



Terms of reference to support development of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions

Background

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is looking for an experienced Nature-based Solutions expert to lead the update of its Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The Global Standard which was adopted in 2020, has been under implementation since. So far it has been downloaded over 70,000 times, its self-assessment tool has been applied by more than 6000 individuals across different institutions and landscapes covering over 100 countries. To strengthen its application and reaffirm its intended purpose of supporting the design, implementation, and monitoring of NbS interventions, IUCN has committed to update the Global Standard every 4 years, based on the latest science, feedback from NbS implementation and considering best practices of standard globally. IUCN aims to have the updated version of the Global Standard approved by the IUCN Council and launched at the World Conservation Congress in Dubai.

Objective of the consultancy

To support the update of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions to ensure it reflects the latest scientific knowledge, best practices, feedback from its implementation and stakeholder inputs.

Scope of Work:

1. Feedback Collection, Review and Analysis:

- Under the supervision of Nature-based Solutions Management Hub and other relevant teams at the secretariat
 - Develop a feedback collection survey based on existing standard and guideline tools.

- Coordinate the engagement with the Core Working Group, including organizing meetings and tracking their inputs into the update process.
- Engage with Expert working group to provide comprehensive feedback on application of NbS through structured interviews.
- Ensure the survey has been widely circulated targeting the current standard users and NbS practitioners.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the feedback and identify areas for improvement.
- Analyse recent scientific literature and case studies on NbS.

2. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Organize and facilitate interviews with Expert group and other key stakeholders, including experts, practitioners, and community representatives.
- Compile and synthesize feedback from consultations.

3. Drafting and Revision:

- Produce a draft of updated NbS standard based on research and stakeholder input.
- Collaborate with Core Group to refine the draft.

4. Finalization and Dissemination:

- Finalize the updated standard and prepare supporting documents (e.g., guidelines, explanatory notes).

Deliverables:

- Semi structured interview report detailing feedback from Expert group members.
- Detailed report on findings from the online survey
- Initial draft of the updated NbS standard.
- Initial draft of updated guideline
- Updated Self-assessment tool.
- Final Standard: Final version of the updated NbS standard, ready for publication.

Required Expertise for this consultancy.

- Deep Knowledge and familiarity with NbS related concepts, principles, IUCN Global Standard for NbS, and practice with proven experience of NbS interventions within diverse ecosystems, e.g., forests, wetlands, urban areas.
- Demonstrated understanding of coordinating multi-stakeholder processes at different levels (government, NGOs, private sector, and local communities)
- Demonstrated skill in project planning, timeline management and milestone tracking.
- Excellent technical and analytical Skills with proficiency in performing literature reviews and integrating new science into the guidelines; capacity for analysis of ecological, social, economic data related to NbS.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including capacity to facilitate and conduct stakeholder workshops.
- Strong understanding of policy and regulations at international, regional, and national policy level concerning NbS and sustainable development.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in environmental science, ecology, natural resource management, or a related field.
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in NbS or related fields.
- Proven track record in developing and implementing environmental standards or guidelines.
- Strong analytical, communication, and project management skills.
- Experience with IUCN or similar international organizations is highly desirable.