



Request for Proposals (RfP) Species Monitoring in Kyrgyzstan

ATTACHMENT 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The present Terms of Reference seek to obtain the services of a consultant team to conduct Species Monitoring for the “One Health in Nature Conservation – Enhancing landscape resilience to zoonotic disease emergence by consolidating nature conservation systems in Central Asia” (the “Project”) in Kyrgyzstan.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. The Project. Changes in ecosystems, climate, and intensifying human activities create new opportunities for zoonotic diseases to emerge and spread globally, impacting human and wildlife well-being. In Central Asia, the risk of zoonotic diseases is exacerbated by biodiversity loss and changes in human-wildlife interactions.

The Project aims to enhance the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence and spread in Central Asia by expanding and strengthening conservation measures in natural and overlapping sociocultural areas. Central to this project initiative is the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health, recognising that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment are closely linked and interdependent.

The Project focuses on three core components: (i) area-based (landscape) conservation; (ii) wildlife species management for conservation and disease risk mitigation; and (iii) enhancing integrated human and environmental health through good governance and increased equity regarding the impacts of Protected and Conserved Areas (PCA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) on local communities. Additionally, the Project includes components for disease monitoring, communications and knowledge sharing, and policy development. This integrated approach aims to advance research, empower stakeholders, and inform national policies, enhancing disease prevention and raising awareness and support for One Health in nature conservation across the region.

The Project is funded by the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and executed by IUCN in collaboration with a consortium of national and international organizations across five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The Project will be implemented from 2024 to 2029.

1.2. Species Monitoring in Kyrgyzstan. One of the main goals of the Project is to support improved conservation of species in Central Asia. The project activities in this area will enhance the overall data on wildlife in the region, improving the ability to assess potential outbreaks and transmission risks of zoonotic diseases. Additionally, the Project will build the capacities of local actors in biodiversity conservation and demonstrate the applicability of conservation measures towards reducing zoonotic risks.

In Kyrgyzstan, species monitoring and conservation activities will be led by IUCN, with support from the national partner CAMP Alatau, and expert guidance from the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Zoological Society of London.

The **target species/taxa** pre-selected for the country include the **snow leopard, argali, ibex, migratory water birds, bats, and rodents**, although the list may be adjusted based on consultations with regional stakeholders and experts (the defined species, with potential adjustments, are hereinafter referred to as the “target species.”). The potential pilot sites include, but are not limited to Khan-Tenghri–Syrt (corridor in between) – Naryn (hereinafter referred to as the “**project sites**”).

2. SCOPE OF WORK

2.1. Specific tasks. The consultant team will need to prove expert support for the species monitoring in Kyrgyzstan within the Project by performing the following tasks in according with estimated timeline for the Project:

No	Tasks	Estimated Timeline		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.	Species selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with IUCN, refine the selected target species for each specific site in coordination with the assessments of the project sites¹ and based on multiple criteria, including species range and “umbrella” potential, migration routes and corridor needs, habitat use and overlaps with human land use, as well as potential zoonotic risks. 	1H		
2.	Species monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate species monitoring efforts with project partners from all Central Asian countries by contributing to the development of a synchronised methodology and assessment criteria for species monitoring. 	1H		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate the baseline species population size for the selected project sites based on the existing data and initial field studies. 	1H		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate and conduct monitoring efforts for the selected target species in the determined project sites to improve data on wildlife populations. 			
3.	Data collection on local knowledge on wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with a national implementing partner (IP) and support their efforts to collect and utilise local knowledge on wildlife by surveying local knowledge keepers and holding consultation meetings with community representatives in pilot sites. Incorporate findings from study local knowledge into species monitoring analysis. 		2H	1H
4.	Support species conservation actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to define and design interventions in the project sites that would aim to improve wildlife population state of the target species, mitigate zoonosis outbreak and transmission risks. Support efforts to define and publish best practice solutions and recommendations for integrating zoonotic risk mitigation into conservation measures. 			
5.	Support activities focused on applying science for zoonosis prevention, knowledge and capacities:			
5.1	Advise on and support efforts to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protocols to conduct camera trapping for top predators / meso predators and promote their implementation throughout the selected project sites; trapping and sampling protocols for rodent, birds, bats; develop questionnaires on human-wildlife interaction to obtain local ecological knowledge about the 		1H	

¹ The work on species monitoring and conservation will be conducted in parallel with the project activities focused on enabling conditions for an expanded and better managed PCA network in Central Asia.

