BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICES - DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AQUARATING ACTION PLAN FOR BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY (BWA)

Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Country: Barbados

Project: Barbados Climate Resilient South Coast Water Reclamation Project (SCWRP)

Abstract: To engage the services of a consulting firm for the development and implementation of the Barbados Water Authority's AquaRating Action Plan (Output 4.1: AquaRating Action Plan developed and implemented), to strengthen BWA's governance, project management and operational performance, including operation and maintenance (O&M) of the South Coast Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse Facility (SCWRRF).

Loan No.: BA-L1063

Contract/Bid No.: BWA-IDBCS007

Deadline: November 25, 2026

1. The Government of Barbados (GoB), with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is implementing the Barbados Climate Resilient South Coast Water Reclamation Project (SCWRP). The general objective of the SCWRP is to enhance the resilience and reliability of Barbados' water supply, with a focus on climate action, environmental sustainability and food security. Component 4 of the SCWRP focuses on institutional strengthening of the water and sanitation sectors, including activities to improve governance, technical capacity and operational performance within the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) and other relevant institutions.

2. Under Component 4 of the Program (Institutional Strengthening), the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) requires the development and implementation of an AquaRating Action Plan (Output 4.1).

   The services include but are not limited to:

   i. Applying the AquaRating methodology to assess BWA's current performance across relevant dimensions, including governance, service quality, operational efficiency, asset management, financial sustainability, environmental performance, customer service, and social/gender responsiveness;
   ii. Identifying performance gaps, root causes and priority areas across AquaRating dimensions and indicators;
   iii. Preparing a prioritized, realistic AquaRating Action Plan with clear measures, timelines, responsibilities, resource needs and key performance indicators;

iv. Providing technical assistance through capacity building to help BWA initiate implementation of selected priority measures in the Action Plan, including measures relevant to SCWRRF and O&M;
v. Strengthening BWA's internal capacity to implement and use AquaRating, or equivalent tools, as a continuous improvement and performance monitoring mechanism; and
vi. Ensuring the Action Plan integrates cross-cutting considerations, including social and gender inclusion, environmental and climate resilience, and occupational and community health and safety interfaces where relevant.

3. The scope of services consists of: (i) analysis of AquaRating results and performance gaps; (ii) development of the AquaRating Action Plan; (iii) implementation support and capacity building; and (iv) monitoring, reporting and handover. The Consulting Firm will be required to outline a workplan and proposed methodology for the assignment in its technical proposal. Modern and scientific techniques, empirical data (field work) and secondary data collection shall be used as appropriate, and recommendations are to be supported with sound justifications.

4. The assignment is expected to begin in the last quarter of 2027 and will be completed over a fifteen (15)-month period. The TOR identifies seven key deliverables: Inception Report and Detailed Work Plan; Analysis of AquaRating Results and Performance Gaps; Draft AquaRating Action Plan; Final AquaRating Action Plan; Implementation and M&E Framework; Implementation Support Progress Notes; and Final Report. Exact dates and sequencing may be adjusted in agreement with BWA, provided they remain within the overall Project timeline.

5. The Barbados Water Authority (BWA) now invites Consulting Firms ("Consultants") to submit Expressions of Interest with respect to providing the referenced consultancy services. The Terms of Reference will provide the detailed scope, tasks, deliverables, qualifications and evaluation criteria for the assignment.

6. Interested firms shall provide information demonstrating that they have the qualifications and relevant experience required to perform the Services. Consistent with the TOR, firms should provide the following documentation/information to establish or illustrate their competence:
   i. General background of the consulting firm;
   ii. Evidence that the firm is a practitioner in the water and sanitation sector with at least ten (10) years' demonstrated international and regional experience in utility performance improvement and AquaRating implementation, utility governance, institutional strengthening and capacity building;
   iii. Evidence of solid experience in wastewater utility operations, including O&M of treatment and reuse facilities;
   iv. Evidence of experience in at least two (2) assignments in AquaRating implementation (assessment, verification, action planning or recertification) or comparable utility performance frameworks; and
   v. Relevant experience in the Caribbean or Small Island Developing States (SIDS), familiarity with procedures of international financial institutions such as the IDB, GCF or World Bank, and experience integrating gender and social inclusion into institutional strengthening processes, where applicable.

7. In assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to eligibility, technical competence, qualifications and experience on similar assignments of the firm. All information must be submitted in English.

8. Selection of the Consultant will be undertaken through the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and is open to all eligible Consulting Firms as defined in the policies.

9. Interested firms may request further information or details on the Terms of Reference and other relevant documentation for the consultancy from the Government's Procurement Portal at https://gov-bb.bonfirehub.com. Submissions should also be uploaded to the above-mentioned procurement portal no later than **November 25, 2026, 11:30 p.m., Atlantic Standard Time.** The electronic submission should include the name and address of the applicant, and the subject heading shall clearly indicate "Request for Expressions of Interest - Consulting Services – Development and Implementation of Aquarating Action Plan for the Barbados Water Authority."

10. All queries from interested bidders must be submitted electronically to https://gov-bb.bonfirehub.com/ through the Vendor Discussions section under the respective Project (procurement).

11. Interested bidders should register in the Government's e-procurement portal at https://gov-bb.bonfirehub.com/login/. Detailed instructions for registration are available at https://procure.gov.bb.

12. Any firm incorporated outside of Barbados which is awarded a contract will be required to be registered in Barbados as an External company under the 'Companies Act of Barbados' CAP. 308, found at https://www.investbarbados.org, prior to the commencement of the contract. Information on the requirements as an external company can be obtained from the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO), Ground Floor, Baobab Towers, Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados, Telephone No: (246) 535-2401, E-mail Address: general@caipo.gob.bb OR request@caipo.gob.bb. Interested firms that are required to be registered must note that the registration process is lengthy and should therefore commence as soon as possible.

13. Applicants should be aware that the Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Act Cap.349 shall, in so far as is applicable to the tenderer, apply to any contract made in respect of the tender. Full details of the conditions of this Act, Cap.349 may be obtained from the Government Procurement Department, Bay Street, Bridgetown, St. Michael or via the International Labour Organization (ILO) database of labour legislation website http://blue.lim.ilo.org/cariblex/browse_country_barbados.shtml. Consulting Firms should submit the certificate required by paragraph 3 of the schedule to the Act with their tender.

14. The electronic submission should include the name and address of the applicant, and the subject heading shall clearly indicate "Expression of Interest - Consulting Services - Development and Implementation of Aquarating Action Plan for Barbados Water Authority (BWA)

15. A list of not less than five (5) and not more than eight (8) applicants will be shortlisted for this consultancy. The Barbados Water Authority reserves the right to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of the Expressions of Interest.

16. Applications that do not comply with the conditions set out in this Notice will not be considered.

17. Late submissions will not be accepted.