



Request for Proposals (RfP) Facilitators for IUCN Synthetic Biology Policy Development Process

IUCN Headquarters, Science Team + International Policy Centre

RfP Reference: IUCN-23-06-P04417-2

Welcome to this Procurement by IUCN. You are hereby invited to submit a Proposal. Please read the information and instructions carefully because non-compliance with the instructions may result in disqualification of your Proposal from this Procurement.

1. REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. A detailed description of the services and/or goods to be provided can be found in Attachment 1.

2. CONTACT DETAILS

- 2.1. During the course of this procurement, i.e. from the publication of this RfP to the award of a contract, you may not discuss this procurement with any IUCN employee or representative other than the following contact. You must address all correspondence and questions to the contact, including your Proposal.

IUCN Contact: Thomas Brooks, Chief Scientist, thomas.brooks@iucn.org

3. PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE

- 3.1. This timetable is indicative and may be changed by IUCN at any time. If IUCN decides that changes to any of the deadlines are necessary, we will publish this on our website and contact you directly if you have indicated your interest in this procurement (see Section 3.2).

DATE	ACTIVITY
23 Jun 2023	Publication of the Request for Proposals
7 Jul 2023	Deadline for expressions of interest
7 Jul 2023	Deadline for submission of questions
14 Jul 2023	Planned publication of responses to questions
21 Jul 2023	Deadline for submission of Proposals to IUCN (" Submission Deadline ")
28 Jul 2023	Clarification of Proposals
4 Aug 2023	Planned date for contract award
11 Aug 2023	Expected contract start date

- 3.2. Please email the IUCN contact to express your interest in submitting a Proposal by the deadline stated above. This will help IUCN to keep you updated regarding the procurement.

4. COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

4.1. Your Proposal must consist of the following four separate documents:

- Signed Declaration of Undertaking (see Attachment 2)
- Pre-Qualification Information (see Section 4.3 below)
- Technical Proposal (see Section 4.4 below)
- Financial Proposal (see Section 4.5 below)

Proposals must be prepared in English.

4.2. Your Proposal must be submitted by email to the IUCN Contact (see Section 2). The subject heading of the email shall be [RfP Reference – bidder name]. The bidder name is the name of the company/organisation on whose behalf you are submitting the Proposal, or your own surname if you are bidding as a self-employed consultant. Your Proposal must be submitted in PDF format. You may submit multiple emails suitably annotated, e.g. Email 1 of 3, if attached files are too large to suit a single email transmission. You may not submit your Proposal by uploading it to a file-sharing tool.

IMPORTANT: Submitted documents must be password-protected so that they cannot be opened and read before the submission deadline. Please use the same password for all submitted documents. After the deadline has passed and within 12 hours, please send the password to the IUCN Contact. This will ensure a secure bid submission and opening process. Please DO NOT email the password before the deadline for Proposal submission.

4.3. *Pre-Qualification Criteria*

IUCN will use the following Pre-Qualification Criteria to determine whether you have the capacity to provide the required goods and/or services to IUCN. Please provide the necessary information in a single, separate document.

Pre-Qualification Criteria	
1	3 relevant references of clients similar to IUCN / similar work
2	Confirm that you have all the necessary legal registrations to perform the work
3	State your annual turnover for each of the past 3 years
4	How many employees does your organisation have who are qualified for this work?
5	Proponent is a respected scientific institution (e.g. a national academy of natural and social science)

4.4. *Technical Proposal*

The Technical Proposal must address each of the criteria stated below explicitly and separately, quoting the relevant criteria reference number (left-hand column).

Proposals in any other format will significantly increase the time it takes to evaluate, and such Proposals may therefore be rejected at IUCN’s discretion.

Where CVs are requested, these must be of the individuals who will actually carry out the work specified. The individuals you put forward may only be substituted with IUCN’s approval.

IUCN will evaluate Technical Proposals with regards to each of the following criteria and their relative importance:

	Description	Information to provide	Relative weight
1	Description of approach to development of guidance documents	Proposed approach to delivery of specific role #1	15
2	Description of approach to facilitation of citizens’ assembly deliberation meeting	Proposed approach to delivery of specific role #2	15

3	Description of approach to facilitation of Policy Development Working Group meetings	Proposed approach to delivery of specific role #3	15
4	Demonstrated expertise and impartiality of institution in facilitation	Documentation of institution's previous work in facilitating similar processes	25
5	Quality of References	References or testimonials from clients for whom the institution has performed similar work	15
6	Quality of CVs	CVs for the individuals proposed as Facilitators	15
TOTAL			100%

4.5. *Financial Proposal*

4.5.1. The Financial Proposal must be a fixed and firm price for the provision of the goods/services stated in the RfP in their entirety.

