

Terms of Reference

Consultant – Djibouti

Position:	Consultant to conduct an assessment of eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries development and long-term sustainability in key areas in Djibouti Seascape
Programme title:	The Lower Awash-Lake Abbé Land and Seascape – Enhancing biodiversity conservation in transboundary ecosystems and seascapes (IGAD)
Location	Djibouti. The project target area is the Gulf of Tadjourah and Ghoubet-el-Kharab in the Republic of Djibouti.
Starting Date	April 2017
End Date	May 2017

1. Background

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a Regional Economic Commission comprising of the following Member States: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Its headquarters are located in Djibouti.

The IGAD mission is to assist and complement the efforts of the Member States to achieve, through increased cooperation:

- Food Security and environmental protection
- Promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs, and,
- Economic cooperation and integration.

The main objective of the IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme (BMP), funded by the 10th European Development Fund, is to contribute to poverty reduction by improving the social and economic wellbeing of the populations in IGAD region through a better regional integration in the environmental sector.

The Lower Awash-Lake Abbé land and seascape is one of three demonstration sites within the BMP where activities will be carried out to showcase best practices in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management to improve ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of local communities. IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is the lead Implementing Partner for activities in the Lower Awash-Lake Abbé land and seascape.

Description of the study area

The Republic of Djibouti is responsible for an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 7,025km². The EEZ stretches from the Eritrean border in the north to the border with Somalia in the south (Figure 1.1). Djibouti's EEZ can be subdivided into four marine zones: i) the Red Sea coast, which extends from Ras Siyyan at the Bab al Mandeb to the border with Eritrea, (ii) the Gulf of Aden, which extends from Ras Siyyan to Ras Obock and southwards, (iii) Gulf of Tadjourah and; (ii) Ghoubet-el-Kharab. The coastal and shallow marine ecosystems span a coastline of 372 km, stretching from the Îles Sept Frères in the north east at the Ethiopian border to east of Djibouti city in the south, bordering Somalia. The present consultation is focused on the Gulf of Tadjourah (maps).

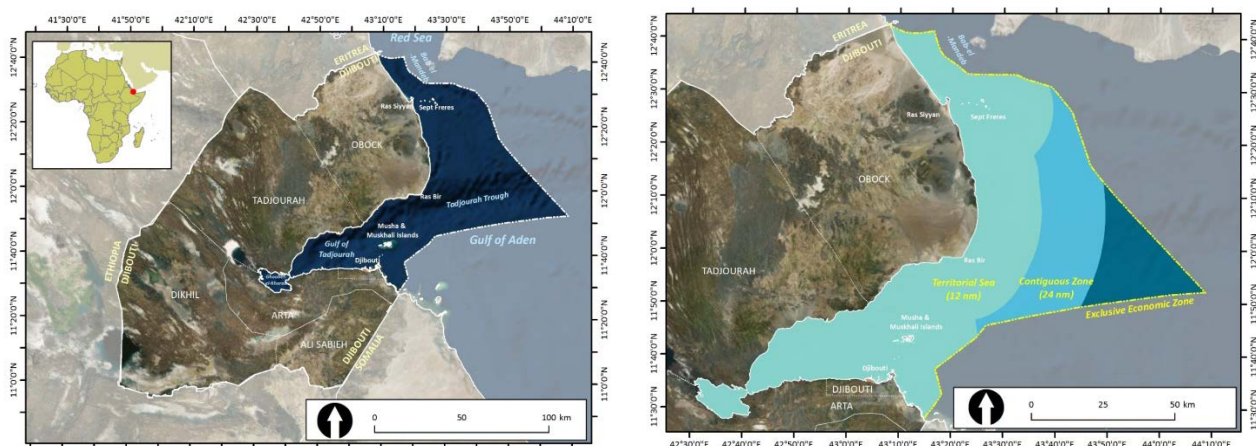
The Gulf of Tadjourah and Ghoubet-el-Kharab Seascape contains regionally and globally important biodiversity and provides essential ecosystem services to the local and national economies. These coastal and marine ecosystems are a unique component of the Gulf of Aden and provide habitats for rare and threatened species including sharks, marine turtles and the Critically Endangered dugong. A key biodiversity feature of the shallow coastal waters is the coral reefs which have high levels of biodiversity and endemism for both corals and fish. They are part of a larger transboundary ecosystem of coral reefs and associated marine environments stretching from Sudan to Somalia which have been identified as potentially qualifying for World Heritage site status.

