



TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Consultancy Services for the Technical Development, Design, Modelling and Implementation Support of the SHARE.MedWATER Pilot in Spain (Ebro Delta)

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Issue Date: December 19th, 2025

Closing Date and Time: January 16th, 2026

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PART 1 – INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS AND PROPOSAL CONDITIONS

1.1 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 1,400 Member organisations and over 17,000 scientists and 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.



1.2. Summary of the Requirement

IUCN invites qualified consultants to submit a Proposal to provide **specialised technical services** for the implementation of the **SHARE.MedWATER Pilot in Spain (Ebro Delta)**.

The consultancy will **carry out** the following activities:

- **The baseline assessment** of hydrology, infrastructure, stakeholders, permitting and regulatory requirements, including preliminary analyses of water use, cost-saving potential and water quality aspects;
- **The technical design and engineering development** of a wetland-based Nature-based Solution (NbS) buffer system for the treatment of rice-field drainage water, including technical support to the procurement of equipment and the implementation of works and related infrastructure, if required, and **technical support** throughout pilot implementation, including optimisation, adaptive management, and support to the preparation of a community agreement or equivalent governance document.
- **The development and implementation of the monitoring framework and KPIs**, including the monitoring of the pilot during implementation and operation phases.

The consultancy will also support :

- the development and use of Decision Support Systems for community - and district-level unconventional water reuse strategies and the integration of **hydrological and hydro-economic modelling** at pilot and district level;
- technical inputs for **WP1, WP2 and WP3**, as established in the Application Form;
- contributions to the **A3.4 Cross-Border Capacity-Building Programme**;

1.3. The procurement processes

The following key dates apply to these ToRs:

ToRs Issue Date	December 19 th , 2025
Deadline for Questions and Clarifications	January 9 th , 2026
ToRs Closing Date and Time	January 16 th , 2026, 23:59 (CET time)
Estimated Contract Award Date	February 2 nd , 2026

1.4. Conditions

IUCN is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with any Proposer as a result of issuing these ToRs. IUCN is under no obligation to accept the lowest priced Proposal or any Proposal. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time prior to contract award. By participating in these ToRs, Proposers accept the conditions set out in these ToRs. IUCN requires Proposers to refrain from corrupt and fraudulent/prohibited practices in participating in this procurement. To this end, Proposers must sign the Proposer's Declaration at the end of this document and include it in their Proposal. Proposers shall permit IUCN to inspect all accounts, records and other documents relating to the submission of the Proposal and contract performance (in case of an award), and to have them audited by auditors appointed by IUCN.



1.5. Queries and questions during the ToRs period

Proposers are to direct any queries and questions regarding the ToRs to the above IUCN Contact. No other IUCN personnel are to be contacted in relation to these ToRs. As far as possible, IUCN will issue the responses to any questions, suitably anonymised, to all Proposers. If you consider the content of your question confidential, you must state this at the time the question is posed.

1.6. Amendments to ToRs documents

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

1.7. Proposal lodgement methods and requirements

Proposers must submit their Proposal to IUCN no later than January 16th of 2026 23:59 (CET time) by email to marina.gomez@iucn.org (with the name of the proposer and reference "Consultancy SHARE.MedWATER"). Electronic copies are to be submitted in PDF format. Proposals must be prepared in English and in the format stated in Part 3 of these ToRs.

1.8. Late and Incomplete Proposals

Any Proposal received by IUCN later than the stipulated ToRs closing date and time, and any Proposal that is incomplete, will not be considered. There will be no allowance made by IUCN for any delays in transmission of the Proposal from Proposer to IUCN. IUCN: Terms of Reference Page 4 of 9.

1.9. Withdrawals and Changes to the Proposal

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

1.10. Validity of Proposals

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

1.11. Evaluation of Proposals

The evaluation of Proposals shall be carried out exclusively with regards to the evaluation criteria and their relative weights specified in part 3 of these ToRs.

PART 2 – TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 Background



The SHARE.MedWATER project develops innovative models to integrate **unconventional waters** (greywater, rainwater, agricultural drainage, NbS-based systems) into local planning, governance and water management strategies.

The Spanish Pilot (I.6) in the **Ebro Delta**, as described in official project documents, focuses on:

- reusing rice-field drainage water,
- treating it through a **constructed / restored wetland buffer**,
- reducing nutrient runoff, pesticides and contaminants,
- enhancing coastal protection against erosion and sea-level rise,
- supporting biodiversity and the local aquaculture sector,
- improving the resilience of rice farming and wetland ecosystems.

The consultant will **carry out the baseline assessment, technical design and monitoring activities for the pilot under WP2**, and will **provide technical support and inputs across WP1 and WP3**, ensuring full consistency with the methodology and requirements of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme.

2.2 Scope of the Consultancy

The consultant will carry out **the implementation and monitoring of the SHARE.MedWATER Pilot in Spain (Ebro Delta)** through targeted technical activities and will **provide technical support to related transversal activities under WP1, WP2 and WP3**.

