



Terms of Reference for IUCN Consultancy

Title: Consultancy to conduct Nature-Based Solutions Surveys and Trainings in Shoubak and Petra

Objective of the Consultancy

This consultancy has the following objective(s):

1. Conduct surveys documenting local knowledge in fields related to natural resources (i.e. traditional use of ecosystem services, traditional practices to conserve natural resources, and gendered agricultural practices) and support in forming Technical and Local Knowledge Committee in the project targeted area.
2. Mapping restoration stakeholders (local CBOs, communities' members, active women, and youth...) for the implementation of the restoration activities.
3. Develop a restoration stewardship program in Shoubak and Petra with women CBOs and local schools to be implemented by the project in the targeted area.
4. Conduct in-person training workshops to enhance capacities of diverse groups of women and youth to implement suitable NbS, including forest landscape restoration.

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 people's 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 project "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 surveys documenting local knowledge in fields related to natural resources (i.e. traditional use of ecosystem services, traditional practices to conserve natural resources, and gendered agricultural practices) and support forming Technical and Local Knowledge Committee in the project targeted area.
2. Mapping the stakeholders for the restoration activities in the targeted areas (local CBOs, communities' members, active women and youth...) for the implementation of the restoration activities.
3. Develop a restoration stewardship program in Shoubak and Petra with women CBOs and local schools to be implemented by the project.
4. Cooperate closely with other consultants or consulting firms hired by the project, especially the NbS, the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) experts, climate change and community engagement consultants to provide information, advice and recommendations regarding the local knowledge utilisation.
5. Conduct at least two in-person training workshops to enhance capacities of diverse groups of women and youth to implement suitable NbS, including forest landscape restoration. This shall be conducted in close collaboration with the international NBS expert, including practical training on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)

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 31st of December 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 initial literature review, workplan, and methodology.	1 week after signing the contract (estimated workload: 2 days) (estimated date: 15 th of July 2024)
D2	Report on the results of local knowledge documentation surveys in fields related to natural resources.	3 weeks after sending D1 (estimated workload: 10 days)

D3	The restoration local stakeholders mapping	3 weeks after sending D1 (estimated workload: 5 days)
D4	1. The design and proposed methodology for implementing the restoration stewardship program in Shoubak and Petra with women CBOs and local schools. The programme will be implemented by the project in the targeted area. This should link and build on the findings and recommendations of the international NBS expert. As part of the situation analysis and recommendations on NbS best practices which will be provided by the NbS expert.	3 weeks after the project NbS Expert sends toolkit for implementing priority NbS interventions applicable in Shoubak and Petra districts after sending D2 (estimated workload: 10 days)
D5	Training workshops report and training materials after conducting at least two in-person training workshops to enhance capacities of diverse groups of women and youth to implement suitable NbS, including forest landscape restoration.	4 weeks after D4 (estimated workload: 15 days)

The consultant will have 3 working days replying to the comments and feedback remarks on the above-mentioned deliverables by GAC or IUCN.

Payment Schedule

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 deliverables (D2)	30%
Upon the completion and approval of the deliverables (D3 and D4)	30%
Upon the completion and approval of the remaining deliverable (D5), 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 consulting firm/Local NGO must have in their team professionals covering the following skills, education, and experience as a minimum:

- MSc degree in natural resources management, environmental sciences, biodiversity conservation, or any other related fields. A PhD degree in the above-mentioned field would be an asset.
- Previous experience in the field of ecosystems restoration and biodiversity conservation and management, implementation of Nature Based Solutions (NbS) activities, and capacity building for local communities within Jordan.
- 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, should 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 national/regional projects or with international organizations.
- Ability to provide guidance on NbS initiatives especially as it relates to livelihoods, gender and socio-economic development.
- Excellent training, 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.

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 field visits costs needed for conducting the survey will be covered by the selected local NGO.
5. All costs related to consultant's field visits to conduct the field surveys shall be covered by the consultant.

6. Training workshop costs including the training venue, catering, and accommodation of the participants will be covered by IUCN.