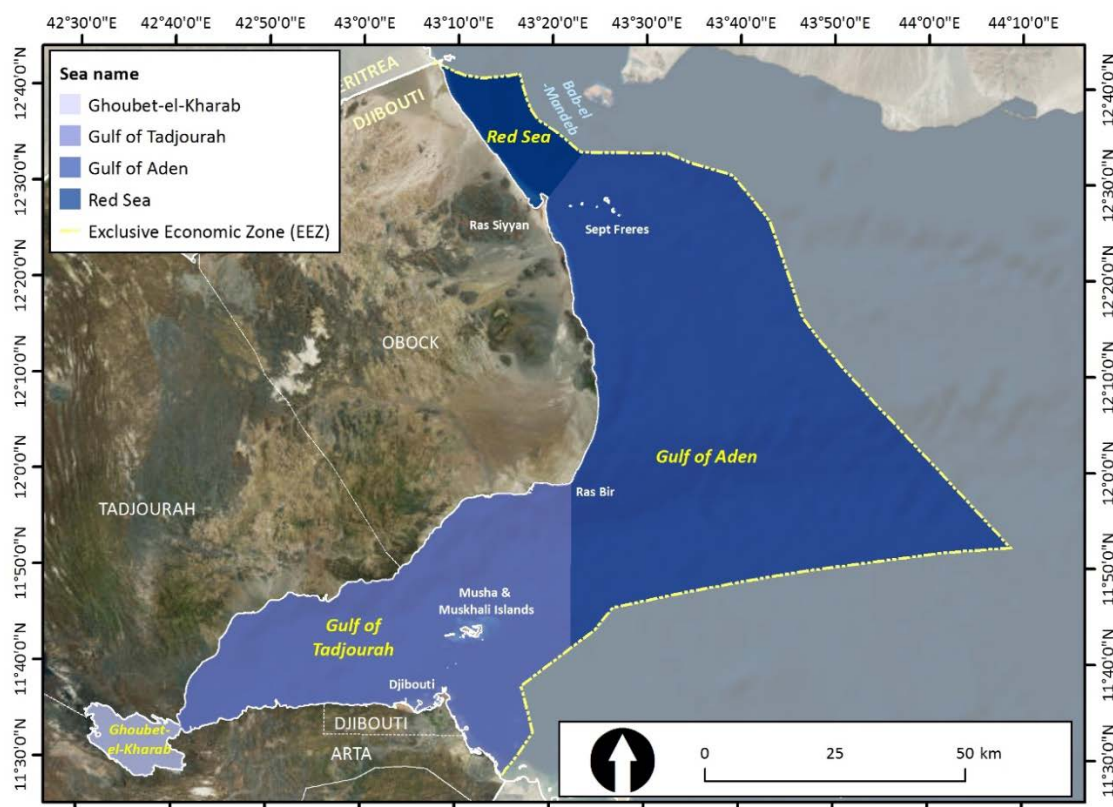
The shallow coastal waters of the Seascape provide a source of food and livelihoods for the local populations - in the city of Djibouti and in the towns of Tadjourah and Obock. They also offer opportunities for future economic development and diversification. However, pressure to develop this short coastline is now high from the current strategies for boosting the country's economy through the development of new ports and tourist hotels. At the same time the government of Djibouti in recognising its natural marine assets is determined to protect this unique natural marine heritage.

Djibouti's marine environment is already under pressure from unsustainable utilisation of natural resources linked to changes from predominantly pastoralist to more sedentary forms of land use, as well as unregulated fishing. Pollution from maritime activities, climate change, over-exploitation of mangroves, and tourism impacts (uncontrolled hotel development, coral damage from anchors and trampling, collection of shells) and illegal fishing of sharks and marine turtles were all cited by the stakeholder consultation workshop in June 2014.

A spectacular congregation of Whale Sharks in the Gulf of Tadjourah and the Ghoubet is threatened from uncontrolled tourism activities leading to harassment and injury of the animals. Human pressure on the marine environment is predicted to continue as the country plans major developments with the implementation of 'Vision 2035'. Under this strategy there are five new ports to be constructed around Djibouti's coastline, a fivefold increase in fisheries landings and tenfold increase in tourism, all of which will place significant pressure on the fragile coastal habitats. These plans may also create conflicts of interest in the coastal zone as construction and development could threaten the habitats that provide the ecosystems services on which Djibouti's fisheries and tourism sector depend.

