

Draft Terms of Reference

Consultancy for capacity building in strategies of restoration, rehabilitation, and monitoring of wetlands, and the assessment of the effectiveness of the management in Wetlands of International Importance within the framework of the Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin

1. Background

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 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 dedicated to a specific critical ecosystem.

The Regional Initiatives under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands aim to serve as operational means to provide effective support to improve the implementation of the Convention in specific geographic regions through voluntary international cooperation on issues of common concern relating to wetlands.

The Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin has been operating under the Convention since 2015 and is made up of the Contracting Parties of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

In the context of Resolution XIII.9, The Standing Committee 57 and 58 of the Convention has allocated funds to the Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin to support the development of its activities under its work plan. In this regard, the recruitment through the Secretariat of the consultancy services is required for the preparation of modules and workshops to strengthen capacities in strategies of restoration, rehabilitation and monitoring, and the assessment of the effectiveness of management in Wetlands of International Importance, within the Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin.

2. Work to be developed

The consultancy will carry out the following activities:

- i. Review of the Ramsar manuals, toolkit, resolutions, and guidelines of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance on strategies of restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring, and the effectiveness of management in Wetlands of International Importance as well as others that are relevant.
- ii. Review, identification, and characterization of the main threats, changes, loss, degradation, and vulnerability of the wetlands of the Amazon River Basin.
- iii. Preparation of responses (policy, strategies, institutional, technical, economical and governance actions) to the threats, changes, loss, degradation, and vulnerabilities of the wetlands of the Amazon River Basin for its wise use and ensure their functional and ecosystem services

- iv. Review of scientific, institutional, and communal, among other experiences in terms of strategies for restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring, and the effectiveness of management measures in Wetlands of International Importance in the Amazon River Basin.
- v. Preparation of training modules on strategies of restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring, and the assessment of the effectiveness of management in Wetlands of International Importance.
- vi. Implementation of capacity building workshops on strategies of restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring, and the assessment of the effectiveness of management in Wetlands of International Importance.

3. Expected outputs (Deliverables) and deadlines

With the development of the consultancy, the following outputs must be delivered:

- i. Document with the compilation of the guidelines, resolutions of the Convention, and others relevant in the areas of strategies of restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring and, the effectiveness of management in Wetlands of International Importance, by October 15, 2020.
- ii. Document with the analysis of the identification and characterization of threats, changes, loss, degradation and vulnerability of the wetlands of the Amazon River Basin, by November 15, 2020.
- iii. Document containing the preparation of responses (policy, strategies, institutional, technical, economical and governance actions) to the threats, changes, loss, degradation, and vulnerabilities of the wetlands in the Amazon River Basin for its wise use and ensure their functional and ecosystem services, by December 15, 2020.
- iv. Systematization of the scientific, institutional, and communal, experiences among others in terms of strategies for restoration, rehabilitation, monitoring and, the effectiveness of management measures in Wetlands of International Importance in the Amazon River Basin by January 15, 2020.
- v. Develop three (3) training modules for workshops (remotely) in: 1. Strategies of restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands; 2. Monitoring of wetlands; 3. Effectiveness of management measures in Wetlands of International Importance for Contracting Parties (managers of Ramsar sites, technical professionals, and policymakers) that take into account points i-iv of the consultancy for January 30, 2021.
- vi. Implementation of three (3) workshops for capacity building in: 1. Strategies of restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands; 2. Monitoring of wetlands; 3. Effectiveness of the management in Wetlands of International Importance with qualified personnel in the three thematic areas for Contracting Parties (managers of Ramsar sites, technical professionals, and policymakers) between February 15 and April 15, 2021. In this phase, the participants evaluation formats should be prepare allowing the evaluation of the objectives and results achieved in each workshop.

Take note that the Secretariat will provide the virtual platform for the implementation of the workshops

- vii. Analysis of the evaluation of the training workshops for April 30, 2021.

4. Timetable and reports

The consultancy will begin on September 15, 2020, and will end with the delivery to satisfaction of the Secretariat of all products on May 15, 2021

A progress report will be delivered on December 15, 2020, including Products i, ii, and iii, and a final report on May 15, 2021, with all the expected Products (i to vii). All reports and their annexes (modules, workshop presentations, others) must be delivered in Spanish in Word and PDF format.

5. Profile and experience of the consultant

The consultancy is open to individuals (consultant), group of consultants or organizations with the following profile and experience:

- Academic degree in biological sciences, environmental engineering, or related sciences.
- Master's degree in environmental science / natural resources
- Verified minimum experience of 10 years in the management of aquatic ecosystems.
- Demonstrated experience in wetland restoration, rehabilitation, and monitoring
- Demonstrated experience in capacity building.
- Fluent in Spanish and English, spoken and written.

6. Presentation of proposals

Proposers must include the following aspects in their proposal:

- Cover letter that includes the specific technical competences of the applicant, on the subject of the consultancy
- Applicant's resume
- Technical proposal that includes the methodology and description of how the different activities and products will be developed, likewise, it must contain:
 - The detailed work plan of the activities
- Financial proposal
- Contacts of three (3) referees familiar with the proponent's experience

If an organization or group of consultants applies, in addition to the above information, the following must be presented:

- The composition of the consulting team, and specialties including all resumes

7. Submission of the proposals

Proposals must be sent to rivera@ramsar.org no later than September 4, 2020