

Terms of reference for consultancy support to review national wetlands inventories and prepare a funding proposal to fill in gaps and information for SDG Goal 6 Indicator 6.6.1

1. BACKGROUND

The Convention on Wetlands, also known as the “Ramsar Convention” from the name of the city in Iran where it was signed in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity and services. It was the first of the modern global multilateral environmental agreements and remains the only one devoted to a specific critical ecosystem.

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland where the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), provides some administrative services for the operations and implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat has actively engaged in discussions regarding achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including with regard to SDG Indicator 6.6.1 (on change in extent of water-related ecosystems), as requested in Decision SC53-17 of the Standing Committee.

The Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) decided in November 2017 to make the Ramsar Convention a co-custodian for this indicator, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It further decided to approve two parallel reporting lines to the global SDG database hosted by the UN Statistics Division. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will contribute data from National Reports based on Ramsar definitions and requirements; UNEP will be responsible for the internationally comparable methodology with national data, regional and global aggregations for Indicator 6.6.1.

In order to support Contracting Parties in the preparation of National Reports and to progress reporting on “wetland extent” as a contribution to SDG Indicator 6.6.1, the Secretariat developed guidelines on information to be provided in Target 8 “National Wetlands Inventory” and in particular on “wetland extent”.

In line with the above decisions, the Secretariat requires a consultant that supports the revision of information from National Reports that contributes to SDGs 6 (Indicator 6.6.1), 14 and 15 as well as to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As part of the consultancy and based on the review of the information a fundraising proposal will be developed to support Contracting Parties in their commitment under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to carry out national inventories of their wetlands. This provides the basis for reporting on wetlands extent and, importantly, to take the needed actions to reverse the loss of this important ecosystem.

The consultant will work directly with the advisor in charge of national reports and SDGs. The work relationship involves regular mentoring and interactive thematic discussions with the Head of Policy and Science and other relevant staff.

2. WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Review the specific information submitted by Contracting Parties in National Reports in 2018 (COP13 corresponding to the period 2016-2018) for Indicator 6.6.1, SDG 14, SDG 15 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Review Ramsar guidelines of wetlands inventories as well as other relevant guidelines to prepare a toolkit for use by Contracting Parties that addresses the identified gaps in knowledge, guidance and support to undertake, refine or complete wetland inventories.
- Based on the review of National Wetland Inventories prepare a gap analysis with priorities that identifies what knowledge, guidance, support and resources are needed by contracting parties to undertake, refine or complete wetland inventories.
- In consultation with Secretariat staff provide recommendations on how the identified gaps are best addressed (e.g. modalities of providing knowledge, guidance, support and resources)
- Develop a tool kit on wetlands inventories linked to indicator 6.6.1 for use by Contracting Parties that addresses the identified gaps in knowledge, guidance, support and resources required to complete wetland inventories.
- Develop proposed content and curriculum for distance based training to support workshops/training on wetlands inventories for Contracting Parties.
- Prepare a fundraising proposal to support Contracting Parties in the completion of National Wetlands Inventory to contribute to Indicator 6.6.1.

3. CONSULTANT DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAME

The consultancy shall be deemed to commence on the 17th May 2019 and will terminate upon satisfactory and timely completion of all tasks to be undertaken, but not later than 17 October 2019.

The main deliverables according to item 2 and time frame is as follows:

- Gap analysis with priorities to support contracting parties to undertake, refine or complete wetland inventories by 25 June 2019.
- Contracting Parties toolkit on wetlands inventories linked to indicator 6.6.1 by the 25 August 2019
- Prepare a fundraising proposal (using the guidelines provided by the Secretariat) to support Contracting Parties in the completion of National Wetlands Inventory to contribute to Indicator 6.6.1 by 25 September 2019.
- Progress report by 25 July and final report with all deliverables by 30 September 2019.

4. EXPERTISE AND PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant should have the following experience and profile:

Education

Graduate degree (masters) focused on

- Environmental science and policy
- Natural science/resources engineering

Experience Required

Minimum experience of 4+ years in earth observation, ecosystem inventories and geographic information systems. Data information/GAP analysis and fundraising activities.

Skills Required:

- analytical skills
- writing skills

- ability to read, write, and communicate in English

Desired: ability to work with software for

- statistical analysis (e.g. Stata)
- Excel
- ArcGIS

Language skills

- Fully fluent in spoken and written English. Fluency in another Convention language (French and or Spanish is advantageous).

5. OUTLINE ESTIMATED COST

Total fees CHF 38,250 (45 days work at a daily consultancy rate of 850 CHF). The work shall be deemed to commence on the 17 May 2019 and will terminate upon satisfactory and timely completion of all tasks to be undertaken, but no later than 17 October 2019.

6. APPLICATIONS:

Responses are to be sent electronically in Word and PDF format to applications@ramsar.org by 3 May 2019. Any enquiries relating to these Terms of Reference should be directed to the same email address.