

Forest Management Pilot and Training in Abaco, Bahamas
TCP/BHA/3401 (D)

Terms of Reference for
International Forest Management Specialist

Project Summary

The natural pine forests of the Bahamas are an untapped and important natural resource. The Ministry of the Environment sees the development of the Forestry Sector as a priority for the country. The Government enacted relevant legislation and the Ministry has made administrative arrangements and financial commitment to implement a forest management programme. Private investors have approached the Ministry for forest concessions. The Ministry is interested in granting forest concessions and tree cutting rights to private enterprises as long as proper forest management and sustainable use of the resources is safeguarded.

While there is a strong political commitment to manage the country's pine forests there is limited practical experience to actually implement such a programme in the field; delineating forest management units; identifying a silvicultural treatment to choose and which trees to mark for felling; organising the felling, hauling and transportation of trees to a saw mill and the monitoring of field operations of forest concession holders. All of the above is conventional forestry knowledge but since the Bahamas has no tradition in forest management it has to be learned and practised.

To strengthen the forestry programme, the Ministry of Environment has signed an MOU with the Bahamas National Trust. The Trust has capable field personnel willing to support a forest management field programme however the staff's capacity was focused on the management and conservation of the National Park Systems of protected areas.

The main objective of the project is to build the capacity of field staff to effectively manage and monitor forest field operations. The training will be offered by contracting an International Forestry Officer (Specialist in Forest Management) who will "walk" the field staff through all aspects of forest management, planning and monitoring of selected forest areas in Abaco. The assignment will include other training activities in other islands of the Bahamas.

Terms of Reference for International Forest Management Specialist

Duty Station: Abaco – Bahamas

Duration: 11 months with the opportunity to extend the contract for 11 months

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative of Jamaica as the Budget Holder and the technical supervision of the SLC Forestry Officer and under the day to day supervision of the Director of Forestry, the Forest Management Specialist will undertake the following duties:

- Train local field staff in basic forest management techniques, Forest inventory, silvicultural planning, tree selection and marking and the organisation of logging operations.
- Prepare management and cutting plans for forest management units and train field staff to implement the plans.
- Prepare training material and technical guidelines for the preparation of forest management plans for pine forest in Abaco and technical guidelines on monitoring forest logging operations.
- Develop and maintain a good working relation with the private sector logging companies
- Assist the Director of Forestry in any other duties related to forest management .

Qualifications:

- A Bsc or Msc in forest management degree from a well recognised, reputable university or institute of technology.
- Basic knowledge in GIS
- Experience in practical forest management preferably in pine forest.
- Fluency in the English language is mandatory.

Remuneration A personal service Agreement contract will be offered to the consultant with a monthly salary range between US 5500 and US 7000 according to the applicant's qualification and experience. The contract includes a round trip air ticket to the Bahamas for the consultant and a fixed sum of 30 days Daily Subsistence Allowance for the first 30 days.

Applications should be send to
the Office of the FAO Representative in Jamaica by 21 of May 2012
FAO Representative, PO Box 1136, Kingston 5, Jamaica
e-mail: fao-jm@fao.org