



## Call for Consultants

IUCN ROWA invites qualified entities (firms, NGO, etc) to submit their technical and financial proposals for conducting the assignment “Implementation of Specific Activities for the Project the Effective management of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun Protected Areas”

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONTRACTORS/ CONSULTANTS

Title of Assignment	<b>Consultancy for the Implementation of Specific Activities for the project Effective management of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas</b>	
Location	Egypt	
Duration	4 months	
	From: 1 March, 2022	To: 30 June, 2022

### Background and Justification

Egypt’s high biodiversity is partly due to its location at the juncture of four bio- geographical regions, namely the Irano-Turanian, Mediterranean, Saharo-Sindian and Afrotropical regions, and to its diversity of landscapes and topographic features, ranging from the rugged mountains of South Sinai and the Eastern Desert (up to 2,641 m) to the Qattara Depression (134 m below mean sea level), to flat featureless gravel plains and complex hilly country. Egypt is considered home to an extensive diversity of terrestrial habitats, fauna, flora and microorganisms, and although the country has comparatively low species numbers and few endemics, its biodiversity is exceptionally diverse in composition and has high global significance. A significant part of Egypt’s diverse species lies within nationally designated protected areas.

In Egypt, there are 30 protected areas covering 15% of the terrestrial area, while over 9% of the coastal and nearshore environment is protected and all activities carried out in these protected areas are to be subjected to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency’s (EEAA) control. A number of laws in Egypt provide the enabling environment that supports biodiversity management in the country. The law assigns a major role to EEAA in the management and monitoring of protected areas, including the management of the licensing and permit system for any activity undertaken in protected areas requiring EIAs. All activities carried out in protected areas are to be subjected to the EEAA’s control, which can take steps to enforce the rules and stop any illegal activity.

### Context

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature –Regional Office for West Asia IUCN-ROWA is currently executing the Project “**Effective Management of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas in Egypt**”. The project is implemented in partnership with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and with the support of the GEF and UN Environment. The project aims to strengthen the overall management of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun protected areas to safeguard biodiversity by addressing a range of threats. It seeks to enable community involvement, capacity building and gender equality as the principle means toward improving effectiveness. The project mainly focuses on two PAs, Wadi El Rayan Protected Area WRPA and Lake Qaroun Protect Area LQPA which are located within the Fayoum Governorate.



The project will enhance the management effectiveness of WRPA and LQPA through a number of interventions on the level of the PA and its surrounding communities. This assignment covers the following components; developing a compliance monitoring and enforcement programme, supporting the operation of an environmental educational centre, and supporting community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments.

### **Scope of Work and Objectives**

**IUCN – ROWA** is seeking the support of an experienced entity (Firm or NGO) for the successful implementation and delivery of the **Effective Management of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas Project**. Below is a description of scope of work intended for the consultant as outlined in the following components:

#### **Component 1: Upgrade and Develop the open-air museum in Jebel Qatrani**

This activity involves the development of the existing open-air museum in Jebel Qatrani Area. The interpretation of fossil contents of the museum should be enhanced. Protective shelters and covers for the fossil sites and the peripheries of the museum need to be re-designed to better protect the museum area.

Under the direct supervision of the Central Parks Director, EEAA; the Programme Manager at Protected area, World Heritage and Business Programme at IUCN ROWA, and in close consultation with the management of LQPA at the EEAA, the consultant will develop **the following:**

- A design for the proposed enhancements for the open-air museum in Jabal Qatrani.
- Provide and construct suitable shelter/cover structures or protective material for the items and interpretation material in the fossil exhibition;
- Enhancing the scientific content on displayed fossils of the whole museum and adding valuable items/interpretation facilities that strengthen the idea of open show;
- Defining the borders of the museum with physical structures (soft-infra structure, i.e. shelters, etc.) to show area for better protection of its fossil content;
- Replace/add to the existing interpretation materials as required, from scientific and touristic point of views that can introduce better experience and satisfaction of both scientific/educational and touristic purposes; and
- Perform the necessary modifications as advised by the scientific advisor of the NCS and IUCN.
- Design and develop brochures for the self-guided trails with simplified scientific content and maps.

During this assignment, the consultant is required to work closely with the NCS Central Parks Director and LQPA management at the EEAA.

