



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS

Title of Assignment	Consultancy to apply the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology	
Location	Petra and Shoubak districts	
Project	Enhancing Climate Resilience of Biodiversity Hotspots in Jordan	
Duration	8 Month	
	From: Upon signing the contract	To: 31 May, 2024

Background

The initiative "Enhancing Climate Resilience of Biodiversity hot spots in Jordan " aims to improve the resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change of vulnerable ecosystems and vulnerable communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Protected areas, when well designed, well-connected, and effectively managed, deliver important ecosystem services to human populations in general, and specifically to neighbouring communities. In Jordan, local communities living around protected areas are benefiting from employment opportunities, eco-tourism development options, provision of healthy rangelands, medicinal plants, and development of socioeconomic projects that provide economic benefits. Climate change is one of the major threats on biodiversity, accelerating the loss of species and degradation of habitats, and the well-being of local communities, while well-designed protected areas are one of the main Nature-based Solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and sustain ecosystem services for human societies and to generate economic benefits for local communities that rely heavily on them.

The ecosystems vulnerability assessment conducted through Jordan's Third National Communication (TNC) Report showed that forests and water ecosystems are among the most vulnerable, highlighting the priority need to perform adaptation interventions within these two kinds of ecosystems. (http://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/jordans_third_national_communication_report-0.pdf). The TNC proposed to adopt a national wide protected area system, using diverse conservation governance forms including protected areas (PAs), "Hima" and special conservation areas (SCAs) that empowers local communities to conserve natural resources and improves their livelihoods by enhancing their adaptive capacity, in addition to involve them in restoration actions of degraded ecosystems, and encouraging the establishment of community forests to control soil erosion. Currently, Jordan's protected areas network covers only 5.3% of the country, while the international conservation community is trying to promote the adoption of the 30x30 initiative by conserving 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems globally by 2030. (<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/11/1/56>). Critical gaps in the current national network of protected areas include the lack of integration of the current and projected impacts of climate change on ecosystems, as well as the lack of comprehensive representation of some ecosystems.

Based on this, the project will contribute to enhancing the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and vulnerable communities on two geographic scales:

1. National scale: by aiming to increase the "percentage of critical climate-vulnerable ecosystems within the National Protected Areas Network". The project will also integrate climate change metrics within the design of the protected areas management effectiveness tracking tools to help tracking and achieving an effective protected areas network that is better resilient to the impacts of climate change.
2. Sub-national scale: by applying pilot interventions in Shoubak and Petra Districts from Ma'an Governorate southern Jordan that aim to achieve "increased areas of restored forest ecosystems in Shoubak and Petra southern Jordan", and an "increased percentage of women, youth and marginalized groups engaged in and benefiting from the implementation of Nature-based Solutions in Shoubak and Petra districts". The project will focus on pilot interventions targeting forest ecosystems in Shoubak and Petra, in southern Jordan, which are some of the most vulnerable ecosystems. It also tackles the impact of climate change

on vulnerable local communities, especially women, girls, and youth, sectors of the society most affected by the degradation and reduced productivity of these ecosystems.

The project's ultimate outcome will result in conserved and sustained ecosystem services for the benefit of local communities dependent on protected areas and the ecosystems conserved through these protected areas, which will contribute to poverty reduction across all sites where protected areas exist. The project's pilot interventions including Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Nature based Solutions (NbS) in the target locations in Petra and Shoubak will have a direct impact on enhancing the livelihoods and income of vulnerable communities through an extensive capacity building program that will target women, girls, and youth, and by engaging them in the FLR and NbS activities. This will not only enhance their income but will also improve their skills to achieve sustainable financial income.

Scope of Work and Objectives

Under the supervision of the Protected Areas, World Heritage and Biodiversity Programme Manager at IUCN ROWA, the consultant shall provide the following services:

- 1- **Facilitate and conduct a Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in Petra and Shoubak** districts southern Jordan in preparation for the Forest Landscape Restoration activity which will be conducted by the Project. The assessment shall be conducted following the Guide to [Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology](#) including all steps and key considerations, including the following:
 - Overall technical backstopping of the ROAM assessment in the project area, including stakeholder's consultations, data collection and analysis, and development of forest landscape restoration strategy report as a result of overall assessment process.
 - Identify the suitable plots for restoration within the area as well as the suitable species to optimize the Forest Landscape Restoration activity that targets restoring 750 Hectares in Petra and Shoubak districts. This can be done by reviewing the current and historical data in the study area, and in consultation with stakeholders including technical experts and local communities.
 - Stock-taking of landscape degradation and restoration- mapping out past restoration programs in the project area.
 - Guide to conceive a range of forest restoration scenarios that satisfy most of the goals for restoration in Petra and Shoubak including a FLR MAP.
 - Apply Multi Criteria spatial analysis (MCA) to identify degraded lands, specific threats, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to identify suitable areas for forest landscape restoration.
 - Identifying FLR options and Carbon analysis of FLR options- this includes understanding of the general concepts of carbon mitigation calculation using EX-ACT; Initiate the calculation of carbon baselines and projection for different restoration scenarios.
 - Preparing Cost benefit analysis (CBA) concept, compares and optimizes the Net present value (NPVs) of different FLR options, and identifying those FLR options that provide the largest CBA ratios and rates of return.
 - Develop preliminary cost and benefit analysis for priority FLR options in Petra and Shoubak Districts
 - The Economic and Financial Analysis of FLR Options including the Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP)
 - Preparing FLR financing strategy with the help of relevant stakeholders.
 - Identifying the enabling conditions for FLR implementation
 - Consult with the potential decision-makers and investors for the economic and financial viability of forest and landscape restoration in Jordan.
 - Participate in the field missions to support the implementation and provide a monitoring plan (with clear indicators) to monitor the success of restoration process in Petra and Shoubak.