A. Baseline Development (WP2)

The consultant will develop a comprehensive technical baseline for the pilot area and its district context, including hydrological characterisation of the site (drainage flows, volumes and seasonal variability), assessment of water quality with a focus on nutrients, herbicides, fungicides and other relevant contaminants, mapping of existing infrastructures such as irrigation canals, drainage networks, wetlands and discharge points, identification of technical and spatial constraints affecting feasibility, stakeholder identification and mapping (including rice farmers' associations, the Natural Park Authority, aquaculture representatives and relevant public authorities), and identification of permitting and regulatory requirements relevant to pilot implementation in order to inform subsequent design and planning phases, with the development of a Community-Based Resource Assessment and Preliminary Design Framework

B. Technical Design of the Wetland NbS System (WP2)

Based on the technical and socio-economic data generated under Activities A1.1, A1.2 and A1.3, and the Preliminary Design Framework developed under Activity A2.1, the consultant will carry out the development of the pilot concept and the conceptual and detailed



engineering design of the wetland-based Nature-based Solution (NbS), including configuration, sizing, flow paths, expected performance and key assumptions. This will include the definition of the pilot “community” and governance set-up, with identification of users, beneficiaries and operational arrangements, estimation of CAPEX and OPEX associated with pilot implementation and operation, and identification and technical review of permitting requirements and regulatory constraints, including the preparation of an indicative permitting roadmap, and support to the procurement of equipment and works/infrastructure, if needed.

C. Hydro-Economic Modelling (WP3)

The consultant will support the development and use of Decision Support Systems (DSS) for community- and district-level unconventional water reuse strategies, and will contribute to hydro-economic analyses by integrating hydrological and technical data into economic assessment frameworks, estimating costs per cubic metre of water treated and reused, assessing potential avoided costs related to erosion, water quality degradation and ecosystem impacts, and providing inputs to district-level modelling activities in line with WP3 requirements contributing to the overall Socio-Economic and Policy Analysis.

D. WP1 Contributions (Study Activities)

As required under Activities A1.1–A1.4, the consultant will support the study phase through the collection, consolidation and analysis of technical and socio-economic data at pilot and district level. This will include the assessment of water demand, consumption patterns and seasonal variability by relevant sector(s), analysis of water pricing schemes, tariffs and associated costs, mapping of existing water management arrangements and infrastructures, review of applicable legislation, regulatory frameworks and permitting requirements related to agricultural drainage water reuse, identification of existing or planned uses of unconventional water sources in the area, stakeholder mapping at pilot and district level, and a preliminary assessment of water-saving and cost-saving potential linked to the proposed pilot solution. Under Activity A1.4, the consultant will also support the assessment of social acceptability of the proposed solution through the design and facilitation of stakeholder focus groups to present and discuss the pilot approach, the design and implementation of stakeholder surveys to assess perceptions and acceptability (to be conducted before and after key pilot milestones, as relevant), and the analysis and synthesis of results to inform pilot implementation and replicability.

E. Contribution to A3.4 Capacity-Building Programme

In relation to Activity A3.4, the consultant will support knowledge-sharing and capacity-building actions linked to the pilot, including support to the preparation of recurring three-day



knowledge-sharing events organised every six months and hosted by project partners at pilot sites, the technical preparation of the first knowledge-sharing event to be hosted by IUCN in Spain between 1 March and 31 August 2026, support to the preparation, organisation and delivery of technical focus groups and on-site technical visits involving project partners, local stakeholders and relevant authorities, and the preparation of concise technical briefing materials covering the pilot concept, monitoring approach, KPIs, key assumptions and implementation constraints.

F. Monitoring Framework Development

The consultant will carry out the development of the monitoring framework by defining monitoring parameters, frequency and tools (including laboratory analyses and IoT-based approaches where relevant), developing technical, economic, environmental and social KPIs, and preparing data collection templates to be used by the consultant for pilot monitoring and adaptive management

G. Technical Support During Pilot Implementation

The consultant will provide technical support throughout pilot implementation and operation, covering implementation planning with the objective of having the pilot operational by August 2027, subject to permitting and site constraints, support to pilot operation, monitoring, fine-tuning and optimisation of the system until August 2028 including adaptive management recommendations based on monitoring results, and contribution to the preparation of a community agreement (or equivalent governance and operational agreement) to be signed with relevant stakeholders as a formal project deliverable.

2.3 Key Deliverables and Payment Schedule

The consultant will be responsible for delivering the following outputs. All deliverables shall be submitted in English and validated by IUCN-Med.

D1. Inception Report and Workplan

A detailed inception report including methodology, detailed workplan, coordination approach and an indicative pilot-level timeline (Gantt chart), building on initial technical exchanges with IUCN-Med, the Lead Partner and relevant partners.

