



Terms of Reference

Consultancy for the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative

Policy briefs drawn up from the policy and regulatory 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 Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Its mission is to direct regional funding and partnerships towards conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Reef.

The MAR Fund is carrying out the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI). It is a long-term project with two main goals: to increase the resilience and enable the recovery of the Mesoamerican Reef and the environmental and cultural services it provides. To this effect, capacity building, regulations, economic incentives, and financial sustainability are required for an effective and timely restoration.

The initiative includes four key strategies:

1. To ensure sustainable long-term funding for continuous emergency restoration by establishing an Emergency Fund and other innovative mechanisms, such as 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.
4. To engage governments from all four countries in the region to develop policies and regulations aimed at facilitating reef restoration.

MAR Fund is implementing the RRI in cooperation with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD, for its initials in Spanish). A Technical Supervisory Committee (TSC) leads the RRI and involves the four MAR countries. The RRI is possible thanks to the generous support of the German Cooperation through KfW.

2. Background

MAR Fund, through the RRI, has commissioned a regional and country analysis of the existing regulatory framework and public policy that enable reef conservation in the MAR region. The following documents were produced from the analysis:

1. A legal analysis of the current legislation and regulations related to reef restoration, emergency response actions, and financial mechanisms for reef conservation in the MAR Region and for each country. This document includes the permit process to address (emergency response actions) reef damages caused by hurricanes and ship groundings.
2. A map of the main actors involved in the implementation of the legislation at country and regional levels.
3. A systematization of results and recommendations of the legal analysis and the lessons learned from the consultation process.
4. A public policy analysis that describes each region and country policy framework to enable the implementation of new financial mechanisms, such as the insurance model and an Emergency Fund, and to put in place the emergency response capacities for reefs in the four MAR countries.
5. A policy analysis that explores the economic rationale and policy considerations to include coral reefs in asset valuation and risk assessments related to climate change, and invest in innovative financial instruments to support coral reef conservation and restoration following damage from hurricanes and ship groundings, such as the insurance.
6. Preliminary policy briefs. Briefs include general recommendations for countries in order to advance in reef conservation based on the current legislation in place. These are key documents to be reviewed for this consultancy.

For the above, the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the legal and policy analysis need to be summarized and integrated into short documents for distribution. Therefore, MAR Fund and the TSC require a consultant to develop concise, practical, and action-oriented policy briefs.

3. Objective of the consultancy

The consultant will develop concise, practical, and action-oriented policy briefs that summarize the main findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the countries to advance on reef conservation.

4. Main tasks of the consultancy

1. Develop five (5) policy briefs, one for each country and one for the MAR Region.
2. Develop one (1) brief that summarizes the process required by each country to obtain permits to allow emergency response brigades to address post-storm and post-ship grounding impacts on reefs.

For the above, the consultant will:

- a. Review the five (5) policy briefs drafted by MAR Fund in 2020 and draw key information to elaborate the policy briefs required on these ToR.

- b. Review and analyze the documents indicated in section 2 of these Terms of Reference¹.
- c. Identify updated policies and legal instruments available for the MAR to analyze in order to include recommendations in the briefs.
- d. Conduct desk reviews of additional material and related documents if needed.
- e. Submit the final and approved documents, edited and laid out. Add diagrams, charts, and images, if necessary.
- f. Submit the final and approved documents, both in English and Spanish.
- g. Coordinate and maintain constant communication with MAR Fund's Reef Rescue Initiative coordinator.
- h. Discuss the content and format of policy briefs with MAR Fund's team.
- i. Hold a planning meeting with MAR Fund's team to set up the work plan and main content of briefs.
- j. Provide at least one online presentation of the final documents to the Project Technical Supervisory Committee for their approval.

5. Main products of the consultancy

1. Concise schedule for the consultancy.
 2. Five (5) policy briefs, both in English and Spanish.
 - a. Four (4) policy briefs, one for each country (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras).
 - b. One (1) policy brief for the region.
 3. One (1) brief, both in English and Spanish, summarizing the permit process required for each country to allow emergency response brigades to work.
 4. One PowerPoint presentation, edited and laid out, both in English and Spanish, including a summary of the permit process.
- Briefs should provide clear and concise information, with tables and images, if needed.
 - Briefs should summarize recommendations from legal and policy instruments that enable reef conservation through reef restoration techniques, financial mechanisms directed towards reef restoration and conservation actions, and emergency response.
 - The ultimate goal of briefs is to encourage governments of the MAR countries to consider reefs as natural capital within their risk management strategies, justify developing and/or expanding these strategies, and promote the adoption of innovative financial mechanisms, such as parametric insurance for reefs.

6. Duration of contract

The consultancy will have a duration of four (4) months (natural days) from the day the contract is signed.

7. Workplace

The consultant will work in their country of residence. No travel is required for this consultancy.

¹ Digital documents will be provided by MAR Fund.

8. Oversight

- The MAR Fund's Reef Rescue Initiative coordinator will carry out the monitoring and follow-up of this activity.
- The Reef Rescue Initiative coordinator will review the final products and will require the approval of the Initiative Technical Committee.

9. Reports submission and format

- Each document should not exceed ten pages of content, including cover page and references.
- The products will be delivered in digital format via e-mail to the Reef Rescue Initiative coordinator at cruiz@marfund.org.
- All preliminary and draft documents must be submitted in Office Word format only, in either English or Spanish.
- Final approved briefs will be submitted already edited and laid out, in both English and Spanish, in Office Word format.
- Diagrams, charts, and images must be submitted separately with 300 dpi and JPG format.

10. Payments and deliverables

The maximum amount for this consultancy is **USD 12,000**. Payments will be made upon full acceptance of the products as follows:

Payment	Product	Amount (%)
1	Contract signed and approved consultancy schedule submitted.	20%
2	Five (5) final approved policy briefs in either English <u>or</u> Spanish: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four (4) policy briefs, one for each country (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras).• One (1) policy brief for the MAR Region.	40%
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five (5) final approved policy briefs, edited and laid out, in Word format, in both English <u>and</u> Spanish.• One (1) brief summarizing the permit process required for each country to allow emergency response brigades to work. In word format, in both English <u>and</u> Spanish.• One (1) PowerPoint presentation, edited, in both English <u>and</u> Spanish, including a summary of the permit process.	40%

Note: Translations of the documents can be carried out once documents have been approved either in English or Spanish.

11. Key qualifications

- a. Professional, legal advisor, or similar, with at least five years' experience in environmental law and policy.
- b. Experience working in the MAR Region is required.
- c. With proven ability to produce documents and systematize analysis on policies and regulations, in both English and Spanish.

12. Documentation required

- a. Technical and financial proposal, concise (no more than five pages), in Word format, describing the methodology and proposed schedule of the consultancy (in either English or Spanish).
- b. Résumé or short CV version of the principal consultant and support team (if any).
- c. Letter of Interest highlighting the experience on the topics included in these Terms of Reference.
- d. Three professional references or letters of recommendation.

13. Deadline and contact

Send documentation to Claudia Ruiz cruiz@marfund.org and a copy to Daniela Larios dlarios@marfund.org, no later than **June 4th, 2021**.