



Terms of Reference for IUCN Consultancy

Title: Consultancy services to conduct a global review of best practices and technological solutions for enhancing Nature Based Solutions for Adaptation (NbSA) among local partners of the ReSea project in Western Indian Ocean region

Objective of the Consultancy

The review will:

- Inform ReSea's Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation (NbSA) interventions, ensuring evidence-based, scalable solutions that enhance climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive livelihoods in the WIO region.
- Inform local partners of NbSA best practice relevant to their contexts.
- Inform ReSea priority seascapes of the technological solutions that can best assist their promotion of NbSA activities and capacity building for local actors.

Background

Project Reference: P04216 – ReSea

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.

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

About the Project

Marine and coastal ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region are increasingly vulnerable due to urbanization, population growth, and climate change, among other factors. The ReSea project is a response to these threats, promoting sustainable seascapes that enhance climate resilience and stimulate the socio-economic development of coastal communities.

ReSea is a project run in partnership between IUCN and Mission Inclusion. ReSea is an ambitious initiative aimed at strengthening the physical and socio-economic resilience of people living in coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean region, including Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, and Madagascar. ReSea relies on nature-based solutions and gender-sensitive conservation practices to preserve, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems. In addition, the project focuses on improving the livelihoods of local communities, with a particular emphasis on women and young people, through value chains that are part of a climate change adaptation approach.

At the heart of ReSea is a commitment to inclusion and collaboration. The initiative is structured around three interlinked pillars: Blue Planet, which supports marine conservation and locally managed marine areas; Blue Nature, which strengthens the use of gender-responsive, nature-based solutions; and Blue People, which promotes economic empowerment through sustainable blue value chains. Together, these pillars form a holistic, gender-responsive model for regenerative seascapes that deliver lasting benefits for people, climate, and nature.

Local partners engaged in ReSea are planning NbSA interventions across diverse coastal ecosystems. However, there is a need to strengthen their efforts through knowledge exchange, application of innovative and context-relevant technologies, and learning from global best practices. This review will serve as a key resource to inform NbSA activities, capacity building, and knowledge transfer for local partners of the ReSea project.

Description of the Assignment

1. Global review of best practices

The consultant will lead the development of a publishable, comprehensive global review of best practices and technological solutions related to Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation (NbSA) in coastal and marine ecosystems, with a particular focus on their relevance and applicability to the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region within the context and in support of the Great Blue Wall initiative. The global review will highlight actionable recommendations for ReSea local partners (conservation organizations), tailored for decision-makers and

practitioners. **The global review consists of a ~30-page-long document with an analytical section and at least 10 case studies covering topics mentioned below; references in APA style will be included. The consultant will seek professional editing and proofreading of the final version of the document to ensure clarity, accuracy and consistency and compliance with [IUCN Style Manual](#). The consultant will deliver a designed and laid out product for professional publication.** The consultant shall follow [IUCN Publishing Guidelines](#)

To ensure the review is grounded in real-world needs and opportunities, the consultant will draw on a variety of existing sources, including countries profiles, seascape available research, ReSea project documentation (to be provided), seascape assessments, and consultations with key stakeholders. In addition to a thorough desk review, the consultant will conduct at least 25 interviews (5 per country) and survey at least 50 stakeholders across ReSea partners, local organizations, community leaders, and technical experts. These engagements will help identify emerging trends, knowledge gaps, and promising practices and technologies that can enhance NbSA implementation in the WIO.

The global review will:

- Identify and analyse global NbSA best practices in coastal and marine ecosystems, including classification of different NbSA approaches which provide adaptation services across the range of regulating, provisioning, cultural and supporting ecosystem services. Research should include information from, but not limited to, sources as Panorama, FEBA, NAbSA, Global Program on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience, Nature-based Solutions Initiative, Global Adaptation Network, the Global Climate Action NAZCA platform, The Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, among others.
- Map and evaluate technological innovations that support NbSA implementation and relevant to the WIO region, including but not limited to monitoring tools, restoration techniques, early warning systems, and community engagement platforms.
- Document successful case studies, highlighting biodiversity outcomes, gender responsiveness, and socio-economic co-benefits for the blue economy sector.
- Assess technological and innovative solutions, including cost-effective, locally adaptable tools such as, but not limited to, remote sensing, community-based monitoring, and ecosystem restoration technologies.
- Explore knowledge systems, both scientific, indigenous and local communities, that support effective NbSA implementation.
- Best practices and technologies will include at least one case study relevant to the WIO region covering the following themes:
 1. Structuring sustainable NbSA businesses for income generation.
 2. Cost-benefit analysis for decision making.
 3. Access to finance: sources, engagement strategies, and proposal development.
 4. Project management: successful implementation of an NbSA project.
 5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) for communities.
 6. Communication for education and impact.