#### **Component 2: Develop and operate a community environmental education centre**

This activity will support the operation of a community environmental education center, which is located at LQPA (Shakshouk village). The center already includes classrooms and space for community gatherings, as well as space for local environmental and health NGOs to locate and work together.

The current headquarter HQ of the LQPA located in Shaksouk is a well-developed infrastructure for the daily operations of park activities. It consists of two main components:

- The first is of 4 office rooms, reception hall, 2 toilets and a guard space
- The second is a park manager accommodation space consisting of a bed room, hall,



kitchen and toilet in addition of an outer space balcony.

An open space area of around 400 sq m is adjacent to the HQ and is totally free of constructions and is surrounded by a wall.

In close consultation with WRPA and LQPA management team, the NCS and IUCN, the consultant shall perform the following tasks:

- Design and upgrade both the HQ building and the free adjacent land for the best use as community environmental education center.
- Redesign and upgrade the HQ to have training halls, meeting rooms and office operations for the LQPA. The consultant shall make efforts for the best design and use of all the space inside and surrounding the HQ area in addition to the roof area.
- The land adjacent to the HQ shall be designed to be functionally connected to the HQ and serving at the end as operational education center. Minimum soft infrastructure and landscaping shall be designed to connect the land with the HQ working as one functional education center. Open fairs and exhibitions, green areas, corridors, pathways, etc. are just ideas for the targeted soft structures. The consultant shall implement the designs for the upgrade of the HQ building and surrounding space after being approved by IUCN and EEAA. This includes soft infra-structure, landscaping and light construction works to connect the HQ building and adjacent land as one functional educational center.
- Assess and identify **development needs** (equipment, soft-infrastructure, furniture, infra-structure maintenance, interpretation tools, etc.) for the efficient operation of the community environmental education center. The consultant shall refer to the CEPA plan prepared through this project to ensure that the needs for the implementation of the CEPA plan are taken into consideration.
- The consultant shall **facilitate the procurement** of the needed equipment and services to enable the efficient operation of the community environmental education center in accordance with IUCN's procurement policy. In cases of maintenance services, the consultant shall supervise service providers and ensure compliance. **However, the cost of the identified equipment, maintenance and soft-infrastructure will be covered by the IUCN independently of this assignment.**

### **Component 3: Support community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments, services, product development and product sales**

This activity will support the implementation of a prototype for an eco-village in the area north of Lake Qaroun and eco-tourist tent structures in the Open-Air museum area of Jebel Qatrani inside the LQPA for eco-tourism developments and activities within and adjacent to the protected area. In close consultation with the WRPA and LQPA management teams and under the supervision of the Programme Manager at Protected area, World Heritage and Business Programme, the consultant shall perform the following tasks:

#### **3.1. Develop an Eco-village prototype**

- Design and develop a **prototype for an eco-village** to be located in the area north of Lake Qaroun near to the asphalt road passing the north of Lake Qaroun. The design shall include, the following as a minimum requirement:



- suitable night accommodation units (not less than 8) for visitors to the LQPA provided with simple essential facilities and made of local materials with the suitable nature design simulating and fused into the surrounding environment.
  - Central services area (kitchen, dining, free zone, etc.).
  - Parking area
  - Local tent structure for diverse activities and recreation.
  - Network of natural hiking trails connecting the main features and biodiversity spots and lake shore in the surrounding area.
  - Landscape design and Palm plantation in and around the project area simulating an oasis environment.
  - Designing a low scale treatment plant for daily domestic uses of the users to avoid future water transport to the project.
  - Local crafts selling point
  - **The consultant shall be only responsible for the development of the designs and all relevant costs site survey, however, this does not include the actual construction costs for the village prototype.**
- Support and facilitate providing operation of the eco-village by local community as service provider. In addition, IUCN will assist the community in marketing of eco-tourism and socio-economic products.
  - Provide **training to improve eco-tourism and socio-economic product** development and services in cooperation with the Fayoum Tourism Association.

### **3.2: Tent structures prototype for Jebel Qatrani**

The area of the Open-Air museum of Jebel Qatrani currently has an administrative building for the park staff in addition to public toilets and free service area around. The consultant shall develop permanent tenting structures to provide eco-tourism services for the area visitors. The contractor shall:

- Design and develop tent structure (including the procurement and set up of tents) as a central visitor service area including but not limited to the following components:
  - Food and beverage day use resting tent of authentic local design;
  - Central services tent area (kitchen, dining, free zone, etc.).
  - Parking area
  - Design and implement network of natural hiking trails to the open museum and the surrounding area.
- Support and facilitate providing operation of the tent by local community as service provider. In addition, IUCN will assist the community in marketing of eco-tourism and socio-economic products.

