



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Supporting transformative governance for coastal restoration

CONTEXT

Coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands, lagoons and estuaries currently face a series of pressures, including erosion, severe flooding and accelerated destruction, which can negatively affect sectors including local fisheries and aquaculture. While solutions for the restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services are available, scientific evidence on how to scale up technical and non-technical approaches for their spatial and social-economic integration remains rare.

The **EU-funded REST-COAST project** (Large-scale RESTORation of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity, 2021 -2026) aims to demonstrate to what extent upscaled coastal restoration can provide a low-carbon adaptation, reducing risks and providing biodiversity gains for vulnerable coastal ecosystems. The project builds on the collaboration of 37 partners at nine pilot sites representing the main EU regional seas (Baltic Sea, Black Sea, North Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea) to develop large-scale river-to-sea connectivity and promote the resilient delivery of coastal ecosystem services.

The project's pilot sites, located in the Wadden Sea (Netherlands/Germany), Ebro Delta (Spain), Venice Lagoon (Italy), Vistula Lagoon (Poland), Foros Bay (Bulgaria), Sicily Lagoon (Italy) Rhone Delta (France), Arcachon Bay (France) and Nahal Dalia (Israel), represent a diversity of European coastal ecosystems and provide a wide range of human impacts and pressures with different levels of vulnerability to climate change. The actions at each pilot site are coordinated by local stakeholders and partners, in collaboration with project partners. The selected ecosystem services (risk reduction, environmental quality and fish provisioning) address some of the urgent pressures coastal environments currently face: erosion, severe flooding and accelerated habitat degradation and biodiversity loss.

The project aims to increase the commitment of citizens, key stakeholders and policy-makers for long-term, large-scale coastal restoration through a transformative change in governance and financial structures, which is supported by evidence-based results on the benefits of coastal restoration for the welfare of coastal communities. Scientific data is collected through pilot actions built on the multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial collaboration of project partners. Building on the findings, the project will develop a systemic approach to coastal restoration through scalable programmes of action for restoration activities. The proposed programmes of action will facilitate replicating coastal restoration at a large scale and introduce coastal ecosystem services into national and international policies, to encourage a transformative change in governance and policies and in line with the EU Green Deal for adaptation and mitigation under climate change.

Coastal Restoration Platforms (CORE-PLATS) will be set to transfer results and support the implementation of the programme and the resources.



IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) is participating in the project as Lead Partner of *WP5: Transformative governance for restoration upscaling*. As such, IUCN-Med is working with pilot sites to support the work to improve governance at pilot areas to:

- improve preconditions to successfully implement and maintain upscaled restoration in the pilots sites, mainly in relation to the decision-making processes, and
- generate new ideas and promote innovation testing, including governance and management innovations within a co-designed updating plan.

GOALS AND SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The consultant(s) will work over a ten month period of the project's implementation (June 2022 – March 2023) and will support IUCN-Med with the following tasks:

- Co-design innovative governance for long-term stakeholder/financial commitment. The consultant will work closely with IUCN to engage in dialogues/bilateral discussions with local partners at each pilot site (through online consultations) to refine the priorities and the tools to use for implementing and to develop the vision for NbS restoration for governance implementation.
- Prepare and deliver a series of capacity-building workshops on different governance aspects for partners and managers from different regions. This will involve 3 multi-stakeholder online/in-person workshops/sessions (e.g. on tools for co-creation and 'What if' scenarios). The consultant will be responsible to arrange the agenda and content of the workshops, in previous agreement with and logistical and facilitation assistance from IUCN Med.
- Develop a Roadmap for an effective governance process in collaboration with each project pilot site and provide recommendations for key management elements for present and future restoration actions.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- 1. Proposed work plan and timeline**
- 2. On-going dialogues/bilateral discussions with local partners at each pilot site to refine the priorities and the tools to use for implementing and to develop the vision for NbS restoration for governance implementation**
- 3. Preparation and delivery of 3 online/in-person workshops/sessions on coastal restoration for managers from different regions, including the agenda and content. Workshop reports documenting the outcomes**
- 4. Roadmap for an effective governance process on NbS restoration programme at each project pilot site and recommendations for key management elements for present and future restoration actions.**



All final decisions concerning the successful delivery and quality of deliverables will be made by IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med). The consultant shall schedule time in the work plan for reviewing drafts and implementing feedback based on discussions with IUCN-Med.