D2. Technical Baseline Report (Pilot and District Level)

A comprehensive technical baseline report covering hydrological characterisation, water quality assessment, infrastructure mapping, stakeholder mapping, regulatory and permitting



review, assessment of existing unconventional water uses, and preliminary water-saving and cost-saving potential at pilot and district level (Activities A1.1–A1.3).

D3. Social Acceptability Assessment

A report presenting the results of stakeholder focus groups and surveys conducted to assess social acceptability of the proposed pilot solution, including analysis of perceptions before and after key pilot milestones and implications for implementation and replicability (Activity A1.4).

D4. Pilot Concept and Technical Design Report

A report detailing the pilot concept and the conceptual and detailed engineering design of the wetland-based NbS system, including configuration, sizing, performance assumptions, definition of the pilot community and governance set-up, indicative permitting roadmap, and estimation of CAPEX and OPEX, and support to the procurement of equipment and works/infrastructure, if needed (Activity A2.2).

D5. Hydro-Economic Assessment and Modelling Inputs

A technical note or report providing inputs to Decision Support Systems (DSS) for community- and district-level unconventional water reuse strategies integrating hydrological and technical data into hydro-economic analyses, including cost per cubic metre treated and reused, assessment of avoided costs, and inputs to district-level modelling activities (WP3).

D6. Monitoring Framework and KPI Matrix

A monitoring framework including definition of parameters, frequency, tools and methodologies, together with a consolidated matrix of technical, economic, environmental and social KPIs, and periodic monitoring outputs summarising pilot monitoring results to support pilot adaptive management.

D7. Pilot Implementation and Operation

outputs related to pilot implementation and operation, including technical notes, recommendations and inputs produced during implementation, monitoring, fine-tuning and optimisation of the system until August 2028.

D8. Capacity-Building and Knowledge-Sharing Materials (A3.4)

Technical materials prepared in support of Activity A3.4, including presentations, briefing notes and technical documentation for recurring three-day knowledge-sharing events, with specific support to the preparation, organisation and delivery of the first event hosted by IUCN in Spain between 1 March and 31 August 2026, as well as materials for technical focus groups and on-site technical visits.



D9. Community Agreement
Support to draft a community agreement (or equivalent governance and operational agreement) to be signed with relevant stakeholders, defining roles, responsibilities and operational arrangements for the pilot.

D10. Final Consolidated Technical Report
A final report consolidating all technical outputs, lessons learned, monitoring results, and recommendations for replication and scaling.

Payment schedule
The payment schedule and associated milestones will be defined in the contract following signature and linked to the validation of the above deliverables.

2.4 Supervision and collaboration

The consultant will work under the supervision of **IUCN Med**. Regular coordination meetings, participation in consortium activities and provision of technical clarifications may be required.

2.5 Timeline

The consultancy is expected to cover the period **February 2026 – February 2029**, following the pilot roadmap described in the KoM draft and AF.

2.6 Profile of the Consultant

Mandatory Requirements

The consultant must demonstrate:

1. **Proven experience in Nature-based Solutions for water treatment**, especially wetland systems addressing nutrients, herbicides and fungicides.
2. **Experience in Mediterranean delta systems**, preferably including work in the Ebro Delta.
3. **Experience integrating hydrological and hydro-economic modelling**.
4. **Capability in designing monitoring systems**, including IoT or smart-sensing approaches.
5. **Participation in EU-funded projects** (Interreg, Horizon, Life, PRIMA or equivalent).



6. Strong track record in multidisciplinary technical assessments.

Desirable

- Laboratory capacity for water-quality analysis.
- Experience with rice irrigation systems, drainage water management or coastal wetland restoration.
- Experience producing technical training materials.
- Experience in capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and engagement with local agricultural systems and community governance
- Fluency in Spanish and/or Catalan and English.

PART 3 – INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY PROPOSERS

By participating in these ToRs, Proposers are indicating their acceptance to be bound by the conditions set out in these ToRs.

Submitted information will be used in the evaluation of Proposals. Proposers are discouraged from sending additional information, such as sales brochures, that are not specifically requested.

Selection criteria

Activity proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Proposed methodology and working plan to conduct the tasks of this consultancy
- Team experience
- Examples of previous work
- Financial offer

Each of the following must be submitted as a separate document and will be evaluated separately.

3.1. Declaration



Please read and sign the Declaration at the end of this document and include this in your proposal.

3.2. Professional CV

Applicants are expected to justify the experience of the team/person

3.2 Financial Proposal

Prices include all costs

Submitted rates and prices are deemed to include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, liabilities, obligations, risk and other things necessary for the performance of the Requirement. Any charge not stated in the Proposal as being additional, will not be allowed as a charge against any transaction under any resultant Contract.

Applicable Goods and Services Taxes

Proposal rates and prices shall be inclusive of Value Added Tax.

Currency of proposed rates and prices

Unless otherwise indicated, all rates and prices submitted by Proposers shall be in Euros.

Rates and Prices

Proposers are required to submit a fixed and firm price for the total of the services.

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>