

## Terms of Reference for Potential Study Agreement

*Attention, short deadline: Please submit your proposal by November 21 by sending it to [project@regions20.org](mailto:project@regions20.org)*

This document serves to provide an overview of the underlying project pursued by the Subnational Climate Fund (SCF), relevant context on data availability and goals of the mandate, as well as an estimated scope of work requested from the consultant. Final details of the mandate should be covered by the subsequent proposal submitted by the consultant.

### **1. The Subnational Climate Fund**

The SCF is a blended finance impact fund formed to pursue attractive risk-adjusted returns for private investors while generating measurable and certified environmental and social impacts. The Fund is focused exclusively on pursuing investments in mid-size climate infrastructure with nature-based solutions in various developing countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Mediterranean, and Asia. The Fund is managed by Pegasus Capital Advisors, a commercial Private Equity impact fund manager and further benefits from a separate, grant-funded Technical Assistance facility managed by The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and implemented by R20, IUCN, and Gold Standard.

### **2. Context of the Potential Study Agreement**

To withstand current and future climate change impacts, the Caribbean must modernize its food production models. An unhealthy reliance on low quality food imports is creating social and economic vulnerability and the COVID 19 pandemic has disrupted food supply chains and the tourism industry, severely damaging the economic engine of the Caribbean region.

Just like many other Caribbean countries, Jamaica is a high weather-risk country. The agricultural sector, which provides a significant share of employment (16%) and is important to the country's economic and social fabric, is particularly vulnerable. The Subnational Climate Fund is currently assessing an investment opportunity in a potential project located in the Southeast of the Island which would develop 100 hectares of a regenerative agriculture farm with infrastructure and digital extension services, aimed at food security, job creation, community resilience, ecological restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project will contribute to the CARICOM '25% by 2025' imperative to locally produce 25% of its food by 2025. Infrastructure, regenerative cultivation methodologies, and smallholder engagement will reduce food import dependency in Jamaica and the wider CARICOM.

Jamaica is a net importer of coconut products, with 4,700 coconut producers who are largely small farmers with less than 10 hectares under coconut cultivation. Current production is insufficient to supply local demand, or to capitalize on opportunities that exist in the global and regional markets. Jamaica's Coconut Board has resolved to attract 1,500 new coconut farmers to develop 60 thousand hectares of new coconut cultivation over the next eight years. The project helps to build the infrastructure on which the Jamaican coconut industry can thrive.

The project will include the following components:

- 1) A model farm which will run commercial scale agroforestry operations on site, with crop production determined by the ecological, market and logistical variables.
- 2) Input production: On-site facilities for the commercial scale production of farm inputs and for subsidized sales to local and regional farmers.
- 3) Nursery: On-site commercial nursery for agroforestry and native crops, and collection and propagation of diverse crops for applied commercial use.
- 4) Extension & Training: Outreach support services, digital registration, data capture and aggregation of local farmers within the region to train at the production site and to then contract and sell outputs to the post-harvest facility.
- 5) Digitization: Digitization of farmers, outputs, impacts and traceability: There is a digital data capture and impact validation at the project site and will integrate all participating small farmers in the program.
- 6) Post Harvest/Aggregation & Facilities: The project provides the contracted output purchase and logistics/aggregation activities from farmgate to the post-harvest facility to add value to raw materials: quality control, cleaning, packing, processing, storage and aggregation to commercial scale for direct sales to the domestic and international markets.

1

### **3. Scope of Work for a Feasibility Study**

The consultant is expected to provide the following assessment:

- **Pre-feasibility assessment:**
  - Analysis of existing on-site biodiversity, ethnobotanical resources, biological corridor.
- **Feasibility studies:**
  - Detailed soil sampling and analysis to determine suitability of selected crops, irrigation needs and soil management practices.
  - LIDAR topographic survey of the project site to inform/establish facility boundaries, crop layout, optimization, and structural parameters.
  - Water analyses: assessment of river capacities, water table analysis (proximate to river and across the land area, sampling and analysis of water for feasibility of use in identified agricultural practices.
  - Planning for community inclusion and capacity building for vocational training of at-risk youth in climate smart agriculture and packing house facility activities.
  - Analysis of women and children nutritional goals in the communities around the project site. Work through all sustainable and financial aspects of selected choices and directions.
  - Feasibility for nature-based solutions for on-site carbon neutral and carbon negative input production methodologies including but not limited to biochar production, compost production. Feasibility of applying Nature-based solutions taken into account of the landscape and ecosystem of the entire project space.

### **4. Deliverables**

The following written deliverables are to be provided:

- A pre-feasibility study report
- Feasibility study report

## 5. Indicative Timeline

Work is expected to commence immediately after the consultant is appointed. The work is expected to be completed within **four months** after signing the service contract.

## 6. Form of Proposal

Please prepare a brief proposal for the performance of this work, including the proposed fee structure, including hourly or daily rates and calculation thereof for completing the work required, and your/your firm's experience in the mentioned country, sector and activities.

Travel cost for field visit will be covered by the SCF separately from the consultancy fee.

## 7. Submission

Please submit your proposal by **November 21, 2022** by sending it to **project@regions20.org**