7. Climate assessments informing practices for agriculture, aquaculture, water management, natural resources management, human settlements, energy and biodiversity.
- Provide actionable recommendations for ReSea and its local partners, including key findings, prioritized interventions, and identified knowledge gaps.

2. Summary products and presentations

Based on the approved final text of the global review, the consultant will develop the following products to enhance the accessibility and uptake of findings by local organizations and decision-makers:

- Policy and Practice Brief (8 pages, designed).
- One full-page infographic
- One slide deck for public events

The consultant will also present the findings and a summary of the global review to ReSea partners and regional stakeholders.

Duration of the Assignment

From September 15th, 2025, to Nov 15th, 2025.

Deliverables and Activities

The consultant will provide the following deliverables and carry out the following activities as per the timeline indicated below. **Noting that this timeline is sensitive, as Deliverable 3 will feed into ReSea's in-country training as well as outreach activities during IUCN WCC. Deliverables 5 and 6 should be ready to be launched at COP30.**

Deliverable/Activity	Description	Deadline	Indicative dates
Deliverable 1	D.1. Inception Report, including detailed workplan, methodology, stakeholder engagement plan (interviews, surveys)	Week 1	22 September
Deliverable 2	D.2 Interview, survey and best practice data collection templates	Week 2	29 September
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Interviews and surveys with key stakeholders</i>		
Deliverable 3	D.3. Draft Global Review of Best Practices and Technological Solutions with all solutions identified and applicable to be reviewed by IUCN and ReSea key partners as relevant	Week 4	13 October
Deliverable 4	D.4. Final version of Global Review of Best Practices and Technological Solutions (not designed)	Week 6	20 October
Deliverable 5	D.5. Global review proofread, edited and designed	Week 7	October 30
Deliverable 6	D.6. Brief, infographic, slide deck	Week 10	14 November

Deliverable 7	D.7 Final results presentation for relevant stakeholders	Week 10	14 November
		weeks	

Beyond the specified tasks detailed in these Terms of Reference, the consultant is expected to demonstrate flexibility in accommodating unforeseen related tasks/activities as they arise.

Payment Schedule

The Timetable below summarises the chronological order of deliverables and indicates milestones at which IUCN will pay the Consultant.

Deliverable	Milestone payment
Deliverable 1	15%
Deliverable 2 - 4	50%
Deliverable 5 - 7	35%

Skills and Experience

The consultant, individual or a consultancy firm, must have the following skills, education and experience as a minimum: must have the following skills, education and experience as a minimum:

- At least 10 years of knowledge and experience in Nature-based Solutions and climate adaptation in coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as gender-responsive programming.
- Track record of strong technical, research and analytical abilities, with a background in environmental science, climate adaptation, or related fields.
- Experience reviewing and synthesizing best practices, case studies, and technological solutions relevant to NbS.
- Preferred – experience in the WIO region (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, Madagascar)
- Professional level of written and spoken English. French or Portuguese an asset.
- Prior experience working with IGOs or INGOs.
- Commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and gender-responsive approaches.

Consultants are expected to work closely with the supervisor and be flexible to adapt to changes as needed.

Supervision and coordination

The consultant will work under the supervision IUCN Climate Change and Energy Transition and IUCN ESARO teams.

The supervisors will have the final decision concerning successful delivery and quality of all deliverables. The outline of all deliverables should be agreed with the IUCN-ESARO team ahead of the work. Consultants should build time for discussion before starting each deliverable and for review and sign-off feedback of the different deliverables.