



Terms of Reference for IUCN Consultancy

Title: Nature-Based Solutions Consultant for the ‘TAZIZ’ Project Target area in Shoubak and Petra from the South of Jordan

Objective of the Consultancy

This consultancy has the following objective(s):

1. To conduct a **desk review of initiatives and practices** related to small scale agriculture and restoration that could potentially develop to NBS according to IUCN Global Standard on NBS
2. Provide **situation analysis with recommendations on NbS best practices, including indicators** on participation of a certain number of local women, youth and communities engaged on decision making process related to NbS.
3. **Analysis and prioritization** of NBS applicable in Shoubak and Petra districts according to their feasibility, impact and relevance to local women and girls, and develop **a toolkit for implementing priority NbS interventions identified in activity** to be published by IUCN by the end of the consultancy.
4. Develop guidance tool on how to implement NbS on a national scale.
5. Cooperate closely with other consultants or consulting firms hired by the project, especially the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), climate change and community engagement consultants.
6. To conduct two in-person training workshops to build the capacity of local women and youth, planners, practitioners, and local communities on NbS implementation.

Background

Project Reference: **P04285**

Donor reference: **P011547-001.**

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.

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 around 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.

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About the Project

The initiative "Enhancing Climate Resilience of Biodiversity Hotspots 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, the provision of healthy rangelands and medicinal plants, and the development of socio-economic projects that provide economic benefits. Climate change is one of the major threats to biodiversity, accelerating the loss of species, degradation of habitats, and the well-being of local communities, while well-designed protected areas are one of the main Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to mitigate the impacts of climate change, sustain ecosystem services for human societies, and generate economic benefits for local communities that rely heavily on them.

The ecosystem 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. 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 empower local communities to conserve natural resources and improve their livelihoods by enhancing their adaptive capacity, in addition to involving 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. 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 into 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 track and achieve 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 (NbS) 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 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.

Description of the Assignment

Under the supervision of the Protected Areas, World Heritage, and Biodiversity Programme Manager at IUCN ROWA, the selected service provider shall contribute to and support the implementation of the following tasks:

1. Conduct a **desk review of initiatives and practices** related to small scale agriculture and restoration that could potentially develop to NBS according to IUCN Global Standard on NBS
2. Provide **situation analysis with recommendations on NbS best practices, including indicators** on participation of a certain number of local women, youth and communities engaged on decision making process related to NbS.
3. **Analysis and prioritization** of NBS applicable in Shoubak and Petra districts according to their feasibility, impact and relevance to local women and girls, and develop **a toolkit for implementing priority NbS interventions identified in activity** to be published by IUCN by the end of the consultancy.
4. Develop **guidance tool on how to implement NbS** on a national scale.
5. Cooperate closely with other consultants or consulting firms hired by the project, especially the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), climate change and community engagement consultants.
6. To conduct **two in-person training workshops** to build the capacity of local women and youth, planners, practitioners, and local communities on NbS implementation.

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

Duration of the Assignment

From **signing the contract date** to **the 30th of September 2024**

Deliverables and Activities

The consultant will provide the following deliverables and carry out the following activities:

Deliverable / Activity	Description	Deadline
D1	Inception report: including a literature review and suggested work plan and flow of work of the consultant with other consultants through the IUCN ROWA PA team. This should include	1 week after signing the contract (estimated workload: 2 days)

	ToR for NbS committee members, to identify relevant stakeholders to serve in the committee.	
D2	Final report of the desk review on initiatives related to small scale agriculture and restoration that could potentially develop to NBS according to IUCN Global Standard on NBS.	3 weeks after signing the contract (estimated workload: 12 days)
D3	Final report of the situation analysis with recommendations on NbS best practices, including indicators on participation of a certain number of local women, youth and communities engaged on decision making process related to NbS.	3 weeks after D2 (estimated workload: 6 days)
D4	Develop a toolkit for implementing priority NbS interventions applicable in Shoubak and Petra districts according to their feasibility, impact and relevance to local women and girls. The expert should train the targeted CBOs and stakeholders on the utilization of the toolkit. The tool will be published by IUCN-ROWA.	2 weeks after D3 (estimated workload: 12 days)
D5	Provide a simplified guidance tool on how to implement NbS on a national scale	2 weeks after D4 (estimated workload: 3 days)
D6	Conduct a national workshop to share findings of the consultancy and present the situation analysis and indicators.	3 weeks after D5 (estimated workload: 3)
D7	Two in-person training workshops to build the capacity of planners, practitioners, and local communities including women and youth on gender inclusion and development of NbS.	4 weeks after D6 (estimated workload 3 days)

The consultant will have 4 working days replying to 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 **5 months**. The Timetable below summarises the chronological order of deliverables and indicates milestones at which IUCN will pay the Consultant.

Deliverable	Milestone payment
Upon submission and approval of the inception report (D1)	10%
Upon the completion and approval of the deliverable (D2)	30%
Upon the completion and approval of the deliverable (D3&D4)	30%
Upon the completion and approval of the remaining deliverables (D5, D6 & D7), and all tasks and delivery of all relevant deliverables and reports.	30%

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.

If the requested deliverables are not submitted within the timeframe stated in this ToR, the payments will be withheld.

The 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.

Skills and Experience

The consultant must have the following skills, education and experience as a minimum:

- High university degree MSc and/or PhD in social science, environmental sciences, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, or any other related fields (a PhD degree is preferred).
- Extensive and practical knowledge of relevant professional experience in landscape management and conservation and the application of Nature-based solutions for landscape and climate change-resilience.
- Ideally, the specialist will have knowledge and experience across the range of NbS assessment and management strategies, especially in field application.
- Between 15 and 20 years of experience carrying out participatory NbS and climate change studies. In addition to experience collecting and formulating NbS responsive indicators.
- At least 7 years of experience with project implementation in large-scale regional projects or with international organizations.
- Experience working on policy with relevant stakeholders (government institutions, civil society/private organizations, consultants/field biologists and community organizations)
- Ability to provide guidance on NbS initiatives especially as it relates to livelihoods, gender and socio-economic development.
- Excellent facilitation and coordination skills, with the ability to manage the timely and effective delivery of both quantity and quality work on time.
- Strong communication and presentation skills, and the ability to prepare appropriate and timely reports to a wide range of audiences and cultures.
- Excellent time management skills, including the ability to work effectively under pressure and to meet tight deadlines.
- Excellent writing and speaking literacy in English (Arabic is an asset).
- Proven ability to liaise and work with a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, and local communities, and in support of regional and national institutions.
- Demonstrated commitment to achieving biodiversity conservation and livelihood goals.
- A team player able to contribute effectively to collaborative issues, and to demonstrate innovation and leadership.

Supervision and coordination

The consultant will report to and work under the supervision of the Protected Areas, World Heritage, and Biodiversity Programme Manager at IUCN ROWA.

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.
4. All costs related to training, including the training venue, catering, and accommodation of the participants and trainers, will be covered by IUCN.