

IUCN-22-03-P04158-1: Reviewing biodiversity approaches and tools in the quarries sector

Responses to the Questions

- 1. Is the estimated budget of CHF 100,000 – CHF 120,000 intended to cover the entire three years of the project or is this an annual maximum?**

The budget estimate provided in the Terms of Reference (CHF 100,000 to 120,000) is intended to cover expenses over the three-year duration.

- 2. Is it intended that the consultant attend the CBD COP16 and IUCN Conservation Congress to present the results of work conducted in years 1 and 2, respectively?**

Although Holcim will likely present the work's results at key fora (CBD COP16, IUCN WCC), it will be at their discretion to determine if experts can participate in one or multiple sessions in the event of exceptional delivery of results.

- 3. Should the maximum budget of CHF 100,000 – CHF 120,000 include the budget for the development of knowledge and communication tools and travel or would these be additional?**

This budget envelope specifically addresses consultancy expenses and excludes additional costs related to travel, formatting, copyediting, and material layout. However, consultants are encouraged to provide estimates for their travel expenses separately within their financial proposal.

- 4. How many quarries will be included/ required for the execution of the project? The RFP stated visits to 2 but we are not quite sure if those are for reference or will be the ones for the entire project.**

The review of Holcim biodiversity baseline approach will cover all active and non-active quarries and consultants will evaluate BIRS implementation across all sites using a questionnaire. Additionally, and based on the questionnaire's results, consultants will conduct field visits in two pertinent sites for further examination in year 1. We do not anticipate field visits to additional sites at this stage.

- 5. What are the specific objectives and expected outcomes of the review of biodiversity approaches and tools in the quarry sector for the period 2025-2026?**

The anticipated objectives, outcomes, and deliverables for the 2025-2026 period are outlined on pages 9-11, as mutually agreed upon by Holcim and IUCN. It is worth noting that possible adjustments for 2025 and 2026 may be considered depending on the finding of 2024.

- 6. Could you provide additional details on the annual work plan agreed between Holcim and IUCN and how experts are expected to contribute?**

Holcim's priority is to receive, by the end of 2024, a third-party opinion on the robustness of its biodiversity baseline assessment approach to ensure credibility of Holcim's group biodiversity baseline index. Holcim-IUCN work plan for 2024 has been agreed upon to achieve this objective but other approaches suggested by experts can be considered as long as they support the achievement of

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the objective.

Work plans for 2025 and 2026 might be subject to changes over time based on initial results, potentially revised objectives and recommendations from experts.

7. Based on the 2024 findings, what are the priorities that could be mutually reviewed for 2025 and 2026?

The work plan for 2025 and 2026 might be subject to changes over time based on initial results from 2024 (e.g. practical guidance to BIRS implementation including calibrated STAR).

However, any changes that may be decided upon will always serve the overall objective (stated in the ToR, section 2.1)

8. How will regular updates on the various activities and the work plan be organized?

Similar to the monthly calls between IUCN and Holcim, IUCN will schedule monthly calls with the experts to receive updates on their progress. Additionally, the team lead may be invited to join IUCN-Holcim calls for further collaboration and coordination.

9. What materials will be considered confidential and what are the expectations regarding the management of this information?

Issues relating to the confidential management of information are specified in section 8 of the model consultancy contract annexed to the RfP. In addition, IUCN is subject to the same confidentiality obligations as Holcim. Overall and in general, any communication will need to be reviewed by and agreed upon between IUCN and Holcim.

10. What is the desirable experience in the use/application of BIRS or highly similar tools?

Given the tight timeframe for the completion of the biodiversity baseline review in 2024, IUCN will prioritize experts who have previous experience with, applied or are familiar with the methodological underpinnings of BIRS. IUCN will also consider candidates with experience in metrics that focus on ecosystem extent, condition, and significance.

11. How should the financial offer be structured considering possible adjustments to the scope of work for 2025 and 2026?

As specified in p.14, IUCN review of the financial offers will be focused on 2024. Nonetheless, we would like to assess the way the experts would allocate the budget envelope for 2025 and 2026. The budget envelopes for 2024, 2025 and 2026 are not necessarily expected to be equivalent, as the effort in year 1 may be more important.

