TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title of

Background

The initiative "Enhancing Climate Resilience of Biodiversity Hotspots in Jordan" aims to improve resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems and vulnerable communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Protected areas, when well designed, well connected, and effectively managed, deliver important ecosystem services to human populations in general, and specifically to neighboring communities. In Jordan, local communities living around protected areas are benefiting from employment opportunities, eco-tourism development options, the provision of healthy rangelands, and medicinal plants, and the development of socio-economic projects that provide economic benefits. Climate change is one of the major threats to biodiversity, accelerating the loss of species, and degradation of habitats, and the well being of local communities, while well designed protected areas are one of the main Nature r based Solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change, sustain ecosystems services for human societies and to generate economic benefits for local communities that rely heavily on them.

The ecosystem vulnerability assessment conducted through Jordan's Third National Communication (TNC) Report showed that forests and water ecosystems are among the most vulnerable, highlighting the priority needed to perform adaptation interventions within these two kinds of ecosystems. (http://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/jordans_third_national_communication_report_0.pdf). The TNC proposed to adopt a national wide protected area system using diverse conservation governance forms including protected areas (PAs), "Hima" and special conservation areas (SCAs) that empower local communities to conserve natural resources and improve their livelihoods by enhancing their adaptive capacity, in addition to involving them in restoration actions of degraded ecosystems and encouraging the establishment of community forests to control soil erosion. Currently, Jordan's protected areas network covers only 5.3% of the country, while the international conservation community is trying to promote the adoption of the 30x30 initiative by conserving 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems globally by 2030. (https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/11/1/56). Critical gaps in the current national network of protected areas include the lack of integration of the current network". The project will also integrate climate change of the protected areas management effectiveness tracking tools to help track ar protected areas network that is

better resilient to the impacts of climate change.

2. Sub-national scale: by applying pilot interventions in Shoubak and Petra Districts from Ma'an Governorate southern Jordan that aim to achieve "increased areas of

The project's ultimate outcome will result in conserved and sustained ecosystem services for the benefit of local communities dependent on protected areas and the ecosystems conserved through these protected areas, which will contribute to poverty reduction across all sites where protected areas exist. The project's pilot interventions including Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Nature based Solutions (NbS) in the target locations in Petra and Shoubak will have a direct impact on enhancing the livelihoods and income of vulnerable communities through an extensive capacity building program that will target women, girls, and youth, and by engaging them in the FLR and NbS activities. This will not only enhance their income but will also improve their skills to achieve sustainable financial income. The main objective of this assignment is to enhance the integration of climate change to improve protected area planning and management in Jordan by establishing a climate change monitoring programme and enhancing management effectiveness tracking tools.

Scope of Work and Objectives

Under the supervision of the Protected Areas, World Heritage and Biodiversity Programme Manager at IUCN ROWA, the consultant shall conduct the following tasks:

1. Conduct a desk review and a rapid assessment of the impact of climate change on 6 selected PAs in Jordan and their dependent local communities. The assessment should include two parts: the impact of climate change on biodiversity, and the impact of climate change on dependent local communities. The 6 PAs will be selected in coordination with PA management authorities and relevant stakeholders.
2. Based on the results of the desk review and the rapid initial assessment, and in consultations with key stakeholders, the consultant shall develop a climate change monitoring plan and identify indicators for monitoring the impact of climate change on biodiversity and dependent communities (especially women) for the six selected PAs.
3. Cooperate closely with other consultants or experts hired by the project, especially the expert working on adapting the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), and provide guidance and advice to include indicators (at least one indicator) related to climate change in the adapted METT.
4. Conduct two in person training workshops to build the capacity of the PA planners, practitioners, and local communities to strengthen their understanding of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and local communities including women, and enhance their resilience. A 3 or 4 days training is expected as follows: (2 days training for practitioners and 2 Days training for local communities)

The consultant shall ensure the delivery of the outputs and activities and shall refer to the activity description in the project PIP (version Sep. 2023).

Deliverables

The consultant shall submit the following to IUCN ROWA:

Deliverable	Subject	Deadline
D1	Inception report: including a literature review and suggested work plan and flow of work of the consultant with other consultants through the IUCN ROWA	

D4	A report on mainstreaming climate change within the adapted toolkit (including the climate change related METT indicators)	2 weeks after D3 (estimated workload: 3 days)
D5	Workshop Report and training material covering two in person training workshops, one for PA planners, and practitioners, and another one for local communities on the impact of climate change on biodiversity and dependent communities	4 weeks after D2 (estimated workload 3 days)

The consultant will have 4 working days to reply to the comments and feedback remarks on the above mentioned deliverables by GAC or IUCN.

Payment Schedule

The consultant is expected to conduct the work within 5 months, through field visits, desk reviews, interviews, and consultation with the IUCN ROWA and relevant stakeholders if needed (In total 30 working days distributed throughout the 5 months) are estimated to conduct the tasks. The consultant shall submit an invoice according to the schedule of payments described below:

1. 10% upon submission and approval of the inception report (D1)
2. 30% upon the completion and approval of the deliverable (D2).
3. 30% upon the completion and approval of the deliverables (D3 & D4).
4. 30% upon the completion and approval of the remaining deliverable (D5), and all tasks and delivery of all relevant deliverables and reports.

If the consultant is subject to tax in the territory of Jordan in respect of the consideration received under this agreement, the consultant thereby acknowledges that IUCN is entitled to deduct 5% for residents of Jordan and 10% for residents outside Jordan, in addition to 1% as national contribution for non residents, as income tax arising or made in connection with this agreement. Also, IUCN will deduct a 5% amount as administrative and review costs arising or made in connection with this agreement.

Qualifications of a Successful Candidate

IUCN is seeking qualified individual consultants with the following qualifications and expertise:

- MSc or PhD degree in environmental sciences, climate change, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, or any other related fields (a PhD degree is preferred).
- Between 15 and 20 years of experience with climate change and climate change studies.
- At least 10 years of experience with project implementation in large scale regional projects or with international organizations.
- Demonstrated expertise and experience in the field of protected areas management, specifically in West Asia.
- Ability to provide guidance on climate change adaptation ¨ü)Q Ìïò’2B

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