

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

Title of Assignment	Analysis of the current situation in Marshes of Basra in South Iraq	
Location	South o Iraq	
Project name	Support the sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in water-scarce regions of Marshes in South Iraq using the WEFE Nexus approach).	
Timeframe	From: Upon signature	To: 31st October 2023

Background

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's leading conservation membership union, established over 70 years ago and composed of over 1,400 member-based organisations of government and civil society organisations and more than 18,000 experts. The union's mission is to encourage and assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. Through its Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) and related global programs, IUCN seeks to strengthen its presence in Iraq, particularly in the Basra governorate, on initiatives aligning with IUCN's mission and priorities.

In this project, IUCN will aim to enhance the community's ability, especially smallholder subsistence farmers, to address climate-induced irrigation and drinking water shortages by improving the resilience of farms and land management practices, introducing nature-based solutions, and climate-proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Marshes of Southern Iraq.

Context of the project

IUCN ROWA is planning to implement a new project in the South of Iraq to support sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in water-scarce regions of Marshes in South Iraq using the WEFE Nexus approach).

The proposed program will enhance populations' ability, especially smallholder subsistence farmers, to address climate-induced irrigation and drinking water shortages by improving the resilience of farm and land management practices and climate-proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Marshes areas. This will enhance the livelihood opportunities of the people living in the Marshes.

Water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) are interconnected and comprise a coherent system (nexus) characterized by high complexity and modulated by climatic, environmental, and socio-economic drivers. Economic development (including optimal trade, market, and policy solutions) is hampered by resource constraints and their interlinkages within the nexus. Furthermore, adopting a sectoral approach to understanding physical processes and developing/implementing policies may affect nexus characteristics, affecting decision-making and policy formulation. However, most existing research for the South of Iraq has dealt with the individual resources — water, energy, food, and ecosystems independently. Only limited work has been focused on the interaction among these resources, especially in a changing climate and increasing frequency of extreme hydroclimatic events,

such as floods and droughts. Hence, there is a giant gap in knowledge about the nexus, particularly in the Marshes area.

IUCN ROWA aims to contribute to bridging this gap by applying data-driven methods to detect interlinkages among four nexus components in the Marshes area and to discover patterns and potential feedback mechanisms based on a comprehensive data set of environmental, hydroclimatic, and socio-economic data. The results will provide a solid ground for developing coherent policies and designing future programs for optimal resource management in a changing climate in Southern of Iraq. The program will aim to enhance populations' ability, especially smallholder subsistence farmers, to address climate-induced irrigation and drinking water shortages by improving the resilience of farms and land management practices and climate-proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Marshes of Southern Iraq. Phase one of the program aims to understand the water shortage and climate change in Marshes fully –Iraq, as a first step toward effectively addressing its deep social and economic impacts and promoting sustainable green solutions.

Scope of Work

IUCN – ROWA seeks a qualified consultant company or individuals to support in **developing a comprehensive project proposal** on WEFE nexus in the marshes area of Basra in the South of Iraq.

IUCN and the consultant will conduct fact-finding missions in Iraq to identify suitable partner(s) for collaboration, exchanging knowledge, and building capacity in environmental, climate, and sustainable resource utilisation.

Following the results of the meetings, workshop, data collection and desk review, the consultant will develop a proposal for a multi-year program. the specific objectives of this consultancy include:

- Meet and connect with various Iraqi stakeholders at national and local levels such as organisations such as Ministries, NGOs, institutes, and universities to find suitable collaboration partners.
- Identify specific areas of possible cooperation and present them to IUCN.
- Conduct a strategic analysis of the current situation, gaps and needs by gathering information about the context and relying on the WEFE nexus methodology. Once this information is collected, the consultant should identify specific geographical areas where a tangible impact on the ground can be made.
- Elaborate and present to IUCN a full three years project proposal with a budget and time schedule.

Deliverables

For the implementation of this consultancy, the consultant will be responsible for delivering the following specific deliverables within the following time frame to IUCN's Regional Office for West Asia.