12. Could you provide specific examples of how you expect the baseline methodology to be evaluated against science-based principles?

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As outlined on page 12 in the methods section, IUCN expects experts to identify and expand upon principles outlined in key literature, including CSBI, SBTN, BBOP, EU Business & Biodiversity Platform, among others. This will demonstrate a good understanding of best practices in assessing biodiversity baselines and associated metrics. In addition, the identification of science-based principles for the review will be taken into consideration during the evaluation of all applications by IUCN.

13. What are the prequalification criteria and minimum requirements for team members, including the lead expert and at least one team member?

The pre-qualification criteria are described in p.13 of the Terms of Reference.

14. How will you ensure that the baseline methodology is evaluated according to science-based principles and what will these principles be?

See the response to question 12.

15. What are your initial thoughts for identifying the most relevant sites for field evaluation, considering the different mission objectives?

We expect the identification of the most relevant sites for the visit to be grounded on initial results from the questionnaire, the experts' recommendations, the project team deliberations and other factors such as site accessibility. Holcim's views might be included.

16. How do you propose to accompany the integration of your possible comments from the beginning to the end of the project?

See the response to question 8.

17. Could you provide more details about the process of developing and delivering the questionnaire to site managers?

Following the initial findings from the desktop review, the experts will work closely with IUCN and Holcim to pinpoint key questions for the questionnaire's development. Once these questions are finalized, the questionnaire will be shared with Holcim. It is agreed with Holcim that they will proceed to distribute the questionnaire through their internal system and gather all responses.

18. How will sites be prioritized for baseline and positive nature review during the preliminary meeting with Holcim-IUCN?

See the response to question 15.

19. Since experience using/applying BIRS or highly similar tools is an advantage, could you specify which aspects of this experience are most critical to the success of the project?

See the response to question 10.

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20. Considering possible adjustments to the scope of work for 2025 and 2026, how should we structure our financial offer for 2024?

See the response to question 11.

21. In relation to the project schedule, how will the activities proposed in the bid align with the detailed schedule, especially for 2024?

The timetable described in the ToR is indicative, however Holcim asked us to respect two deadlines in order to take into account their internal constraints: (1) the questionnaire in June (July being a very busy month for site managers), and (2) the biodiversity baseline review at the end of 2024. The rest of the schedule can be adapted.

22. Is it possible to access Holcim's BIRS measurement information sources? That is, the detail of the methodology to collect and process the data, to the original data for each monitored/evaluated site?

While the experts are encouraged to utilize available online resources such as the "Biodiversity Management in the cement and aggregates sector: Biodiversity Indicator and Reporting System (BIRS)" document and the Biodiversity Management in the cement and aggregates sector (IBMS) from IUCN, additional technical documents will be provided to the successful candidate at a later stage.

These documents will include measurement information and methodology for BIRS, as well as other relevant materials such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment reports, Biodiversity Action Plans, Rehabilitation Plans, and Monitoring and Evaluation reports.

23. Will be available Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports (and information sources/methodologies), the Integrated Biodiversity Management System (IBMS), Rehabilitation Plans/performance and other Holcim monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports?

See the response to question 22.

24. To measuring the validity and reliability of the BIRS measurement instruments, is it possible to access the original databases of different measurements? This will also allow us to quantify the variability of the variable or dispersion of the data based on measuring the variance and other parametric and non-parametric statistics that can explain possible differences and measures of location (such as expected ranges) of the BIRS baseline.

See the response to question 22.

25. we need clarification on the expected results and deliverables for the year 2024. In particular, it is foreseen that two selected sites will be visited to review the biodiversity baseline approach.

Yes. The two site visits are scheduled to take place between August and September, with the aim of

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finalizing the review of the biodiversity baseline before November 2024.

26. Does the visit include the collection of data on biodiversity at the sites?

No, the collection of biodiversity data is not included in the scope of the site review.

27. According to the terms of reference, the visit to the sites is planned for August-September, but the vegetation in the temperate zone in this time of the year is at the end. Could you elaborate on this point?

Seasonality will be considered as a variable during the site visits.