

## Attachment 1

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy to conduct a comprehensive scoping study to enhance youth engagement in the decision making processes of the Convention on Wetlands

#### BACKGROUND

The [Convention on Wetlands](#) (hereinafter referred as the Convention) is an intergovernmental treaty, which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was the first of the modern global multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and remains the only MEA dedicated to the conservation of a specific critical ecosystem.

The Secretariat of the Convention (hereinafter referred as the Secretariat) has its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, where the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provides legal status and related administrative services for the Secretariat support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention.

The 14th Meeting of the Convention on Contracting Parties adopted [Resolution XIV.2](#), which mandated the establishment of the Youth Working Group (YWG). The priority tasks of the Working Group are to:

- i. advise and participate, where appropriate, in the Working Group to develop the new Strategic Plan (SP5);
- ii.

## PURPOSE

The Secretariat seeks a consultant or consulting agency to assist the Secretariat with some of the governance tasks of the Youth Workplan by conducting a scoping study that identifies and analyses effective strategies for increasing youth engagement in the decision-making processes of the Convention, including guidance on youth engagement at national and Convention processes. The consultants should assess the experiences and the best practices of youth engagement from other MEAs and environmental UN organisations, particularly those related to biodiversity and water, and make suggestions applicable to the Convention on Wetlands, within the ambit of the Youth Workplan.

The outputs of the consultancy should support the progress of the following [Youth Workplan](#) tasks:

- 1.4.5: Establish systems/ processes to make it easy to contract

2.1.1: produce guidance on which negotiating and decision-making spaces to access (and why)

- Based on assessment of successful engagement in other MEAs, recommend on how these best practices could be applied within the context of the Convention/Wetlands, considering current opportunities and challenges.
- Suggest mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness and progress of youth engagement in decision making processes within the framework of the Convention.
- Lead the discussion with the YWG to finalise a draft guidance. (Expectation (for internal purpose: executive summary of 2 pages and body of text of 18 pages max. (excl. summary annexes and bibliography))

1.4.5: Establish systems/ processes to make it is easy for Contracting Parties to know how to engage with the collective of youth organisations, to enable them to bring youth into spaces

- Conduct a literature review of best practices in youth engagement at the national level.
- Suggest generalised processes for how the guidance can be implemented by Contracting Parties within their national government context
- This includes recommending mechanisms specific to the following activities
  - 2.4.2: Engaging with government on government owned wetlands
  - 2.4.3: Co-design with government on projects
  - 2.4.4: Leadership for today and the future Consider creating a training module to explore together what leadership in wetlands conservation looks like today as young people, in different roles
  - 3.3.1: Engage CPs in the discussion around recognising wetlands conservation and restoration roles as core to youth employment strategies

3.6.1: Identify and explore with Contracting Parties ways to integrate youth considerations into existing and new wetlands policies, strategies, processes and programmes

- Research common examples of pathways for integration among all Contracting Parties
- Develop generalised guidance for all Contracting Parties with consideration of differences between developing and developed countries, and with the feedback of Contracting Parties