Deliverable	Deliverable Description	Timeframe
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D 1	Inception report and updated work plan. It aims to illustrate and present clearly and timely all methodologies and approaches that will be applied. The work plan has a clear timeframe for implementing the assigned deliverable.	25 th August 2023
D 2	Desk review: conduct a desk review of all available reports, studies, and secondary data from key ministries and agencies.	3 rd September 2023
D 3	Field data collection: conduct field data collection through KII and FGDs with key stakeholders as agreed in the inception report	10 th September
D 4	Prepare Workshop and one-to-one meetings: support in organizing a field visit for the IUCN team to do meetings with key stakeholders at the national and local levels. Prepare a workshop with stakeholders at the local level in Basra.	20 th September 2023
D 5	Proposal Submission: submit the draft proposal report to the IUCN team for comments and feedback	30 th September 2023
D6	<p>Final Project Proposal: A comprehensive final proposal report that includes:</p> <p>a. Theory of Change for the whole project, as well as theory of change for each of the countries included in the proposal</p> <p>b. Overall result management framework, with clear expected outcomes and SMART indicators of progress for the entire project, as well as separate/complementary result management frameworks for each of the countries included in the proposal</p> <p>c. Overall risk framework, with analysis of main organizational, institutional, political risks, level of likelihood and impact, and mitigation measures for each of the risks</p> <p>d. List of proposed activities, with a timeline within each of the countries included in the proposal</p>	10 th October 2023

Payment Schedule

The consultant is expected to submit all deliverables by the end of September 2023 through office and fieldwork, and consultation with the IUCN ROWA, Key experts, and stakeholders. The IUCN-ROWA office must approve the planned deliverables before they can be accepted.

The consultant shall submit an invoice according to the schedule of payments described below:

- 30% upon signing the contract.
- 40% upon delivery and approval of the following deliverables: D1-D2-D3-D4-D5
- 30% upon delivery and approval of the final reports of the proposal (D 6).

Monitoring, control, and validation of the work

The consultant will work collaboratively with the IUCN ROWA- water and climate change program to successfully deliver the assignment deliverables. Provisional approval of submitted deliverables shall occur at each defined milestone in the deliverables section. The consultant shall account for a minimum period of two weeks when delivering the reports for IUCN to review and accept the deliverables. The consultant is expected to hand in the final version of the deliverables no later than 15 days after IUCN and relevant stakeholders have made their observations and comments. The delivery schedule should be agreed upon with IUCN ROWA at the start of the project and confirmed before each milestone.

Compensation modality and indicative budget

1. The consultant will be paid through a lump sum amount which is all-costs inclusive. All costs (professional fees, travel costs, living allowances, communications, consumables, etc.) that could possibly be incurred by the consultant must be factored into the final amounts submitted in the financial proposal. Note that the contract price is fixed regardless of changes in the cost component.
2. If the consultant is subject to tax in the territory of Jordan in respect of the consideration received under this agreement, the consultant hereby acknowledges that IUCN is entitled to deduct 5% for residents of Jordan and 10% for residents outside Jordan, in addition to 1% as a national contribution for non-residents, as income tax arising or made in connection with this agreement. Also, IUCN will deduct a 5% amount as admin and review costs arising or made in connection with this agreement.
3. Financial offers shall be submitted in US dollars.

Qualifications of Successful Candidate

The firm or individual consultant(s) should have:

- A demonstrable understanding of the issues and players in Basra - Iraq
- A Demonstrated Experience identifying project scope, objectives, and outcomes
- Experience developing budgeted project proposals
- Ability to work with different stakeholders at national and local levels and coalitions of CSOs and a multitude of NGOs with diverse backgrounds and different levels of knowledge and expertise and connecting
- Excellent and timely communication
- Ability to work and deliver under tight deadlines
- Experience working in Iraq on water-related topics and on the WEF nexus

Nature of penalty clause in the contract

If the requested deliverables are not submitted within the timeframe stated in this TOR, the payments will be withheld. International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA) reserves the right to:

- Withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs are incomplete, not delivered, or for failure to meet deadlines.
- All materials developed will remain the copyright of IUCN and IUCN will be free to adapt and modify them in the future.

Important notes:

- All the deliverables from the consultants whether reports, presentations, documents, etc. should include (IUCN) logo and it should be mentioned whenever this activity is mentioned.
- Any pictures, figures, charts, etc. used in this consultancy must include the copyrights.
- The final compiled reports for this assignment will need to follow IUCN's visual identity and publication guidelines, which will be provided by IUCN, if applicable.