



## Terms of Reference (ToR):

**Call for consultancy service regarding “conservation contributions of Sustainable Agriculture through applying IUCN standards for effective area-based conservation (Green List, OECM guidance) to agricultural landscapes”.**

IUCN Headquarters

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IUCN Contact:

[aissa.traore@iucn.org](mailto:aissa.traore@iucn.org)

[paola.diaz@iucn.org](mailto:paola.diaz@iucn.org)

### 1. About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of 1,400 Member organisations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards. IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development. Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

### 2. Background

Last year at the UN COP15 meeting in Montreal, Canada, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes a target to protect at least 30% of the planet under effective conservation.

Called "30 by 30", the ambition is to conserve 30% of Earth's land and sea areas by 2030 through connected, representative systems of protected areas and other effective conservation measures. Similarly, IUCN's Resolution WCC 2020 125 calls on the Union to promote at least 30% of the planet under effective conservation, as the available science is clear that this is the minimum global need. IUCN defines a protected area as: a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

IUCN has also provided guidance on what other means are available to achieve effective area-based conservation, e.g. through conserved areas or 'OECM'<sup>1</sup> - a geographically defined area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values (CBD, 2018). There are significant

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn\\_position\\_paper\\_resumed\\_cbd\\_sbstta24-sbi3-oweg3\\_.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_position_paper_resumed_cbd_sbstta24-sbi3-oweg3_.pdf)

areas within the production landscape and seascape that could be recognised as OECMs. Greater effort should be placed on identifying and recognising the important conservation values of these agricultural areas in sites that meet the definition of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

### 3. Overview of the consultancy

The AFD project "Accelerating the global transition to sustainable agriculture" is aligned to IUCN's Agriculture and Land Health initiative, launched by the Director General in 2021. The objective of the initiative and the project is to "accelerate action for mainstreaming land health in sustainable agriculture, as a Nature based Solution to food and water insecurity, climate change and other societal challenges".

Through this project, IUCN will develop a dedicated assessment and benchmarking tool for agricultural landscapes to help identify and improve their conservation contributions. This will align with the [IUCN Green List Standard](#) and in turn allow for links to criteria for OECM and related verification and certification programmes. This will help advance IUCN's knowledge and data for monitoring changes to soil biodiversity as the outcome of farming approaches to accelerate the transition to sustainable agriculture, hand-in hand with wider nature and ecosystem contributions.

The assignment described in these Terms of Reference contributes directly to Outcome 2 of the initiative: "The tools and knowledge necessary for the generalization of agro-ecological approaches are produced." Specifically, the assessment contributes to the third deliverable under Outcome 2, "Strengthen the biodiversity and ecosystem contributions of agricultural landscapes through applying the IUCN green list of protected areas and adapted criteria for assessing the value of agricultural landscapes".

The program relies on IUCN's ability to bring together stakeholders and make available the necessary scientific knowledge, including tools to guide public and private policies and investments, and to assess their impact. In particular, the program will facilitate consensus among conservation and agricultural stakeholders on the conservation benefits of sustainable agriculture, the value of these benefits to society, and appropriate incentives. It will also consolidate the framework for benchmarking the biodiversity co-benefits of agro-ecological practices.

### 4. Objective

Provide a literature review and conduct deep analysis referred to details in point 5 of this ToR to help accelerate actions to integrate soil health and agro-ecological approaches into sustainable management and agricultural land restoration initiatives as a nature-based solution (NbS).

### 5. Description of tasks

- **Provide an analysis and mapping contributing to promoting, measuring and recognizing the contributions of agricultural land to biodiversity conservation, and under which contexts they can be considered as, or included in protected area or other effective area-based conservation measures:**
  - a. Provide analysis and simple definitions of protected area, OECM, the 'pathways' and links with agricultural land
  - b. Analyse semi-natural farming systems (particular focus on extensive livestock production on pastures)
  - c. Provide an analysis of high biodiversity value cropping systems (e.g. Satoyama, Spanish wheat landscapes etc.)
  - d. Define the role of agriculture in providing ecological corridors, especially functional connectivity for important biodiversity values, such as migratory species
- **Show the value of strengthen the IUCN Green List of protected areas with criteria for assessing the value of agricultural landscapes:**
  - a. Adapt the IUCN Green List benchmarking tool (adapt only required indicators) to cater for agricultural landscapes and provide a performance evaluation framework for their biodiversity contributions and connectivity value

