

BVI

Interim feedback on the
RESEMBID formulation
mission



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The Resilience, Sustainable Energy, and Marine Biodiversity Programme for Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (RESEMBID)

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RESEMBID Formulation Mission

Interim Feedback - British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Purpose of the feedback

This note provides an overview of the trends and potential areas of support gleaned from the RESEMBID consultation mission to the British Virgin Islands (BVI). It also reconfirms next steps to stakeholders, and seeks to provide interim feedback pending the next phase of work to develop the programme pipeline in greater detail.

Consultation mission

During the period November 11 - 15, 2019, RESEMBID team members and sectoral experts consulted with stakeholders in BVI working in the thematic areas of Resilience, Sustainable Energy, and Marine Biodiversity.

How could RESEMBID support BVI's priorities in Renewable Energy, Marine Biodiversity and Resilience?

Further to extensive consultations held with BVI government authorities and various stakeholders (government ministries, departments and agencies, international aid organisations, civil society organisations, fisherfolk associations, tourism entities) the RESEMBID team identified an initial suite of intervention opportunities identified below.

This is an exhaustive list of opportunities requested by stakeholders, which also fall within the scope and means of the RESEMBID Programme. This list will be further refined by the OCTs according to their individual priorities.

Energy

- Support the Smart Communities' programme, through the installation of renewable energy mechanisms in critical infrastructure - including priority health and social facilities.
- Enhance capacity within the BVIEC and the Electrical Inspection Unit on renewable energy power systems and the CARICOM Energy efficiency building code.
- Develop a program to stimulate an environmentally friendly hotel sector, including the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Assist in the development of awareness campaigns on energy efficiency; in particular, support the development and implementation of an integral information and dissemination campaign to households, commerce (including the tourist sector) and schools in order to raise awareness and to motivate consumers to apply energy efficient practices and measures.



An environmentally friendly Tourism and Hospitality industry demands commitment to advancing a sustainable energy pathway, and the protection of coastal ecosystems.

- Provide support in the development of a complementary energy audit programme for government buildings.
- Assist in the application of energy efficient building designs and solar roof systems on all Government buildings and the application of green public procurement throughout government processes.

Marine Biodiversity

- Capacity building for local authorities, tourism sector, and fisherfolk in identifying marine climate threats and possible solutions, as well as in data collection, monitoring, and analysis (including LIDAR data analysis).
- Support the restoration and protection of marine ecosystem services, i.e. coral restoration, protection and restoration of salt ponds (where possible), deployment of mooring buoys around coral reefs and sensitive marine habitats, establishment of artificial reefs, integration of tourism activity into conservation of natural marine sites, marine spatial zoning.
- Support integrated environmental awareness campaigns to residents with a focus on the connections between individual actions and impact on the environment.
- Support studies on ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as of the socio-economic impacts of climate changes on these services.
- Support research projects such as an Environmental Social Impact Assessment (EISA) to provide a better understanding of the critical marine issues, how these issues can be prioritiz-

ed and how to integrate public/private sectors to help resolve them and inform a evidence process to develop sound marine spatial planning.

- Assist in the sustainable use of marine resources by supporting various activities such as for example the reduction of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing with a Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) or Automatic Identification System (AIS) program, the deployment of mooring buoys, automated monitoring stations, and biodegradable and Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs).

Resilience

- Support the implementation of the SMART (Sustained Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilient Techniques) Community model and methodology. Packaging of good practices and offering specialized training. Interconnecting strategic plans and procedures. Acquiring educational material for schools, and developing awareness raising campaigns for schools, shelters, building codes, and promoting resilient development and disaster risk reduction with key stakeholders.
- Support schools to achieve 'SMART (Safe, Healthy and Green) Schools Certification.
- Expansion of the Geographic Information System for disaster risk reduction, including equipment, acquiring data, studies (micro-zonation, soil assessment, land management, flood risks) for disaster risk management.

How could BVI benefit from the RESEMBID regional approach?

The RESEMBID programme in BVI will be a mix of

national and regional interventions. The regional programme components will address strategic and thematic areas common to OCTs in the Caribbean including climate smart and sustainable development and capacity building. This regional approach will contribute to tackling the identified needs of BVI. In particular, this approach will support BVI's local and national stakeholders with:

- Enhancing capacity building in Proposal and Grant Writing and Management; Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting and Communication.
- Training and capacity building in integrating science and technical studies into policy and local plans developments.
- Supporting the gathering, collection, systematization and analysis of baseline data for climate change, energy, and marine biodiversity.
- Supporting technical exchanges among OCTs and the Caribbean region to share best practices, lessons learnt and to conduct in-situ trainings (e.g. adoption of best practices on building codes, reef management and monitoring, safe schools and resilient development, aspects of resilient agriculture).
- Capacity building for integrating SDGs indicators and targets in long-term strategic planning.

RESEMBID timeline: January - June, 2020

The following activities are planned from January to June 2020:

- Design of national and regional activities in relation to RESEMBID mandate.

- Call for proposals - OCT stakeholders have the opportunity to submit concrete project concepts using the "Project concept note template" to add and prioritise proposed activities. Additional guidelines on this submission process will be communicated with the RESEMBID Focal point.
- Identification of best implementation options and partners in each OCTs.

RESEMBID timeline: January - June, 2020



OCT solutions

F R O M T H E G R O U N D U P

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