4.5.2. *Prices include all costs*

Submitted rates and prices are deemed to include all costs (except travel, see Terms of Reference, Attachment 1), insurances, taxes (except VAT, see below), fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Terms of Reference or Specification of Requirements. IUCN will not accept charges beyond those clearly stated in the Financial Proposal. This includes applicable withholding taxes and similar. It is your responsibility to determine whether such taxes apply to your organisation and to include them in your Financial Proposal.

4.5.3. *Applicable Goods and Services Taxes*

Proposal rates and prices shall be exclusive of Value Added Tax.

4.5.4. *Currency of proposed rates and prices*

All rates and prices submitted by Proposers shall be in Swiss Francs (CHF).

4.6. Additional information not requested by IUCN should not be included in your Proposal and will not be considered in the evaluation.

4.7. Your Proposal must remain valid and capable of acceptance by IUCN for a period of 90 calendar days following the submission deadline.

4.8. *Withdrawals and Changes*

You may freely withdraw or change your Proposal at any time prior to the submission deadline by written notice to the IUCN Contact. However, in order to reduce the risk of fraud, no changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the submission deadline.

5. **EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

5.1. *Completeness*

IUCN will firstly check your Proposal for completeness. Incomplete Proposals will not be considered further.

5.2. *Pre-Qualification Criteria*

Only Proposals that meet all of the pre-qualification criteria will be evaluated.

5.3. *Technical Evaluation*

5.3.1. *Scoring Method*

Your Proposal will be assigned a score from 0 to 10 for each of the technical evaluation criteria, such that '0' is low and '10' is high.

5.3.2. *Minimum Quality Thresholds*

Proposals that receive a score of '0' for any of the criteria will not be considered further.

5.3.3. *Technical Score*

Your score for each technical evaluation criterion will be multiplied with the respective relative weight (see Section 4.4) and these weighted scores added together to give your Proposal's overall technical score.

5.4. *Financial Evaluation and Financial Scores*

The financial evaluation will be based upon the full total price you submit. Your Financial Proposal will receive a score calculated by dividing the lowest Financial Proposal that has passed the minimum quality thresholds (see Section 5.3.2) by the total price of your Financial Proposal.

Thus, for example, if your Financial Proposal is for a total of CHF 100 and the lowest Financial Proposal is CHF 80, you will receive a financial score of $80/100 = 80\%$

5.5. *Total Score*

Your Proposal's total score will be calculated as the weighted sum of your technical score and your financial score.

The relative weights will be:

Technical: 66.6%
Financial: 33.3%

Thus, for example, if your technical score is 83% and your financial score is 77%, you will receive a total score of $83 * 66.6\% + 77 * 33.3\% = 55.3\% + 25.6\% = 80.9\%$.

Subject to the requirements in Sections 4 and 7, IUCN will award the contract to the bidder whose Proposal achieves the highest total score.

6. **EXPLANATION OF PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE**

6.1. IUCN is using the Open Procedure for this procurement. This means that the contracting opportunity is published on IUCN's website and open to all interested parties to take part, subject to the conditions in Section 7 below.

6.2. You are welcome to ask questions or seek clarification regarding this procurement. Please email the IUCN Contact (see Section 2), taking note of the deadline for submission of questions in Section 3.1.

6.3. All Proposals must be received by the submission deadline in Section 3.1 above. Late Proposals will not be considered. All Proposals received by the submission deadline will be evaluated by a team of three or more evaluators in accordance with the evaluation criteria stated in this RfP. No other criteria will be used to evaluate Proposals. The contract will be awarded to the bidder whose Proposal received the highest Total Score. IUCN does, however, reserve the right to cancel the procurement and not award a contract at all.

6.4. IUCN will contact the bidder with the highest-scoring Proposal to finalise the contract. We will contact unsuccessful bidders after the contract has been awarded and provide detailed feedback. The timetable in Section 3.1 gives an estimate of when we expect to have completed the contract award, but this date may change depending on how long the evaluation of Proposals takes.

7. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCUREMENT

- 7.1. To participate in this procurement, you are required to submit a Proposal, which fully complies with the instructions in this RfP and the Attachments.
- 7.1.1. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have submitted a complete and fully compliant Proposal.
- 7.1.2. Any incomplete or incorrectly completed Proposal submission may be deemed non-compliant, and as a result you may be unable to proceed further in the procurement process.
- 7.1.3. IUCN will query any obvious clerical errors in your Proposal and may, at IUCN's sole discretion, allow you to correct these, but only if doing so could not be perceived as giving you an unfair advantage.
- 7.2. In order to participate in this procurement, you must meet the following conditions:
- Free of conflicts of interest
 - Registered on the relevant professional or trade register of the country in which you are established (or resident, if self-employed)
 - In full compliance with your obligations relating to payment of social security contributions and of all applicable taxes
 - Not been convicted of failing to comply with environmental regulatory requirements or other legal requirements relating to sustainability and environmental protection
 - Not bankrupt or being wound up
 - Never been guilty of an offence concerning your professional conduct
 - Not involved in fraud, corruption, a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism, or any other illegal activity.
- 7.3. You must complete and sign the Declaration of Undertaking (see Attachment 2).
- 7.4. If you are participating in this procurement as a member of a joint venture, or are using sub-contractors, submit a separate Declaration of Undertaking for each member of the joint venture and sub-contractor, and be clear in your Proposal which parts of the goods/services are provided by each partner or sub-contractor.
- 7.5. Each bidder shall submit only one Proposal, either individually or as a partner in a joint venture. In case of joint venture, one company shall not be allowed to participate in two different joint ventures in the same procurement nor shall a company be allowed to submit a Proposal both on its behalf and as part of a joint venture for the same procurement. A bidder who submits or participates in more than one Proposal (other than as a subcontractor or in cases of alternatives that have been permitted or requested) shall cause all the Proposals with the bidder's participation to be disqualified.
- 7.6. By taking part in this procurement, you accept the conditions set out in this RfP, including the following:
- It is unacceptable to give or offer any gift or consideration to an employee or other representative of IUCN as a reward or inducement in relation to the awarding of a contract. Such action will give IUCN the right to exclude you from this and any future procurements, and to terminate any contract that may have been signed with you.
 - Any attempt to obtain information from an employee or other representative of IUCN concerning another bidder will result in disqualification.
 - Any price fixing or collusion with other bidders in relation to this procurement shall give IUCN the right to exclude you and any other involved bidder(s) from this and any future procurements and may constitute a criminal offence.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

- 8.1. IUCN follows the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The information you submit to IUCN as part of this procurement will be treated as confidential and shared only as required to evaluate your Proposal in line with the procedure explained in this RfP, and for the maintenance of a clear audit trail. For audit purposes, IUCN is required to retain your Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after the end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.
- 8.2. In the Declaration of Undertaking (Attachment 2) you need to give IUCN express permission to use the information you submit in this way, including personal data that forms part of your Proposal. Where you include personal data of your employees (e.g. CVs) in your Proposal, you need to have written permission from those individuals to share this information with IUCN, and for IUCN to use this information as indicated in 8.1. Without these permissions, IUCN will not be able to consider your Proposal.

9. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If you have a complaint or concern regarding the propriety of how a competitive process is or has been executed, then please contact procurement@iucn.org. Such complaints or concerns will be treated as confidential and are not considered in breach of the above restrictions on communication (Section 2.1).

10. CONTRACT

The contract will be based on IUCN's template in Attachment 3, the terms of which are not negotiable. They may, however, be amended by IUCN to reflect particular requirements from the donor funding this particular procurement.

11. ABOUT IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 1,000 staff with offices in more than 50 countries.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org

<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

12. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 *Specification of Requirements / Terms of Reference*

Attachment 2 *Declaration of Undertaking*

Attachment 3 *Contract Template*

Attachment 1 *Specification of Requirements / Terms of Reference*

Facilitators for IUCN Synthetic Biology Policy Development Process

Context and background

Context: IUCN and its Members are initiating development of a policy on the implications of synthetic biology in nature conservation. Recent technological advancements in synthetic biology create both significant risks and significant opportunities for nature conservation, as well as challenges in creating a meaningful and coherent policy to guide its potential applications. IUCN is therefore following a rigorous process to engage its Member organisations and experts in the development of the IUCN policy.

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines synthetic biology as “a further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems”. This is important for nature conservation.

