

Expression of Intrest For

A Consultant / firm for Revision and updating of the Palestine National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPP) and Preparation of the Sixth National Report on Biological Diversity.

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Palestine has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 2nd of April 2015, and is therefore committed to implement the Decisions of the CBD Conferences of Parties (COPs). The Environment Quality Authority (EQA) is the focal point institution for the CBD in Palestine. Article 6 of the CBD states that each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programs which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the contracting party concerned. Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies. Similarly Article 26 of the Convention calls for Parties to present, through their national reports, information on measures which have been taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention and encourages Parties to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making.

The State of Palestine represented by the (EQA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February 2016 with the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy (IMELS), in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. Part of the MoU is towards the preparation of the Sixth National Report (6NR) on Biodiversity and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Palestine (NBSAPP) as a commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objectives of this assignment are:

- 1-To prepare the 6th National Report on Biological Diversity.
- 2-To revise and update the Palestine's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPP) 1999.

The EQA is seeking consultant/ firm to express intrest for consultancy service, to revise and reveiw, develop and coordinate inputs for the preparation of the 6th national report following the CBD guidelines as first step. The seconed step, a consultancy service for revising and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the State of Palestine. Since the preparation of the first NBSAPP in1999, the national priorities have changed, new threats to

biodiversity appeared, new issues have arisen, and new and updated approaches need to be address. In addition, the Nagoya COP10 has adopted the 10-Year Strategy (2011-2020) for the CBD, the Aichi- targets. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the SDG's. In light of all the above, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) should be revised to be aligned 10-YEAR Strategy, Aichi Targets and With CBD's post 2020 biodiversity framework, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention, CITES, CMS, and Global Assessment of Biodiversity carried out by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) .

Working closely with EQA staff the consultant/ firm will be required to revise, review, coordinate, analyse all available data and inputs from a wide range of biodiversity stakeholders on progress towards CBD targets, and organise workshops needed in this regard.

3. Scope of Work

The scope of work under the contract includes:

I. Preparation of 6th National report on Biodiversity to the Convention on Biological Diversity with the key components including, but not limited to:

- (i) Produce a template for collecting data and information required for the report,
- (ii) Gather information and data
- (iii) Compile and analyse the information to produce the 6th National Report
- (iv) Finalise the Sixth National Report and handled it to EQA.

Activities of this consultancy assignment are to provide services for:

- 1.1. Assessment of progress towards each national biodiversity target established by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Palestine", 1999
- 1.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken so far and gaps, identification of lessons learned,
- 1.3. Identification of technical, scientific and capacity needs, and needs for implementation support.
- 2. Evaluation of the consistency of the actual national contribution to biodiversity conservation beside the "Strategic Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT)"**
 - 2.1. Detailed identification of supplementary information and data required with reference to Targets.
 - 2.2. Supplementary data collection on biodiversity and environment conservation in Palestine, according to gaps identified
- 3. Identification of a set of specific national targets within the flexible framework indicated by the ABT, taking into account national needs and priorities**
 - 3.1 Assessment of the need to develop specific national targets vis à vis the relevance of each ABT target in the country context.
 - 3.2 Formulation of a set of National Targets, consistent with national needs and priorities.
- 4. Status of the SDG's implementation related to biodiversity.

Responsibilities and detailed tasks:

The following points highlight the main tasks expected to be completed by the consultant/ firm , **but not limited to, :-**

- **Document review:** Read in detail the documents provided by CBD in relation to the 6th National Report; literature review of existing reports, plans, laws, regulations, etc. relevant to biodiversity including a detailed desktop analysis of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPP) of the Palestine 1999; and build on and concentrate on the Fifth National report on Biodiversity that submitted to the convention by State of palestine (EQA). Clear understanding of the template and reporting tool provided by CBD for the 6th National Report on Biodiversity.
- **Template Development:** in consultation with the EQA develop a template based on data needs for the national report which can be used online and offline for gathering information and data required for the national report from all stakeholders
- **Collection of information and data:** Collect information and data required for the report from different sources, sectors and stakeholders.
- **Conduct Workshops and meetings:** Conduct Stakeholder consultation workshops to gain any additional data and information for the report, and to provide information on the status of biodiversity.
- **Field Visit:** if needed for data collection
- **Synthesise Data:** Synthesise data and information as required in the reporting guidelines in a manner that meet the reporting requirement of CBD and is satisfactory to the EQA.
- **Maps:** Using the data collected develop maps and GIS layers as necessary to represent the information synthesised for the national reporting using the UN Biodiversity LAB.
- **Submit information:** The raw data, synthesised data and information including the maps and Annexes will be submitted to the EQA and to the reporting tool in accordance to the guidelines in **Decision XIII/27** provided by the CBD and in a standard approved by the EQA.
- **Finalise the 6th National Report** on biodiversity.

