

From: Barbara_Scott@pioj.gov.jm
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 4:52 PM
To: La Valley, Adriana
Cc: Alleng, Gerard P.; TracieAnn_West@PIOJ.gov.jm; Shashion_Thomas@PIOJ.gov.jm
Subject:Fw: IDB TC: Blue Carbon restoration in Southern Clarendon (JA-T1169) - PIOJ's Endorsement

Dear Adriana,

Reference is made to previous correspondence and discussions regarding the collaboration between IDB and the UWI on the Project : Blue Carbon Restoration in Southern Clarendon. The PIOJ offers its endorsement of this technical cooperation, in the sum of US\$2.45 million to support the restoration of the mangrove ecosystems along the south coast of Jamaica,

In offering our endorsement, the PIOJ is anticipating that a steering committee will be formed to provide technical oversight during project implementation. We expect that the Committee will comprise relevant

GOJ agencies such as NEPA, MEGJC and PIOJ, as well as other stakeholder entities in Government, academia and civil society.

The Institute looks forward to the successful execution of the TC.

Kind regards,

Barbara Scott

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February 20, 2019

Climate Change Senior Specialist
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C., USA

Dear Mr. Alleng,

Re: Mangrove Restoration, South Clarendon, Jamaica

Further to our discussions and your site visit we write to request the Bank's assistance in rehabilitating the extensive areas of dead mangrove between Rocky Point (JAMALCO Port) and Milk River in Southern Clarendon, Jamaica. There are approximately 40 km of coastal mangroves covering about 5,000 hectares along this stretch of coast, of which more than 1,000 hectares are dead and additional areas yet to be quantified, damaged.

UWI SODECO, a department of the UWI, has a major focus on solving problems that affect the socio-economic environment of Jamaica and other LMICs. An exemplar project was the successful project in 2012 developing best practice methods to institute mobile phone based financial transactions working in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Jamaica, Telecoms and Banks, which now forms the basis of the GOJ framework for this economic intervention. UWI SODECO also has a stream of medical work that aims to find solutions to the long term disadvantage following early life malnutrition and operates research and intervention programmes in Jamaica and in sub-Saharan Africa. For the current conservation project UWI SODECO has collaborated with UWI Centre for Marine Sciences and the Climate Change Unit to provide technical solutions for rehabilitating and preserving the 5,000 hectares of significantly degraded mangroves between Jackson Bay and Milk River in the west and again between Rocky Point JAMACO Port and Portland Cottage in the east both along the southern coast of the parish of Clarendon, Jamaica.

UWI SODECO has undertaken the task of rehabilitating these dead and damaged mangroves and in pursuit of this objective, performed preliminary investigations to identify the contributors to this damage to mangroves. Out of these investigations have come the recognition that:

i. progressive fall-off of fresh water inflows to the mangroves originating in agricultural runoff; this falloff in irrigation runoff water is due to the severe reduction over the past three decades in acreage under sugar cane cultivation. Much of the lands previously in sugar cane now lie in ruinate rather than supporting alternative agricultural crops so there is no requirement for irrigation.

ii. human impact has also contributed to the death of mangroves. This has come about principally through the laying down of roads and rail infrastructure that bisect mangroves cutting off usual hydrodynamic flows. There is also a contribution from charcoal burning that proceeds at a continuous low level but increases when extreme weather events change the hydrology of areas leading to drying out and therefore facilitating easy access to the mangroves to tree cutters for charcoal.

iii. Extreme weather events which have disrupted the hydrology of these ecosystems

UWI SODECO has engaged several stakeholders to support the rehabilitation programme who to date have contributed massively and remain committed to the process long term.

The first key stakeholder is the SCJH (Sugar Company of Jamaica Holdings Ltd) which is the land holding GOJ entity that owns virtually all the lands on which these mangroves and their transitional zones lie. SCJH has leased UWI SODECO the mangroves between Jackson Bay and Milk River, a total of approximately 1633 hectares for 50 years renewable for J\$100 per annum. The entities have also fully agreed to extend the lease using the original terms to those additional lands (mangroves and transitional areas) totaling some 3500 hectares from Portland cottage to Rocky Point/Salt River. This lease is to be signed and in place by mid-March 2019. In addition to leasing lands, SCJH has leased under the same conditions a 20,000 sq ft building at the Monymusk Estate to serve as a coordinating site for the evidence based interventions that are required to execute on this long term project, and to house all aspects of the project management there.

The second major stakeholders are our local surveyors (Mae and Associates) who have performed all surveys and mapping of the sites. This invaluable service has enabled the project in a vital way.

A constellation of other stakeholders includes construction contractors who are refurbishing the buildings, a motor vehicle distributor that has pledged a field vehicle, and the GOJ Forestry Department which has agreed an MOU with UWI SODECO to allow unfettered access to its own marine and adjoining terrestrial forests for the purposes of rehabilitation. Forestry has agreed sharing of data and access to equipment and specialists as we require.

The extensive technical support accessed through the Bank that accompany the financial resources will enable UWI SODECO to deliver on the project within the time allocated.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terrence Forrester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Professor The Hon Terrence Forrester DM, FRCP, PhD
Chief Scientist
UWI SODECO