**Work relationships:** The consultant shall report to the Programme Manager at Protected area, World Heritage and Business Programme at IUCN ROWA.



## **Component 4: visualization for establishing global protected areas labeling (Geopark- green list areas)**

### **4.1. Visual /high-end report to support the declaration of a global Geopark in Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected area (greater Fayoum Geopark).**

Geoparks are of great importance as they are areas of significant geological heritage that are managed within the framework of their conservation and community development at the same time. The geological heritage is a dynamic interconnected relationship between heritage and society, as it reveals how civilization takes changing paths through the interaction of human societies with nature in a way that helps growth and progress. Geoparks are notable because they are regions of considerable geological heritage that are managed both for conservation and community development. Geological heritage is a dynamic and interwoven relationship between heritage and society, as it demonstrates how civilization evolves over time as a result of human cultures' interaction with environment.

#### **The report shall address and include the following:**

- Delineation of the proposed Geopark boundaries.
- Mapping of Wadi El Rayan and lake Qaroun protected area geological elements (Geological- geomorphological- geographical- topographical- geo-sites- important sites etc.....)
- Propose appropriate measures to support the protection of proposed geo-park.
- Identify and highlight the most important features of the proposed geo-park including: potential site activities and hospitality; educational role of the geopark, i.e. why should people visit the proposed Geopark?
- Verification of the site characteristics against UNESCO global Geo-park criteria.
- Provide recommendations for the sustainable development and partnerships to support the nomination and operation of the site.

### **4.2. Visual/ high-end report to declare Jebel Qatrani on IUCN's green for protected and conserved areas**

The first global benchmark of best practise for area-based conservation is the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. It is a certification scheme for well managed and equitably controlled protected and preserved places, such as national parks, natural World Heritage sites, community conserved areas, and nature reserves.

The major goal is to assist the NCS in establishing new green site and monitoring the Egyptian Green List process.

#### **The consultant shall perform the following tasks:**

- Conduct and facilitate consultation meetings with the PA management team and stakeholders to prepare for the Green List application process for Jabal Qatrani. The consultant should also utilize this consultation process to advise on enhancing the integrated management planning process for Jabal Qatrani.
- Report and advise on the readiness of Jebel Qatrani site for nomination on the IUCN Green list.



- Apply the Green list criteria and indicators on the proposed site and assess the potential suitability of the site.
- Monitor project goals and commitments, and give NCS and associated partners with reports and updates on activities and occurrences (IUCN) Actively participate in the preparation of foreign partner exchanges.
- Establishing a GIS data base and maps representing the basic information for Jebel Qatrani site in alignment with the requirement of the IUCN Green List.

#### **4.3. Field Guide for Wadi El Hitan including mapping of main features**

The World Heritage Site in Wadi El-Hitan, Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area is the global iconic site for introducing the records about the evolution of whales throughout the ancient eras. The site is currently one of the best managed sites not only in Egypt and the Middle East but also in the whole world.

The IUCN, through its joint project with Ministry of Environment and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, would assist in setting priorities and criteria for scientific research development and monitoring in the site. The consultant shall perform the following tasks:

- **Produce a field guide** about the Wadi El-Hitan. The field guide should include the following:
  - The story of discovery and development of the site up to its current status.
  - The evolution geology of the site within the broader history of life.
  - The vertebrate paleontology of the site and its global outstanding universal value and its attribute characteristics.
  - Detailed photography guide with necessary information tips for the exhibited fossils in both museum areas of the site.
  - Iconic fossils and their discovery in the field.
  - Success story.

