



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Consultancy services: Desk-based review of biodiversity in the Ebro Delta under environmental change

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Submission deadline: closing on Monday 31 March 2025, 12:00 (CET)

PART 1 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSERS AND CONDITIONS OF PROPOSAL

1.1. *About IUCN*

IUCN is a Union of members uniquely composed of governmental and civil society organizations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to be carried out together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the largest and most diverse environmental network in the world, drawing on the knowledge, resources and reach of 1,400 member organizations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments, and analytics. Its broad membership enables IUCN to play the role of a trusted incubator and repository of international best practices, tools and standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organizations and others, can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and actors, IUCN implements a broad and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the most current science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects seek to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org
<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

1.2. *Summary of the Request*

IUCN invites you to submit a Proposal to conduct a data analysis of biodiversity in the Ebro Delta (Spain), synthesise the procedure undertaken as a replicable methodology, and create a webstory narrative to disseminate the results to a general audience.

The results of this work will contribute to understanding potential changes in species distributions due to the impacts of environmental change and climate change in the Mediterranean region. This will provide useful information to improve conservation planning based on scientific data, supporting decisions on appropriate adaptation measures that might be necessary for certain species under future environmental change.

The working language will be English or Spanish. The detailed Terms of Reference can be found in Part 2 of these ToR.



1.3. Selection Process

The following dates will apply to these terms of reference:

ToR Publication Date: 19 March 2025

ToR Closing Date and Time: 31 March 2025, 12:00 (CET)

Estimated Contract Award Date: 7 April 2025

1.4. Conditions

IUCN is not obligated in any way to enter into a contract or other agreement with any Proposer as a result of the issuance of these ToR. IUCN is under no obligation to accept the Lowest Priced Proposal or any Proposal. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the consultancy process at any time prior to the award of the contract. By participating in these TOR, Proposers agree to the conditions set forth herein.

IUCN requires Proposers to refrain from corrupt and fraudulent/prohibited practices when participating in this adjudication process. To this end, **Proposers must sign the "Proposer's Declaration"** (for self-employed professionals or for companies), at the end of this document (in English), and include it in their Proposal.

Proposers must allow IUCN to inspect all accounts, records and other documents related to the submission of the Proposal and the performance of the contract (in case of award) and to be audited by auditors appointed by IUCN.

1.5. Questions and queries during the ToR period

Proposers should direct any questions or queries regarding the ToR to the IUCN contact email address listed below. No other IUCN personnel should be contacted in relation to these ToRs.

To the extent possible, IUCN will respond to any questions, duly anonymized, to all Proposers. If you consider the content of your question confidential, you must declare it at the time the question is asked.

1.6. Amendments to ToR documents

IUCN may amend the ToR documents by issuing notices to that effect to all Proposers and may extend the closing date and time of the ToR if deemed appropriate.

1.7. Methods and requirements for submitting proposals

Proposers must submit their Proposal to IUCN no later than 31 March 2025 at 12:00 noon (CET time) by email to medspecies@iucn.org (with the reference "Desk-based review of biodiversity in the Ebro Delta"). Electronic copies must be submitted in PDF format.

Proposals may be prepared in English or Spanish and in the format indicated in Part 3 of these ToR.

1.8. Late or incomplete proposals

Any Proposals received by IUCN after the deadline for the ToR and any Proposals that are incomplete will not be considered. IUCN will not allow any delay in the transmission of the Proposer's Proposal to the IUCN evaluation team.



1.9. Withdrawals and changes to the proposal

Proposals may be withdrawn or amended at any time prior to the closing date and time of the ToR by written notice to the IUCN contact. No changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the ToR closing date and time.

1.10. Validity of proposals

Proposals submitted in response to these ToRs must remain valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the closing date of the ToRs.

1.11. Evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of the Proposals will be carried out exclusively with respect to the evaluation criteria and their relative weights specified in Part 3 of these TOR, if any and included therein.

PART 2 – TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1. Background

This analysis will be undertaken within the framework of IUCN's involvement in the EU-funded project *IMPETUS: Dynamic Information Management Approach for the Implementation of Climate Resilient Adaptation Packages in European Regions*.

Project IMPETUS (Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement No 101037084) aims to help accelerate Europe's climate adaptation strategy and meet the European Union's ambitions to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Its objective: turn climate commitments into tangible, urgent actions to protect communities and the planet. With 32 partner organisations based in 9 European countries, IMPETUS is one of four EU-funded projects that are coordinating on climate adaptation. One of IUCN's main activities within IMPETUS is to analyse the likelihood of species changing their distributions due to climate and environmental change. An assessment of potential changes in the spatial distribution of species occurring in coastal dunes and marshes along the coast of Catalonia (Spain) has been carried out, to evaluate their potential responses to the impacts of environmental change. This task aims to identify potential adaptation measures that could benefit from project activities, as a means to strengthen the resilience of target species and ecosystems.

