**Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

**International Programme Consultant for the Programme Preparation of the Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme**

**(1) Background:**

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. IUCN’s work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions (NbS) to global challenges in climate, food, and development. Since 2014, IUCN has been accredited as the Project Agency of Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Since 2018, IUCN has initiated discussion with two Chinese governmental authorities, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), regarding the development of a cross-sectoral Yangtze programme to enhance and mainstream biodiversity conservation in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China.

In 2020, the “Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme” (Yangtze Programme) was designed for GEF funding and composed by the three partners, IUCN as the Implementing Agency (IA), the NFGA and MEE as the Executing Agencies (EAs), and consists of two coordinated and complementary Child Projects (CPs), the “Strengthening in-situ Biodiversity Conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt” Project led by NFGA, and the “Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt” Project led by MEE. The overall programme will demonstrate effective conservation and threat management practices in three provinces in the Yangtze River Basin (YRB), namely Anhui, Jiangxi, and Sichuan, as well as promote policy, legislation, and coordination mechanism development at the river basin level.

As per the GEF procedures, a Program Framework Document (PFD) of the programme and two Child Project Concepts defining the objectives, structure, and available resources, were developed, reviewed, and cleared by needed procedures in China and endorsed by the Operational Focal Point of China, the Ministry of Finance, submitted to GEF Secretariat and was finally approved by the GEF Council In December 2020.

Since January 2021, the Yangtze Programme has entered into the programme preparation stage, supported by a tailored Project Preparation Grant (PPG) from the GEF and a PPG work plan. A series of PPG activities led by IUCN China, NFGA, and MEE, supported by a team of consultants, will be conducted for information collection, analysis, and stakeholder consultation tasks that will result in the preparation of the Project Documents (ProDoc) and CEO Endorsement Requests (CER) of the two CPs required for submission by the end of 2021, and approval by IUCN and endorsement by the GEF in the first half of 2022. The ProDoc shall identify the approach and content of the Yangtze Programme and two CPs, and ensure that the incremental reasoning, cost-effectiveness, risk, and mitigation issues are addressed through a widespread and thorough consultation process with stakeholders and project partners. The PPG activities should lead to the establishment of a sound and effective partnership that can ensure the achievement of project results and transformational impacts. This consultancy will provide key knowledge and information support for the ProDoc and CER development.

**(2) Main responsibilities:**

The Consultant will lead and coordinate with the two national consultants to provide key knowledge and information support for project development and preparation of the Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme.

**(3) Tasks and deliverables of the consultancy:**

The consultant will lead the delivery of the following output:

* An integrated Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy
* Final, full Project Documents (ProDoc) and CEO Endorsement Requests (CER), as per GEF format

Under the guidance of IUCN, and in coordination with NFGA, MEE, and the two national consultants, the International Programme Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

***Coordinate, review, polish, improve, and elaborate the development of the integrated Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy (10 days)***

Develop an integrated communication and knowledge management strategy to guide the development and delivery of coordinated knowledge, communications, and awareness-raising products and activities of the programme, as well as the learning, sharing, and exchange activities between the programme and other relevant initiatives.

***Participate in and contribute to various events and consultations (15 days):***

* + Kick-off workshops for the Programme and the two Child Projects (CPs)
	+ Coordination meetings with other GEF projects including the GEF-7 Transformational wildlife conservation management in China (TWC), GEF-6 China’s Protected Area System Reform program (C-PAR), GEF-7 Demonstrating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin project (ECM)
	+ Stakeholder consultation in three provinces
	+ National validation workshops for NFGA and MEE CP
	+ National Wrap-up workshop
	+ Project Appraisal Meeting
	+ Project Supporting/Steering Committee meetings
	+ Other technical meetings and workshops mutually agreed upon the consultant and IUCN

***Coordinate, review, polish, improve, and elaborate the development of the ProDoc and CEO Endorsement Request of the two Child Projects as per GEF format (55 days) receiving inputs on the two Child Project’s from the relevant national consultants***

* + Develop draft logical framework; (expected completion time: May 31th, 2021)
	+ Develop a draft of project activities, factoring in COVID-19; (expected completion time: June 30th, 2021)
	+ Develop a description of the implementation arrangements; (expected completion time: July 15th, 2021)
	+ Develop GEF incremental/additional reasoning section; (expected completion time: July 15th, 2021)
	+ Develop paradigm shift section; (expected completion time: July 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop a detailed budget; (expected completion time: July 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop an integrated Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy (expected completion time: July 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop Gender Action Plan (GAP); (expected completion time: August 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop M&E plan & budget; (expected completion time: August 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop procurement plan; (expected completion time: August 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop draft risk analysis section identifying mitigation measures; (expected completion time: August 31st, 2021)
	+ Prepare the draft ESMS section; (expected completion time: August 31st, 2021)
	+ Develop CEO Endorsement Request (expected completion time: September 15th, 2021)
	+ Integrate findings and contributions from other consultants and stakeholders
	+ Other things mutually agreed upon by the consultant and IUCN.
	+ Finalize as per stakeholders, IUCN, NFGA, MEE and GEF Secretariat's discussion.

**(4) Contract duration and timeline**

The timetable for the delivery of outputs is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deliverable 1: An integrated Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy | July 31th, 2021 |
| Deliverable 2: The ProDoc submitted to GEF Secretary | November 30th, 2021 |
| Deliverable 3: The ProDoc approved by GEF Secretary | April 30th, 2022 |

**(5) Expertise and Experience required**

The consultancy is open to institutions/ or team of individuals with the following expertise:

* Interdisciplinary expertise on various technical dimensions of integrated river basin management, protected areas and biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming etc.
* In-depth understanding and experience on policies, institutions and practices linked to biodiversity conservation and river basin management, with multiple stakeholders including government and businesses.
* Ability to navigate amongst different approaches to arrive at balanced methods that consider and integrate ecosystem and human needs and are aligned with the national priorities;
* Experienced in Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request of GEF projects;
* Previous experience in China is an advantage.
* Demonstrated high level of writing, analytical and reporting skills;
* Ability to operate in a highly fluid environment and in a virtual context;
* Native English speaker with high written proficiency.

Complete applications should be submitted electronically with the subject line of:

**‘Application: International Programme Consultant for the Programme Preparation of the Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme’** at following email address by **Thursday, 06 May 2021; 23:59 UTC+8 (Beijing) Time.**

* To: Ms. JIN Wenjia (Programme Officer, IUCN China) wenjia.jin@iunc.org
* cc:Mr. ZHANG Yan (Country Coordinator, IUCN China) yan.zhang@iucn.org

***Annex 1***

**Expression of Interest**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of institution** |  |
| **Postal and Email Address** |  |
| **Technical proposal articulating:*** How the consultant will approach the think piece, including a preliminary conceptual framework indicating the main sections with brief description of each section.
* List 10 proposed sources of information
* Indicate number of days expected for each task and deliverable.

*(Max 4 pages)* |
| **Summary introduction to previous work highlighting relevant expertise (max 300 words)** |
| **References (including web links) to previous work and published papers** |
| **Name and email addresses of the core team (max 3),** along with a 50 word summary (for each member) indicating qualifications and skills. Please also attach Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the team lead. |
| Proposed budget and details of expected expenditure, such as number of days, daily rates of staff etc in the format suggested below. |
|  | **Budget Line** | **Description** | **Unit** | **No. of units** | **Cost per unit** | **Budget in local currency** |  |
|  | **1.1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **1.2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **1.3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **1.4** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total |  |  |