- Share experiences from other ROAM processes and maximize synergies and cross fertilization of knowledge.
- ROAM report including a Forest landscape restoration plan that integrates women and youth with measurable monitoring indicators.

2- **Provide training on the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodologies (ROAM) for practitioners and stakeholders:** The exact number of days will be agreed mutually with the consultant but will range overall from 10 - 15 days split into 3 sessions:

- One technical overview session for forest restoration practitioners and other relevant stakeholders on the ROAM methodology.
- Two practical training sessions on the forest landscape restoration targeting local communities and beneficiaries to cover best practices in forest restoration and the restoration process.
- Providing support and guidance to the project team to conduct the ROAM assessment with stakeholders.

The consultant shall ensure the delivery of the outputs and activities and shall refer to the activity description in the project document.

Work relationships: The consultant shall report to Protected areas, World Heritage and Biodiversity programme manager Eng. Natalia Boulad.

Deliverables

The consultant shall submit the following to IUCN's Regional Office for West Asia:

Deliverable	Subject	Deadline
D1	Inception report: including background, workplan, methodology and training schedule and table of content of ROAM report	Mid-October, 2023
D2	Situation Analysis Report including literature review on Forest Landscape Restoration	Mid-November, 2023
D3	Initial Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Report to present the methodology and collect feedback from stakeholders	Mid-November, 2023
D4	Technical overview training session on ROAM for practitioners	January, 2023
D5	Draft report on the ROAM process implementation and initial results including the identification of suitable restoration sites /native species, and Draft Forest landscape restoration plan including women and youth to be planted and including all deliverables (D1-D4).	February, 2024
D6	Training workshop report (covering two practical trainings (targeting local communities and beneficiaries)	March, 2024
D7	Conduct National workshop to present ROAM results and prepared workshop report (workshop cost is not included in the consultant fees).	March, 2024
D8	Final ROAM report covering all assignment activities, final FLR plan integration youth and gender and submission of all spatial data, photographs, and other relevant data	April, 2024

The consultant will have **5** working days to reply on the comments and feedback remarks on the above-mentioned deliverables by GAC or IUCN.

Payment Schedule

The consultant is expected to conduct the work within **8 months**, through fieldwork, interviews and consultation with the IUCN ROWA and relevant stakeholders if needed (In total **50 working days distributed through the 3 months**). The consultant shall submit an invoice according to the schedule of payments described below:

- 20% upon the completion and approval of the Inception Report (D1).
- 20% upon the completion and approval of the Inception Report (D2, D3 and D4)
- 30% upon the completion and approval of deliverables (D5, D6).
- 30% upon the completion and finalisation if D7 and D8 and sign off of all deliverables by IUCN and the donor.

*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 national contribution for non-residents, as income tax arising or made in connection with this agreement. IUCN will also deduct a **5%** amount as admin and review cost arising or made in connection with this agreement.*

Qualifications of Successful Candidate

Consulting firms and organizations responding to the TOR should provide a team that covers the following expertise:

- At least one expert with a master's degree (PhD preferred) in natural resource management, forestry, agriculture, or similar field with 10+ years' work experience in natural resource management, forestry, agriculture, or related fields.
- At least one expert with strong knowledge of community development and participatory-based approaches, with a proven track-record of ROAM related studies
- Experience in facilitating collaboration with partners including at sub-national level across government, donors, private sector, NGOs, and local community-based organizations, among other stakeholders.
- Understanding of policies and regulations on restoration and natural resource management in Jordan or similar ecosystems.
- Experience in environmental research with forest and landscape restoration topics preferred.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills, especially within team members and multistakeholder contexts.
- Excellent analytical skills including R and GIS.
- Fluency in spoken and written English, Arabic is an asset.
- Excellent communication, writing, and presentation skills.

Important Note: All costs related to trainings including the training venue and accommodation of the participants and trainers will be covered by IUCN

Nature of penalty clause in 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 is 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:

1. All the deliverables from the consultant, whether reports, presentations, documents, etc. should include (IUCN, GAC), and the two institutions should be mentioned whenever an activity is mentioned.
2. Any pictures, figures, charts, etc. used in this consultancy must include the copyrights.
3. The final compiled reports for this assignment will need to follow IUCN's visual identity and publication guidelines, which will be provided by IUCN.