As part of this task, IUCN has undertaken an analysis of potential losses and gains in waterbird habitat in the Ebro Delta under climate scenarios. A paper with the results of the Species Distribution Model has been published in [Ecological Modelling](#). With IMPETUS closing in September 2025, our current focus is maximising the dissemination and continued impact of the project results. To disseminate the results of the wetland species analysis, we would like to develop a narrative which places the results of the habitat suitability modelling for waterbirds within the broader context of losses and gains of biodiversity within the Ebro Delta under environmental change.

The species reviewed as part of this consultancy, including vertebrates, invertebrates and plants, will be presented as a written narrative in a webstory.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101037084.

2.2 Objectives of the consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to support the review of a wide range of taxa found in the Ebro Delta (Spain) to analyse their potential losses and gains as a result of environmental change. Pre-existing data on taxa occurring within the Ebro Delta will be cross-referenced with the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ in order to undertake a qualitative review of potential losses and gains in their



distributions. Criteria will be identified using information available on the Red List, such as Red List Category, habitat conditions, niche specialisation and [restricted range](#), which can be used to infer the potential response of species distributions under environmental and climate change. This will result in the production of a replicable methodology on qualitative analysis of losses and gains in species distributions using the IUCN Red List, as well as the publication of a webstory synthesising the results of the analysis for a general audience.

2.3 Methodology and tasks

The main tasks required for this consultancy are:

A. Qualitative review of potential species losses and gains in the Ebro Delta

1. Identify several criteria based on the information available on the Red List, which can be used to undertake a quantitative analysis of potential losses and gains in species distributions under environmental change, including the impacts of climate change. The criteria to be used will be agreed between the consultant and IUCN.
2. Cross-reference the list of species present in the Ebro Delta with the online Red List database, to determine which species have been assessed on the Red List.
3. For each species, collect relevant data from the Red List and other available databases (i.e. Global Biodiversity Information Facility), using the criteria identified in task A.1.

B. Creation of webstory on biodiversity loss and gains in the Ebro Delta

4. Synthesise and present the results as a blog-style webstory on potential losses and gains of biodiversity in the Ebro Delta under environmental change. The narrative of the webstory should be extracted from the results of the review and written in an engaging way for a non-technical audience. Visual materials such as maps, graphs and images should also be integrated into the webstory.
5. Based on the review, select a few species as case studies for potential losses and gains (e.g. those with [restricted range](#) and specific habitat requirements), to be featured in the webstory.

C. Develop a replicable methodology for qualitative analysis of species losses and gains using the IUCN Red List

7. Make comprehensive notes of the steps undertaken throughout the review process (task A), to be written up as a replicable methodology.
8. Present the methodology adhering to project requirements, to be presented as a tool that can be used by a wider audience. The methodology must be concise but include all necessary information so that it can be replicated in other geographical locations, ecosystem types and projects.

The materials and resources to be analysed and used as a basis will be provided to the consultant by IUCN Med.



2.4 Deliverables, Schedule & Budget

Deliverable	Description	Deadline
Preliminary report	Initial report including the proportion of Ebro Delta species assessed on Red List and the identified criteria.	21 April 2025
Package of compiled data and methodology	Results of the species review and identification of key species to be used as case studies, together with a technical report on the methodology undertaken.	20 May 2025
Final report of methodology	Presentation of the methodology according to project requirements.	31 May 2025
Mock-up webstory	First draft of the webstory (online narrative presenting the results of the review).	30 July 2025
Final webstory	Final version of the webstory, ready for publication.	31 August, 2025

The financial offer will be a maximum of 3,000 Euros (VAT and other taxes included).

*VAT and other taxes must be included in the economic offer. IUCN does not act as a business or professional entity for VAT purposes and therefore the consultant must charge the relevant VAT or similar tax on its invoices. In case the consultant is exempt from VAT or equivalent tax in their jurisdiction, they must include a note in the invoice document informing about this issue and mentioning the law that applies.

2.5 Monitoring and collaboration

The selected consultant will work under the supervision of the IUCN Mediterranean Programme Manager for Biodiversity Standards and Indicators. The outline of all deliverables should be agreed with the IUCN Med team before work begins. IUCN Med will make all final decisions regarding the success of delivery and the quality of the results. The consultant will schedule time in the work plan to review the drafts and apply the comments based on the discussions with IUCN Med.

IUCN Med will provide contacts or access to relevant contacts to carry out the task.

2.6 Schedule

The deadline for carrying out these works will be extended from the entry into force of the consultancy contract until 31 August 2025.

2.7 Profile of consultants

The company(s)/expert(s)/organization(s) participating in this consultancy must have knowledge and experience in:

- The use and application of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria and experience in ecological data analysis, especially in Mediterranean fauna and flora.
- GIS and spatial analysis of biodiversity.
- Skills in presenting and writing scientific results for a general audience using online tools.



Consultants are expected to work closely with IUCN Med and be flexible to adapt to changes.

2.8 *Submission of applications*

Candidates who wish to participate in this consultancy must send their proposals for technical and financial offers, a copy of their CV with relevant experience and the corresponding signed Declaration (see Part 3), in PDF format, by email to medspecies@iucn.org (with the reference "Desk-based review of biodiversity in the Ebro Delta") by 31 March 2025 at 12:00 noon (CET time).



