



# GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

### DEVELOPMENT OF LAND BASED NURSERY FOR *DIADEMA ANTILLARUM* IN NORTHEAST PUERTO RICO

The Department of Natural and Environmental Resources through the Natural Protected Areas Bureau (NPAB) is seeking applicants to develop a land based nursery of the black sea urchin (*Diadema antillarum*) to create a supply of individuals for reintroduction into selected coral reefs of the northeastern area of Puerto Rico.

*D. antillarum* is an important herbivore of coral reefs in the Caribbean. Along with other crucial factors such as pollution, disease and climate change, the sudden disappearance of this species has been a factor in the rapid decline of coral reef ecosystems. Decades after the 1980's die off event, current populations are still struggling to recover to pre-die off densities and could benefit from reintroduction as a method of supporting the long term resilience of the urchin populations and associated coral reefs.

The northeast region of Puerto Rico includes over 3,000 ha of coral reef habitats that are protected under the designations of the Northeast Ecological Corridor Marine Extension, the Arrecifes de la Cordillera and Canal de Luis Peña Natural Reserves. *Ramicrosta* cover— an additional recent stressor— is extremely high on the coral reefs within these reserves. At the present, there are not enough adult *D. antillarum* on these reefs to control the abundance of this dangerous algae. In order for coral populations to recover or be restored, *Ramicrosta* abundance needs to be reduced. Therefore, it is pivotal to restock more lab-reared *D. antillarum* to the coral reefs within the area.

The project has the following objectives: 1) Design and establishment of a land based nursery in Ceiba, PR 2) Husbandry of sea urchins and reintroduction into local reefs where populations are in need of support.

Special consideration will be given to the following types of projects:

- Those that specify how the project will be designed and constructed in a cost-effective manner (in the context of use of space and available funding)
- Those that can provide evidence of experience in the development and operation of large-scale land-based sea urchin husbandry
- Those that can provide evidence of experience in the field techniques concerning reintroduction of this species
- Those that can research and consider historical conditions in the region to select appropriate reintroduction sites
- Those that emphasize stakeholders and community involvement.



Tasks:

- Must comply with federal and commonwealth laws and regulatory as applicable like: [Puerto Rico Environmental Public Policy Law, National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#), Regulation 4860, Regulation for the Management of Vulnerable and Endangered Species in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, among others.
- Develop a workplan in junction with DNER personnel.
- Planning, design, request permits and implement the project.
- Submit quarterly progress reports and with each invoice.
- Coordinate the design and development of a land-based sea urchin nursery in Ceiba, PR (Phase 1)
- Develop a plan for the implementation of the reintroduction phase (Phase 2)
- Hire personnel that will oversee field operations of both Phase 1 and 2
- Coordinate any and all restoration actions with DNER personnel and interested stakeholders
- Submit a final report summarizing the following:
  - Methodology used to design and implement the project
  - Data summary and findings
  - Lessons learned over the course of the project
  - Recommendations for future or follow-up work

**Proposal content: The proposal should not exceed 10 pages in length. Pages in excess of 10 will not be reviewed.** The proposal should address the following items in a concise and yet complete manner and offer all the necessary information for the evaluation the proposal:

(1) Title page.

- Project title
- Project team/Project team organization – include name, title, affiliations and contact information of the project leader and key personnel.
- Project Cost- including deliverables (progress report, etc)
- Abstract- describe briefly the project being proposed, and any important details.

(2) Proposal Narrative:

- **Goals and Objectives**
- **Methodology**- outline project design and describe tasks that will be completed to meet the project objectives
- **Roles and Responsibilities**- define the roles and responsibilities of all project participants

- **Relevant Experience**-briefly describe relevant experience of the project leader and partners.
- **Outputs, Outcomes, and Evaluation**- specify the expected products and results that will be produced over the course of the project. Discuss the methods to evaluate the effectiveness and success of the project.
- **Project Schedule** - dates of starting and finishing project, as well as a detailed time frame regarding reports, milestones and/or specific activities.
- **Project Budget** – matching funds are encouraged, but not required.

**Eligibility:** All entities authorized to work in Puerto Rico

- **Available funding:** \$412,000 This project will be implemented in two phases: 1) Coordinate the design and development of a land-based sea urchin nursery in Ceiba, PR; 2) Develop a plan for and implement the reintroduction phase

**Estimated Timeframe:** December 2021 through November 2023

**Submittal:** All proposals must be received by 4:00pm EST on Friday November 19, 2021.

Applicants should submit both an electronic and hardcopy of their proposal as follows:

- Digital- pdf or *Microsoft Word* documents. Should be sent at rcolon@drna.pr.gov
- Hard copy- Encouraged but not required. Hard copies should be delivered to:

**Dr. Ricardo J. Colón-Rivera**  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
**Bureau of Natural Protected Areas**  
**Edificio Cruz A. Matos**  
**Carr. 8838 km 6.3 El Cinco**  
**Río Piedras, PR 00936**

**Proposal Evaluation Process:** Proposals that meet all the requirements of this RFP will be evaluated by a review team of the NPAB. Proposals will be evaluated on the applicant's demonstrated ability to perform the tasks previously described. Evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed practices and partners involved will also weigh heavily. The criteria that will be used to evaluate the Proposals will be:

- a. Comprehensiveness of the proposal.
- b. Individual or firm's experience and history of performance on similar projects, regarding such factors as quality of work, cost control, and ability to meet schedule.
- c. Adequacy of technical staff, as demonstrated by experience, education, and potential project role.
- d. Firm or individual understands of the services required by the DNER.

- e. Proposed costs.
- f. Organization and scheduling of the project requirements.
- g. Knowledge and ability to comply with federal procurement standards and grant regulations.
- h. Professional quality of the Project Proposal: conciseness, clarity, and thoroughness of presentation.
- i. Project manager accessibility.
- j. Ability to complete project in a short period of time.

**Consultant Selection Notification:** DNER will notify the selection of the consultant not later than December 5, 2021.

**Other Special Conditions:**

- This RFP does not commit the to award a contract, to defray any costs incurred in the preparation of a Proposal pursuant to this RFP, or to procure or contract for work.
- All Proposals submitted in response to this RFP will become property of the DNER and will be public records, and as such they may be subjected to public review.
- The DNER, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel this RFP for any or no reason, in part or in its entirety, including but not limited to: selection schedule, submittal date, and submittal requirements. If the DNER cancels or revises the RFP, all potential Contractors will received notification letter advising the cancelation or revision of the RFP.
- The DNER reserves the right to request additional information and/or clarifications from any or all potential Contractors participating in this RFP.
- Announcement of the selected contractor, contract awards, and all data provided by the DNER shall be protected from public disclosure. Consultants desiring to release information to the public must receive prior written approval from the DNER. The DNER, at its sole discretion, shall determine the release and disclosure of information related to this RFP and any final work products as a result of this.
- It will be required that, the selected Contractor signs a contract for Professional Services.