

Development of National Coastal Management and Beach Restoration Guidelines for Jamaica

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Jamaica	31,000	100%	1	Mott MacDonald Ltd	World Bank	Aug 2016 to April 2017	N/A

Detailed description of project

Jamaica’s coastal areas play a vital role in the social and economic life of the country and have long been a magnet for urban expansion. Residential, industrial and commercial uses all compete for space within a finite area between the uplands and the sea, with the greatest concentrations occurring adjacent to the coast. This is reflected in the fact that over 72 percent of economic assets including air and sea-port facilities and tourism infrastructure are concentrated in coastal areas, and are responsible for contributing an estimated 90% to the country’s GDP. Additionally, three quarters of the population live in coastal towns and communities located within 5 km of the 1,022 km long coastline. Pressure for coastal development has been exacerbated by the migration of population from rural areas to coastal towns and cities.

The overall objective of this project is to support national policy and institutional development relating to coastal resources, natural hazards and climate related impacts and sustainable development. This will be done through the review, consolidation and update of priority guidelines and regulations into an integrated and more coherent package, which will establish linkages between existing sector specific policies and ocean and coastal zone issues. This set of Guidelines will consist of recommended, non-mandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference for coastal protection measures.

Based on international best practices, this initiative intends to bring together international expertise and state-of-the art methodologies, and consolidate them into an innovative instrument that provides the planning authorities with the necessary flexibility to choose from a possible wide spectrum of climate resilience, risk mitigation and natural resources management measures that best suits the specific coastal environment.

Type of services provided

SSL were employed to Team Lead the project and to help produce the final Guidance Manual. A participatory and consultative approach was undertaken in the conduct of the services, in order to ensure that local knowledge and best practices are taken into consideration. The services included the following:

- TASK 1: Development of the National Coastal Management Guidelines
- TASK 2: Provide recommendations for the Development of a web-based tool
- TASK 3: Stakeholder Consultations (this involved holding an initial multi-stakeholder workshop to identify and systematize lessons learned, gaps and challenges faced in coastal protection/enhancement measures (both hard and soft) in Jamaica, as discussed as part of Task 1. Additionally, SSL supported in holding a multi-stakeholder dissemination workshop to present the main product of the initiative, the Guidelines, obtain feedback on the initiative, and to ensure that the recommendations are aligned with the needs and efforts of the country).