Despite the clear potential for development of nature based enterprises, particularly eco-tourism, there have been very few private sector investors or community-managed or co-managed activities in the seascape until recently. Current foreign investment in coastal tourism is now set to increase substantially. Fisheries legislation currently in preparation makes provision for community involvement through co-management of natural resources particularly fisheries, including community managed protected areas, though as yet there are no community based marine resource management projects in place. Existing tourism infrastructure is also lacking and there is no clear strategy nor the resources or capacity to implement sustainable tourism strategies. Nevertheless, the rich biological resources and scenic values of the land and seascape provide ample opportunities for the creation of future benefit generating activities for local communities that can help achieve long term biodiversity conservation objectives. Many of the most scenic areas in the Gulf and the Ghoubet area are inaccessible, unexplored and the few existing ecotourism operations in the seascape need support and guidance to realise their full potential.





Map of the Republic of Djibouti showing: national boundaries and main administrative districts and maritime claims and sea areas showing the Gulf of Tadjourah and the Ghoubet-el-Kharab (Klaus 2016).

Description of work carried out so far by the project:

A Seascape Management Plan for the Gulf of Tadjourah and Ghoubet-el-Kharab in the Republic of Djibouti applying a Systematic Conservation Planning approach recommended by the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) community of expertise has been developed.

The Djibouti Seascape Management Plan is developed to capture the multiple goals and pressures experienced in Djibouti, to identify how best to develop the coastline while sustainably managing the valuable marine resources. Its aim is to manage the inshore marine waters of Djibouti: the Gulf of Tadjourah, Ghoubet and the Musha/Maskali Islands, through an integrated, holistic and cross-sectoral approach that encompasses biodiversity conservation, development and economic growth. The Seascape Management Plan identifies priority areas for conservation and the development of local livelihoods through the development of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and community-based tourism amongst others. Efforts are ongoing under the auspices of the current project to support the development of Djibouti's first LMMA at Arta Plage.

2. Objectives

The objective of the consultancy is to conduct an assessment of eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries development and long-term financial sustainability with a focus on Arta Plage area in the Gulf of Tadjourah and Ghoubet-el-Kharab in the Republic of Djibouti. It links with the ongoing efforts to develop an LMMA described above.

3. TASKS

The consultant working in close collaboration with the IUCN Project Management Unit and local community and fisher community in the Gulf of Tadjourah and Ghoubet-el-Kharab and will carry out the following activities:

1. Review background information, including the outcomes of the biodiversity and socio-economic assessments, existing community-based eco-tourism initiatives and the seascape management plan
2. Evaluate available sustainable financing options relevant to community-based ecotourism and artisanal fisheries at Arta Plage linked to the development of an LMMA
3. Conduct community consultations through participatory approaches and engage stakeholders in the development of community-based ecotourism and artisanal fisheries at Arta, including value addition to existing eco-tourism activities.
4. Based on the community consultations and assessments, identify new community-based eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries opportunities, prioritizing activities that offer the highest benefits for communities and the local environment.
5. Identify and assess the potentiality and types of eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries.(Linked to Task 3 above).
6. Develop business framework for the selected eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries activities with consideration of local capacities and constraints.
7. Identify capacity-building/training priorities for local communities including fishermen to effectively operationalize and manage new eco-tourism ventures.

4. Deliverables:

- Inception report that summarizes the outcomes and approach of the consultancy (including community consultation processes)
- Technical report describing the work carried out, all information produced, including maps (GIS files, if available), full list and contact details of all stakeholders met, interviewed or who participated in the production of the transboundary community conserved area management plan
- Eco-tourism and artisanal fisheries feasibility assessment and market study
- Business framework plan for community-based ecotourism and artisanal fisheries enterprises
- Capacity/training needs assessment and community capacity building/training strategy
- Strategic recommendations and action plan for IUCN and partners

All deliverables should be submitted in English with an Executive summary of the main findings in French.

5. QUALIFICATIONS

- At least a Master's degree in environmental conservation, community nature-based development and community protected area management, marine resource management or related topics, with a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in Africa, including demonstrated experience in eco-tourism and community nature -based enterprise development ; community protected area management.
- A good understanding of marine natural resource management, biodiversity conservation issues and community development issues.
- Fluency in both French and English, with excellent writing skills in English and French
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity to gender, religious and ethnic issues
- 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@iucn.org and to Houssein Rayaleh, Project Technical Advisor – IUCN/ESARO Project Unit in Djibouti. Email: houssein.rayaleh@iucn.org by 25th March 2017