy
2. Detailed content and proposed format for the Policy Briefs
3. Five (5) policy brief documents in Word and PDF format, both in English and Spanish.
   a. Four by-country policy briefs, of 4-6 pages each, one for each country (México, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras).
   b. One policy brief, for the Region, of 6-8 pages.

6. Duration of contract

The consultancy will be developed in four (4) months from the date of signing the contract.

7. Workplace

The consultant’s office in her/his country of residence. No travel is needed for this consultancy.

8. Oversight

- The monitoring and follow up of this activity will be carried out by the MAR Fund’s Reef Rescue Initiative Coordinator.
- The final products will be revised by the RRI Coordinator and will require the RRI Technical Committee approval.

9. Reports submission and format

- The products will be delivered in electronic, via email, and addressed to the Reef Rescue Initiative Coordinator (cruz@marfund.org).
- All preliminary and draft documents must be submitted in Office Word format only, in English or Spanish.
- Final approved Briefs, will be submitted, well edited and layout, in both languages, English and Spanish, in PDF format and final text in Office Word format.
- Diagrams and images must be submitted in JPG at 300 dpi.
10. Payments and deliverables

The maximum amount for this consultancy is $15,000 that includes professional fees and taxes incurred by the consultant. Payments will be made upon full acceptance of the products as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Amount (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Signing of the contract and submission of time table.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Five approved policy briefs:</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Four policy briefs, one for each country (México, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras); 4-6 pages each in Office Word both in English and Spanish.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• One policy brief for the Region, 6-8 pages in Office Word format both in English and Spanish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Final approved policy briefs, well edited and layout, in Word and PDF format, both English and Spanish.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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11. Key qualifications

a. Professional, legal advisor, with minimum of 5 years of experience in environmental law and policy.
b. Desirable work experience or knowledge in maritime law, conservation finance, climate change and environmental services.
c. Desirable work experience in the MAR region.
d. With proven ability to produce documents and systematize analysis of policies and regulations, both in English and Spanish.

12. Documentation required

a. Technical and financial proposal, concise, in Word, describing the methodology and timetable to carry out the consultancy (in English or Spanish).
b. Resumé or short version of the CV of the main consultant and support team (if any).
c. Letter of interest underscoring the experience in the topics of these Terms of Reference

13. Deadline and contact

Send the required information to Claudia Ruiz cruz@marfund.org with copy to Magda Lares mlares@marfund.org, no later than 31/march/2020.