

Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessment — Commonwealth Blue Charter

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
Jonathan McCue (via Sustainable Seas Ltd)	Trinidad and Tobago; Antigua and Barbuda	15,000	100%	1	Commonwealth Secretariat	Commonwealth Blue Charter	Sept 2022 to Dec 2022	N/A

Detailed description of project

The Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec), in partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners, is identifying two Commonwealth countries to assess their readiness to embark on the transition to a Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE). As part of UNEP’s work to promote and enable a Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE), it has developed a prototype version of a Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework (SBE-TF), to support countries and stakeholders develop SBE policy pathways and implementation strategies at local, national and regional level. In order to test and refine the SBE-TF, UNEP has enlisted the Commonwealth Secretariat to pilot the SBE-TF in selected countries and regions through the Rapid Readiness Assessment (RRA) process.

The primary objective of the RRA is to support participating countries in answering: “what desired national impacts will justify transitioning to a SBE?” and “what will need to be readied in order to implement the TF approach?” Through a combination of workshops, information gathering and analysis, the RRA will support countries to:

- collectively identify and map out the initial steps necessary to improve their SBE;
- assess their readiness for taking forward the TF approach; and
- identify priority enabling actions and resources needed.

Type of services provided

SSL provided the following services for projects and programs impacting the coastal zone of participating Caribbean nations:

- Provision of expertise in the field of sustainable blue economy to provide third-party review and constructive criticism of two pilot Blue Economy Rapid Readiness Assessments in selected Commonwealth countries (Antigua & Barbuda and Trinidad & Tobago). This part-time, short-term consultancy will include provide
- Work included unbiased expert guidance (written and remotely at meetings) and review of project materials, working with the Commonwealth Secretariat and its delivery partners.

Key deliverables produced included the following:

- Assist in reviewing and refining project materials, including the methodology and stakeholder survey;
- Provide an independent and detailed review of the draft assessment reports and results, including constructive criticism, additional text, options and insights;
- Participate in virtual meetings / workshops;