On the one hand, synthetic biology could impose new risks for nature. Implemented or governed poorly, it could, for example, introduce genetic pollution into native species, jeopardising their persistence. Other risks could be indirect, such as through use of synthetic biology to open new agricultural frontiers, threatening biodiversity through land conversion.

On the other hand, synthetic biology could open new opportunities for nature conservation. For instance, it may offer solutions to currently unsolvable threats to biodiversity, such as those caused by invasive alien species and diseases. Such opportunities could also be indirect, perhaps through allowing sustainable intensification of agriculture and thus reducing pressure on natural ecosystems elsewhere.

Shaping a coherent nature conservation policy on synthetic biology is challenging for multiple reasons. The technology is expanding extremely rapidly. Collaboration between countries is essential, as is collaboration across levels of governance from indigenous peoples and local communities through to multilateral environmental agreements. The subject is complex, and misconceptions are rife. Maybe most challenging, the issue is highly polarised across the conservation community (and society as a whole), with small proportions of conservationists strongly opposed to or supportive of the technology, and many as-yet-un-decided what the best policies might be.

Background: At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, USA, in September 2016, IUCN Members adopted [WCC 2016 Res 086](#). This Resolution mandated the development and publication of an assessment on synthetic biology and biodiversity conservation, under the authority of the Chairs of all six of IUCN's independent expert Commissions, and the IUCN Director General. This assessment was published in 2019 as “[Genetic Frontiers for Conservation](#)”, with an accompanying “[Synthesis and Key Messages](#)” for policy-makers.

Building from this, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, in September 2021 adopted [WCC 2020 Res 123](#), establishing a process for development of an IUCN policy, to include both an inclusive process across the Union and the appointment of a Policy Development Working Group.

IUCN Council discussed the process in their [108th](#) and [109th Meetings](#) in Gland, Switzerland in May 2022, and their Decision C109/8 approved a [process](#) for implementation of the Resolution and revised [Terms of Reference](#) for the specific bodies involved. This documentation adds specification to the planned inclusive process (including for it to encompass a “Citizens’ Assembly” established

through stratified random selection from across the IUCN Membership) and to the planned Policy Development Working Group.

The IUCN Council endorsed a request for financial support in implementing the Resolution, sent by the IUCN Director General to IUCN Government Members and philanthropic foundations. This resource mobilisation will trigger the implementation of the policy development, with the anticipation that a draft IUCN Policy on Synthetic Biology and Nature Conservation is ready for consideration by the IUCN Membership at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Importantly, IUCN is not approaching private sector and campaigning organisations for financial support, to reduce any risk of perceived conflict of interest.

This context and background is also posted online at <http://www.iucn.org/synbio>.

Specific Terms of Reference for the Facilitators for IUCN Synthetic Biology Policy Development Process

Composition: Anticipated to be three individuals, from a respected scientific institution (e.g. national academies of natural and social science), selected through the IUCN procurement process. The same institution may be selected to provide both the facilitation and the training functions (see RfP Reference: IUCN-23-06-P04417-1), to reduce transaction costs and increase continuity and efficiency of the process.

Objective: Facilitate the meetings of the citizens' assembly and of the Policy Development Working Group.

Specific roles:

- 1) Produce brief guidance documents on how different components of IUCN can carry out inclusive processes, including grassroots online discussions, to discuss synthetic biology and collect inputs from discussions and produce summary reports (National, Regional and Interregional Committees, Regional Conservation Fora, Commissions);
- 2) Facilitate at least one deliberation meeting of the citizens' assembly to produce recommendations for the Policy Development Working Group regarding content of the IUCN policy;
- 3) Facilitate the three in-person meetings of the Policy Development Working Group to produce respectively first, second, and third drafts of "IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation", and responses to IUCN constituency review comments on first and second drafts;
- 4) Support deliberation of draft "IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation" at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Mode of operation: 1) At least one in-person meeting of the citizens' assembly; 2) Three in-person meetings of the Policy Development Working Group to produce respectively first, second, and third drafts of "IUCN policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation", and responses to IUCN constituency review comments on first and second drafts; 3) Address ongoing issues by email or electronic meetings as needed; 4) Attend the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Elements to be excluded from budget: costs of travel (economy class air or rail tickets), accommodation, and meals for the leading the training session of the citizens' assembly are budgeted separately to this RfP, and should not be included within respondents' financial proposals. Travel will be subject to IUCN's travel policy for non-staff (https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/iucn_travel_policy_for_non-staff_v1.2_july2019.pdf).