EXPECTED DELIVERY TIMELINE AND PAYMENTS

	<u>DELIVERABLE</u>	<u>EXPECTED DELIVERY</u>
1	Proposed work plan and timeline	One week upon signing of contract
2	On-going dialogues with local partners at each pilot site (through online consultations) to refine the priorities, develop the vision for NbS restoration	June – October 2022
3	Preparation and delivery of 3 online/in-person workshops/sessions on coastal restoration for managers from different regions. Workshop reports documenting the outcomes	September 2022 – February 2023
4	Roadmap for an effective governance process on NbS restoration programme at each project pilot site and recommendations for key management elements for present and future restoration actions.	March 2023

Maximum budget: 20.000€ incl. VAT and all other taxes

VAT and other taxes are included in the above-mentioned amount. IUCN is not acting as a business or professional nature entity for VAT purposes and therefore the consultant should charge in its invoices the VAT or analogous tax accordingly. In case that the consultant is exempt of VAT or equivalent tax in its jurisdiction, it should include a note in the invoice document informing of this issue and mentioning the law that applies.

Payments will be made upon finalised review of deliverables by IUCN-Med.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Please submit your application to Emmi Lindqvist (emmi.lindqvist@iucn.org) and CC: Maria del Mar Otero (mariadelmar.otero@iucn.org) by **31st May 2022 at 23:59 (CET)**. Applications should include the following elements:

- **Interpretation of the Terms of Reference**, demonstrating an understanding of the scope and objectives of the consultancy, including how they will be achieved



- **Proposed methodology** based on the contents of these Terms of Reference. The methodology should describe how the various stages of the consultancy will be carried out and how the deliverables will be developed.
- **Curriculum Vitae**, including educational background, previous experience with similar tasks, knowledge of nature resource governance or wetland governance
- **Cover letter** stipulating the candidate's suitability and motivation for the consultancy, and examples of previous work
- **Proposed budget of up to 20.000€ (including VAT and other taxes)**, detailing the proposed expenditures per activity

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of the candidate for this consultancy will be based on:

- Candidate profile
 - Academic background in a field relevant to the consultancy (preferably natural resources management, environmental or conservation management or in its absence, at least 5 years of practical experience in related areas, or working with socio-economic development and governance)
 - Knowledge and expertise in relation with the goals of the TORs
 - Previous experience in similar tasks and demonstrated results
 - Good presentation and interpersonal skills
 - Analytical and report writing skills
- Proposed methodology, work plan and timeline
- Proposed budget
 - Not exceeding 20.000€ (including VAT and all taxes) and with detailed breakdown of time and resources included
- Language skills
 - The working language of this consultancy is English. Fluency in written and spoken English is a must. Knowledge of other European languages is considered an asset.

The consultancy is expected to start in June 2022.

INQUIRIES

For any inquiries related to this consultancy, please contact Emmi Lindqvist (emmi.lindqvist@iucn.org) and CC: Maria del Mar Otero (mariadelmar.otero@iucn.org).



ABOUT IUCN-MED

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) coordinates and implements the global program of IUCN, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, in the Mediterranean region. It aims to unite science, decision-making, management and action to conserve nature and accelerate the transition to sustainable development through innovative and collaborative initiatives.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- REST-COAST project website: <https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/projects/current-projects/rest-coast-large-scale-restoration-coastal-ecosystems-through-rivers-sea-connectivity>
- IUCN Natural Resource Governance Framework Assessment Guide: https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/the_nrgf_assessment_guide_working_paper.pdf