

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONTRACTORS/ CONSULTANTS

Baseline Assessment at ALUla County:

Title of Assignment	1. A Field Pedological work, Soil survey, and Georeferenced Soil Database DevelopQ
----------------------------	--

Context of the project

IUCN ROWA is currently

The work entails regular interactions with peers from national administrations, particularly the Royal Commission for AlUla. The consultant will be working collaboratively with the project manager/ Drylands, Livelihood, and Gender Programme. The work requires travel to the Saudi Arabia-AlUla region.

Table 1 AlUla Nature Reserves

No.	Site Name	Area	General Description
1	Sharaan Nature Reserve	1600 Km ²	It represents a typical natural landscape of the AlUla area, which is shaped by sandstone massif erosion that forms a complex network of valleys, gorges, and canyons.
2	Harrat Uwayrid	4680 Km ²	Large discrete Harrat landscape a landscape shaped by vulcanism and a key watershed, monumental sandstone margins, perpetual springs, and wet/damp wadis.
3	Harrat Alzabin	1677 Km ²	The second

Record observations related to soil erosion, compaction, and other degradation indicators.

2.

Assess the vegetation cover in the study area, analysing its composition and extent. Evaluate the levels of land and vegetation degradation, identifying areas requiring restoration efforts. Analyse the functioning of the ecosystem in the targeted areas.

2. Prioritization and Recommendations:

Prioritise zones based on their ecological importance, restoration needs, potential for landscaping, and relevance to ecotourism, and provide recommendations for conservation, restoration, and sustainable management practices in each prioritized zone.

GIS Mapping:

Generate GIS maps compatible with the RCU-GIS system, incorporating functional habitats, vegetation cover, and land degradation levels.

Ensure the accuracy and validity of the generated maps through standardized scientific approaches.

Data Collection and Analysis:

Utilise very high-resolution remote sensing imagery (50 cm or less) combined with field surveys and ground reference data.

Analyse and map vegetation communities, soils, land degradation, and other ecological parameters.

Deliverables

For the implementation of this consultancy, the consultant will be responsible for the delivery of the following specific deliverables within the following time frame to IUCN's Regional Office for West Asia.

Deliverable	Deliverable Description	Timeframe
D 1	Inception reports and updated work plans. It aims to illustrate and present clearly and timely all methodologies, and approaches that will be applied for the three abovementioned assessments (Ecosystem in the targeted areas at AIUla County, Vegetation survey, and Field pedological work, and soil survey). The work plan has a clear timeframe for the implementation of the assigned deliverable.	15th October 2023
D 2	First report: the first report must summarize and show the first findings on Field Pedological Work and Soil Survey, vegetation survey, and ecosystems (Maps with a resolution of 50 cm or less).	15th November 2023
D 3	Final Report: A comprehensive final report summarising all and showing the final findings on field pedological work and Soil Survey, soil analysis, Georeferenced soil database, and thematic Maps with a resolution of 50 cm or less).	31th November 2023

Payment Schedule

The consultant is expected to submit all deliverables by the end of September 2023 through

the details of any joint ventures, and what staff will comprise the project team. Firms must also describe their relevant professional experience in ecosystem restoration, and relevant experience elsewhere.

Proposing firms that suggest innovative and/or original approaches to achieve the project outputs and outcome, and additional opportunities for training and/or knowledge products, will be regarded favourably.

The bidder's financial proposal shall include all costs to deliver the expected outputs. Bidders' financial proposals will be assumed to include: (i) all key and non-key experts, in accordance with the person-month allocation for each as defined by the proposing entity; (ii) mobilization and travel costs of all experts, including travel, accommodation, per diems, among others; (iii) all fieldwork, surveys, and workshops; and (iv) corporate overheads including insurances.