- b. Support launch of the agricultural expertise within green list expert committees eg. send invitation email to interested experts to apply for the working group membership and organise first meeting
  - c. Develop and test adapted revised standards and benchmarking tools (ref. above point a.) in 2 agricultural landscapes
- **Document case studies from selected countries mapping the overlap between agricultural land and OECM/PA**
    - a. Select existing case studies in three or more country cases from, i.e. Kenya, France, Amazonia, Middle East, Korea, Mongolia (final 3 countries to be approved by PCA team)
    - b. Illustrate how potential protected area (e.g.using maps) could be recognised as best conservation areas regarding various designations and recognized categories
  - **Map the global extent and potential for sustainable agricultural lands to contribute to 30x30**
    - a. Illustrate the extent of relevant farming systems, considering how much is already included in the WDPA (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA> ) and what is missing according to the database
  - **Provide recommendations for promoting conservation through sustainable agriculture and, related but conversely, promoting sustainable agriculture as a contribution to biodiversity conservation (minimum 5 pages using Arial 10)**

## 6. Key Deliverables

Deliverable 1: Advanced outline of the studies (based on the bullet points above).

Deliverable 2: Midterm progress technical, including update on analysis to gather and receive feedback from the PCA team.

Deliverable 3: Develop guidelines and benchmarking frame (background documents will be provided by PCA Team) for applying the Green List Standard for agricultural landscapes - produce a draft framework for consultation.

Deliverable 4: Respond to reviewer input and develop the final report.

## 7. Timeline

The consultancy will start after signature of the contract and should end no later than December 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. Here follows the list of the deliverables and deadlines. Deadlines will correspond with the timeframe based on start date, noting that the deliverables are in sequence and so the previous deliverable must be completed before the next one can begin.

Action	Deadline (after signature of contract)
Provide a detailed outline and timeline of the report	Week 2
provide a list of required document/ resources to be provided by PCA team	Week 3
Deliver a first draft report	Week 4
Gather feedback from PCA team and respond to them	Week 5
Develop guidelines and benchmarking frame (background documents will be provided by PCA Team) for applying the Green List Standard for agricultural landscapes - produce a draft framework for consultation.	Week 6
Deliver a second draft report and gather feedback from PCA team	Week 7
Respond to reviewer input and deliver the final report.	Week 8

## **8. Scoop of the consultancy and collaboration**

Working under the supervision of the Global Protected and Conserved Areas team at IUCN, the main objective of this consultancy is to support the delivery of the AFD project "Accelerating the global transition to sustainable agriculture" aligned to IUCN's Agriculture and Land Health initiative, launched by the Director General in 2021. The consultant will be home-based. IUCN will have the final decision concerning successful delivery and quality of all deliverables. The outline of all deliverables should be agreed with IUCN team ahead of the work. Consultants should build time for discussion before starting each deliverable and for review and sign-off feedback of the different deliverables. IUCN will provide contact or access to relevant contacts to carry out the assignment.

## **9. Methodology**

The consultant will propose and discuss with IUCN a specific workplan regarding the duration of the consultancy, based on the key deliverables presented below and overall goal of the consultancy. The work should include consultations with IUCN staff and with external stakeholders. A regular check-in call will be organized by IUCN to track progress and align on the tasks.

## **10. Required experience and qualifications**

The work will be conducted by an international consultant with the following qualification and experience:

- Postgraduate qualification in natural resources management, Environmental Science, Biodiversity/protected areas management, agriculture or related field, with a focus on conserved areas
- Experience and Knowledge of agriculture and nature conservation practices in productive landscapes
- Proven experience in sustainable land and soil management
- A good understanding of OECMs and community-based conservation
- Experience in GIS and mapping would be an asset
- Strong analytical skills, including capacity to synthesise academic literature and desk review
- Proven skills in drafting high quality reports
- Experience in the target regions and familiarity with the key stakeholders is a strong asset
- Fluency in English

## **11. Application**

Interested candidate are invited to submit the following in one document by email to the following two emails addresses: [aissa.traore@iucn.org](mailto:aissa.traore@iucn.org) and [paola.diaz@iucn.org](mailto:paola.diaz@iucn.org) with subject "Ag as OECM Consultancy".

- A detailed curriculum vitae highlighting specific experience in relation to the subject of this consultancy.
- A written motivation regarding their suitability for the job
- A financial proposition in USD for completion of the required tasks, including the daily rate.

## **Evaluation of applications**

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: (i) profile and experience in relation to subject of the consultancy, (ii) the methodology proposed for the conduction of the mission, and (iii) the financial offer.