PART 3 – INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY PROPOSERS

By participating in these ToR, Proposers indicate their acceptance of the conditions set forth in these ToR.

The information submitted will be used to evaluate the Proposals. It is not advisable to send additional information that has not been expressly requested.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: related experience, technical expertise, proposed methodology, timeline, and budget.

Each of the following sections must be submitted as a separate document, and will be evaluated separately:

Declaration

Please read and sign the relevant Statement at the end of this document and include it in your proposal.

Curriculum Vitae

Brief CV with relevant experience in the subject.

Technical proposal

Applicants must submit a technical proposal that includes a CV justifying the experience of the team/person.

Financial proposal

Prices should include all expenses.

The rates and prices presented will include all expenses, insurance, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risks and any other element necessary for the correct fulfilment of the Requirement. Any expenses not expressly indicated in the Proposal may not be admitted in any of the transactions or as part of the contract.

Taxes applicable to goods and services

The proposed rates and prices will include VAT.

Currency of the proposed rates and prices

Unless otherwise stated, all rates and prices submitted by Proposers will be in Euros.

Rates and Prices

Proponents must submit a fixed and firm price for the total of the services, not exceeding the budget limit reflected above.



PROPOSER'S DECLARATION FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that I am self-employed and able to provide the service independent of any organisation or other legal entity.

Full name (as in passport):

Home or Office (please delete as appropriate) Address (incl. country):

I hereby authorise IUCN to store and use the information included in the attached Proposal for the purpose of evaluating Proposals and selecting the Proposal IUCN deems the most favourable, including Personal Data as defined by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). I acknowledge that IUCN is required to retain my Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after the end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when reasonably requested.

I further confirm that the following statements are correct:

1. I am legally registered as self-employed in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. I am fully compliant with all my tax and social security obligations.
3. I am free of any real or perceived conflicts of interest with regards to IUCN and its Mission.
4. I agree to declare to IUCN any real or perceived emerging conflicts of interests I may have concerning IUCN. I acknowledge that IUCN may terminate any contracts with me that would, in IUCN sole discretion, be negatively affected by such conflicts of interests.
5. I have never been convicted of grave professional misconduct or any other offence concerning my professional conduct.
6. I have never been convicted of fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation.
7. I acknowledge that engagement in fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation will entitle IUCN to terminate any and all contracts with me with immediate effect.
8. I am not included in the UN Security Council Sanctions List, EU Sanctions Map, US Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List, or the World Bank listing of ineligible firms and individuals. I agree that I will not provide direct or indirect support to firms and individuals included in these lists.
9. I have not been, am not, and will not be involved or implicated in any violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, or injustice or abuse of human rights related to other groups or individuals, including forced evictions, violation of fundamental rights of workers as defined by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, child labour, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment.

<Date and Signature>



PROPOSER' DECLARATION FOR COMPANIES

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that I am an authorised representative of the following organisation:

Registered Name of Organisation (the "Organisation"): _____

Registered Address (incl. country): _____

Year of Registration: _____

I hereby authorise IUCN to store and use the information included in the attached Proposal for the purpose of evaluating Proposals and selecting the Proposal IUCN deems the most favourable. I acknowledge that IUCN is required to retain the Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after the end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when reasonably requested. Where the Proposal includes Personal Data as defined by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), I confirm that the Organisation has been authorised by each Data Subject to share this Data with IUCN for the purposes stated above. I further confirm that the following statements are correct:

1. The Organisation is duly registered in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. The Organisation is fully compliant with all its tax and social security obligations.
3. The Organisation and its staff and representatives are free of any real or perceived conflicts of interest with regards to IUCN and its Mission.
4. The Organisation agrees to declare to IUCN any real or perceived emerging conflicts of interests it or any of its staff and representatives may have concerning IUCN. The Organisation acknowledges that IUCN may terminate any contracts with the Organisation that would, in IUCN sole discretion, be negatively affected by such conflicts of interests.
5. None of the Organisation's staff has ever been convicted of grave professional misconduct or any other offence concerning their professional conduct.
6. Neither the Organisation nor any of its staff and representatives have ever been convicted of fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation.
7. The Organisation acknowledges that engagement by itself or any of its staff in fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation will entitle IUCN to terminate any and all contracts with the Organisation with immediate effect.
8. The Organisation is a going concern and is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
9. The Organisation complies with all applicable environmental regulatory requirements or other legal requirements relating to sustainability and environmental protection.
10. The Organisation is not included in the UN Security Council Sanctions List, EU Sanctions Map, US Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List, or the World Bank listing of ineligible firms and individuals. The Organisation agrees that it will not provide direct or indirect support to firms and individuals included in these lists.
11. The Organisation has not been, is not, and will not be involved or implicated in any violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, or injustice or abuse of human rights related to other groups or individuals, including forced evictions, violation of fundamental rights of workers as defined by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, child labour, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment.

<Date and Signature of authorised representative of the Proposer>

< Name and position of authorised representative of the Proposer >