#### **Deliverables**

The consultant will be responsible for the delivery of the following specific deliverables within 4 months after signing the contract:



		2022				
Deliverables		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
<b>Component 1: Upgrade and Develop the open-air museum in Jebel Qatrani</b>						
1.1	Inception report for the assignment including timeframe and proposed methodology for this component					
1.2	Qatrani open air museum needs assessment report including: the conceptual designs for the proposed enhancements, protection material and draft interpretation material for the fossils					
1.3	<b>Implementation of the proposed conceptual designs</b> and fully developed interpretation material, in addition to the required protection shelters and any related soft infra-structure.					
<b>Component 2: Develop and operate a community environmental education centre</b>						
2.1	Updated design for the community environmental educational centre including the exiting offices and neighbouring open space					
2.2	Needs assessment report including the required equipment, furniture, tools and soft -infrastructure necessary for the functioning of the educational centre					
2.3	Implementation of the proposed designs <b>including soft infrastructure works</b> for the community educational centre					
<b>Component 3: Support community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments, services, product development and product sales</b>						
3.1	Eco-village prototype designs and their estimated costs for northern part of Lake Qarun. (Construction works not included)					
3.2	Tent structures prototype designs and implementation (procurement and set up) of the tent design for Jebel Qatrani					
<b>Component 4: visualization for establishing global protected areas labeling (Geopark- green list areas)</b>						
4.1	Visual/ high-end report to declare global Geopark in Wadi El Rayn and lake Qaroun Protected area (greater Fayoum Geopark).					
4.2	Visual/ high-end report to declare Jebel Qatrani on IUCN's green for protected and conserved sites					
4.3	Field Guide for Wadi El Hitan including mapping of main features					



### **Payment Schedule**

The consultant is expected to work between March and June 2022 through office work, and consultation with the Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders. The consultant shall submit an invoice at the end of all tasks and delivery of all the above-mentioned deliverables. The payment of full instalment will be made upon satisfactory completion of deliverables.

The payments shall be made according to the following schedule:

- 40% upon signature.
- 30% upon the successful delivery of all deliverables for Component 1 and 2.
- 30% upon the successful delivery of deliverables under component 3 and 4.

### **Qualifications of Successful Candidate**

Interested entities/ companies should have a team of experts covering the following qualifications:

- MSc degree in ecology, environmental sciences, biodiversity conservation, geology, or any other related fields. A PhD degree in the above-mentioned field would be an asset.
- Previous experience in the field of biodiversity conservation management and capacity building.
- At least one of the experts should have extensive experience in the development of environmentally friendly designs and interpretation material in Egypt and/ or the region.
- At least one of the experts should have extensive experience in the development of environmental educational and awareness programmes related to geology in Egypt and/ or the region.
- Proven ability to liaise and work with a range of stakeholders including government agencies, the private sector, and civil society.
- Ability to compile large amounts of information succinctly into a coherent document for conservation practitioners and government officials.
- Facilitation and coordination skills, the ability for managing the timely and effective delivery of both quantity and quality work on time.
- Familiarity with sources of funding for projects related to biodiversity and the environment.

### **Evaluation of bids**

Qualified entities (NGO's, firms, etc) are invited to submit their technical and financial proposals by the 28th of February, 2022, 4:00 pm Amman time to [Natalia.boulad@iucn.org](mailto:Natalia.boulad@iucn.org), and to [WESTASIA@iucn.org](mailto:WESTASIA@iucn.org).

Interested entities shall submit the following documents:

1. A technical proposal for conducting the assignment which includes the following:
  - Company/ NGO profile including a brief on similar work
  - Proposed team of experts and their CV's
  - Technical proposal for conducting the assignment



2. A financial proposal with cost breakdown
3. The applications will be evaluated as follows:
  - 70% of the evaluation score for the technical proposal, company profile and CV's
  - 30% of the evaluation score for the financial proposal
4. Please note that the offers presented shall be inclusive of any essential local taxes.
5. IUCN will deduct 5% of the total contract value in relation to this assignment as admin and review costs.
6. Financial offers shall be submitted in US dollars.

#### **Nature of penalty clause in contract**

If the reports and documents are not submitted according to the deliverables and timeframe stated in this TOR, the payments would be withheld.

IUCN ROWA reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs are incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet the deadlines.

#### **Important Notes:**

- **Incomplete applications, offers will be disregarded.**
- All materials developed will remain the copyright of IUCN and IUCN will be free to adapt and modify them in the future.
- The logos of IUCN, UNEP and GEF shall be used in compliance with IUCN, GEF and UNEP's communication and visibility guidelines. All structures, reports and material produced through this assignment should have these three logos in addition to the EEAA logo.
- Consultation sessions can be done physically or virtually (conference call, online sessions) or both depending on the country situation. The consultant shall support in the preparation and organization of any physically held session if needed.