No	Tasks	Estimated Timeline		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	presence and abundances of host species of zoonotic concern, and of human behaviours, activities and other risk factors for zoonotic spill-over.			
5.2	Collaborate and support efforts in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in producing science-based recommendations for behavioural change strategies and measures as outputs of the questionnaire data and research; collecting data on behavioural changes at project end to quantify the uptake of behavioural change strategies in and around protected and conserved areas. 			
6.	Promoting the One Health approach and the project-generated knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide results from monitoring to support project generated knowledge and awareness raising (including the project website, social media, newsletters, promotional and informational materials, media trips, webinars). 			
7.	Project coordination and management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in regular online meetings with IUCN and other project partners to coordinate species monitoring efforts. Upon the IUCN request, contribute to annual project coordination meetings and other events, including the preparation and delivery of presentations and other materials related to the assignment (travel costs related to this task will be covered by IUCN). 			

2.2. Results and deliverables. The consultant team will submit to IUCN narrative progress reports against the tasks and timeline specified in this ToR. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, progress reports on species monitoring will be submitted at the end of every six (6) months of the assignment execution. The content and format of the progress report should be developed by the consultancy team and approved by IUCN within three (3) months after the effective date of the consultancy agreement, and the reports need to include the following data:

- description of surveying methods;
- analysis and conclusions from collected data on target species/taxa presence and population in selected sites;
- habitat use and identified overlaps with human land use;
- any observed threats,
- occurrence of zoonosis and observed risk factors for zoonotic disease outbreaks and transmissions to humans/livestock;
- recommendations for needed conservation interventions.

The progress reports should be completed by presentations and other materials, prepared by the consultant team for the project coordination meetings and events. The list of the deliverables can be extended and specified based on the methodology proposed by the consultant. :

2.3. Coordination and adaptive management. The consultants will work closely with IUCN's project team and CAMP Alatau, a national implementing partner (collectively referred as a project management team or the PMT), and in cooperation with the relevant national and local authorities. The consultants will also coordinate with expert teams working in other Central Asian countries.

Tasks, deliverables and timeframes may be adjusted in accordance with adaptive project management and updated yearly work plan and logframe. This will be done in consultation between the PMT and the expert team.

3. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment is expected to be completed within a maximum of 36 months from the effective date of the consultancy agreement.

4. MEETINGS AND TRAVEL

The consultants will participate in a number of physical meetings and consultations as a part of the project coordination and stakeholder consultation processes. Travel to the project sites and to key project meetings and consultations in Kyrgyzstan will be required as necessary.

Where possible in-person meetings will be prioritised, but if these are not possible due to travel restrictions, then virtual meetings will take place.

All travels will be subject to IUCN's travel policy and potential travel restrictions in place at the time of planned travel.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATION

The consultant team is mandated by IUCN for all the tasks and deliverables mentioned in above sections. All deliverables need to be submitted to IUCN ECARO in English by the given deadlines.

6. PRICING INFORMATION

The maximum available budget for this consultancy is estimated at EUR 120,000 (including VAT/other applied taxes, equipment, all travel costs of the consultant team).

7. EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

The consultancy is open to an organisation or a team of experts with the following expertise:

- Proven experience in wildlife monitoring and conservation actions.
- Experience in work with local communities in activities related to nature conservation
- Experience in species monitoring in Kyrgyzstan and understanding of the national regulatory context.
- Excellent analytical skills and proven record of preparing similar project design studies and reports.
- Excellent English, Kyrgyz and Russian language proficiency².

² While it's not necessary for each individual member, the expert team as a whole is expected to have the ability to effectively communicate in spoken and written English, Kyrgyz, and Russian languages.