

Terms of Reference

Consultant: Project Closure Specialist

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| Position: | Consultant – Project Closure Specialist |
| Programme title: | IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme: The Lower Awash-Lake Abbé Land and Seascape – Enhancing biodiversity conservation in transboundary ecosystems and seascapes |
| Organisation: | IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office |
| Location | Party home based, partly based in Djibouti |
| Starting Date | 1 st April 2017 |
| End Date | 8 th August 2017 |

1. Background

The IGAD Biodiversity Programme (BMP) is a four year programme financed by the European Union's 10th European Development Fund. It supports IGAD in its efforts to protect the diverse wildlife, habitats and flora in the Horn of Africa. By building the capacity of local people to manage their natural resources sustainably, the BMP aims to reduce poverty in some of the most marginalised places in the Horn of Africa. The Programme also works to promote better cooperation between the environmental sectors of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea, Uganda, Djibouti and Sudan. By supporting the coordination of biodiversity policies in these countries, as well as working with partners at key cross-border sites, the IGAD BMP aims to empower local communities to manage some of their most valuable assets.

As well as working with governments to develop regional biodiversity policies, the BMP disperses grants to three implementing partners at three cross-border demonstration sites:

1. Boma Gambella on the South Sudanese - Ethiopian border, managed by the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre & Network (HoARECN)
2. **Lac Abbé and the Gulf of Tadjoura on the Djibouti - Ethiopian border, managed by The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
3. Tana Kipini Lag Badana Bush Bushle Reserve on the Kenyan - Somali border managed by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

The sites were chosen based on their location on country borders, their unique biodiversity and the importance of this biodiversity in terms of local and regional livelihoods, the high risk of habitat and wildlife loss, and their potential contribution to livelihood improvement.

The specific objective of the IUCN component of the programme is to contribute to *the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems in the Lower Awash-Lake Abbé land and seascapes, in order to contribute to lasting ecosystem goods and services*. The expected results are as follows:

- Result 1: Understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem services in target land and seascape improved.
- Result 2: Holistic and integrated transboundary landscape and seascape management plans developed.
- Result 3. Sustainable nature-based and community-managed/co-managed livelihood

- improvement initiatives developed and supported;
- Result 4: Capacity for biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas and key ecosystems strengthened;

The project is being implemented in partnership with the host country government authorities: (1) Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement/Djibouti Ministry for Housing, Urban Affairs and Environment and (2) the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute. Technical partners include Cordio East Africa and Equipe Cousteau.

To manage the project IUCN has established a small project management unit in Djibouti staffed by a full time Technical Advisor (TA) and Financial and Administrative Officer (both Djiboutian nationals). The TA reports to the Technical Coordinator, Conservation Areas & Species, based in the IUCN Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The project started in November 2013 and comes to a close in August 2017. To date the project has carried out detailed biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments and used information to develop holistic and integrated management plans for the Lower Awash – Lake Abbé transboundary landscape and the Djibouti seascape working in close liaison with the government authorities, local communities and other relevant stakeholders. The project has also contributed to the development of local capacity in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management with a particular focus on local communities. In the final stage of the project IUCN is aiming to:

1. Secure high level endorsement of the landscape and seascape management plans from and seek resources for implementation through a donor roundtable;
2. Support the operationalization and implementation of these management plans at different levels e.g. by facilitating the establishment of the required governance structures, piloting and catalysing a local community managed and conserved area and developing plans for ecotourism for the benefit of local communities
3. Build capacity for operationalization and implementation of the management plans e.g. by exchange visits and hands on capacity building at community level

2. Description of the consultancy

IUCN is seeking an experienced and well qualified consultant to work with the Technical Advisor and assist with the implementation of the remaining project activities and to bring the project to a successful closure.

Specific tasks of the consultants include the following:

In close liaison with the Technical Advisor and the IUCN Technical Coordinator, Conservation Areas and Species:

1. Help the Technical Advisor to follow up and monitor the work plans of project partners and consultants to ensure activities are on track with respect to the overall project work plan
2. Help adaptively manage the project e.g. by making recommendations to improve delivery, prioritise activities in the project work plan, etc, while respecting relevant donor and IUCN regulations and procedures
3. Assist Technical Advisor and Finance & Administrative officer with budget management in line with IUCN and donor requirements, particularly with respect to allocation of

- remaining budget to priority activities
4. Provide technical support, particularly with respect to technical reporting and communications both internally and externally
 5. Assist with the technical and administrative tasks related to the organisation or workshops, dialogues and consultations including, where required, developing presentations, briefing documents, workshop reports and media releases.
 6. Assist Technical Advisor with other technical support to project partners, consultants and IUCN's implementing partners involved in the project activities

The consultant will be required to quickly get acquainted with the project through the review of relevant background material as well as detailed debriefings by the TA and the Technical Coordinator.

3. **Output of the Assignment**

4. **Competencies**

- Strong and demonstrated track record in project management, particular of complex donor-funded biodiversity conservation projects, including results-based project cycle management, monitoring and evaluation methodologies and project budget management. **Previous experience managing European Union-funded projects highly desired.**
- Advanced University degree (Masters or equivalent) in biodiversity conservation, natural resources management or other relevant field
- Excellent communication skills, written and spoken, in English and French
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity to gender, religious and ethnic issues
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to work as a member of a team
- Willingness to travel often, including to remote sites and in difficult field conditions
- Previous work experience in the Horn of Africa region a distinct advantage

Interested candidates should email their technical and financial proposals, along with detailed CVs to: Leo Niskanen, Technical Coordinator Conservation Areas & Species Diversity. Email: Leo.Niskanen@icun.org by 15th March 2017.