The consultant/ firm should ensure that:

- The reporting guideline provided by CBD is adopted
- The data collected for developing the report should be in line the reporting requirement of CBD
- The data collected is in a format that the EQA can use after the completion of the project
- The process of data collection is participatory and transparent while protecting the rights of the individuals
- All works are completed in a timely manner in close collaboration with EQA
- All documentations including participant lists (gender disaggregated) well maintained and provided to the EQA.
- Workshops and meetings needed are conducted.

DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are requested:

1. Inception report including a brief work plan indicating how the requirements of this Terms of Reference will be delivered.
2. Brief two progress reports showing progress on the development of the 6th national Biodiversity report.
3. Three workshops and meetings with key stakeholders are conducted
4. Initial draft of the 6th national Biodiversity report for circulation to stakeholders for comment.
5. Final 6th national Biodiversity report in English .
6. Final report of the project including all documents.

II. Development of the new Palestinian NBSAP

Revising and updating the Palestinian NBSAP 1999 and its action plan, in coordination with national and local authorities, civil society, academic and scientific community

The proposed assignment divided into the following tasks and components:

- Task 1: Stocktaking of outcomes and recommendations from current and past reports , plans, and strategies including revision of related literature and sources of information.
- Task 2: Intensive consultation and meetings with relevant stakeholders and senior officials to ensure their engagement and commitment to the process and specify their roles and responsibilities,
- Task 3: Development of Strategic objectives *National Targets and indicators, Principles, & Priorities of the Strategy.*
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- Task 4: Development of EQA in-house capacities to implement and manage geographic database (GIS) on natural resources and biological diversity.
- Task 5: Preparation of the final updated National Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan.
- Task 6: Revision of *Institutional, legal, monitoring, reporting and* coordination including the development of recommended institutional framework.

The work in this project will be undertaken in Six (6) components as outlined below:

COMPONENT 1: Stocktaking and Assessment

This component will entail

- a) Rapid stocktaking and review of plans, policies and reports relevant in the context of revising and updating of the NBSAP.
- b) Based on the findings of stocktaking and review, this assignment will also identify stakeholder groups, their roles, responsibilities and ways and means of ensuring their participation in the NBSAP revision process and beyond.
- c) In addition this assignment will carry out a rapid assessment of the drivers of biodiversity (flora and fauna) loss in protected areas, forest, agriculture, marine biodiversity), wetlands and dry land environments. The assessment will encompass the causes and consequences loss at species, genetic and ecosystem level to the extent possible. Attention will concentrate on the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to human well-being.

COMPONENT 2: Strategic objectives *National Targets and indicators, Principles, & Priorities of the Strategy.*

Before the NBSAP is developed, national targets and priorities will first be determined, taking into account the guiding results from Component 1. Small multi-sectoral committees will do the groundwork, which should be discussed by all stakeholders. The adopted Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and post 2020 framework and its associated goals, the Aichi Targets and indicators, require consultations in order to prioritize and make them nationally relevant. It will also be necessary to include ways of integrating the NBSAP into national development and poverty reduction strategies and policies (including the SDGs), national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes. The revised NBSAP and its associated documents will have strong focus on issues related to indigenous and local communities as per the prevailing legal provisions. The revised document will also identify ways and means of promoting gender equality in the implementation of the Convention and in achieving its three objectives.

COMPONENT 3:

Conduct a GIS & Remote Sensing (RS) capacity building training on geospatial analysis and thematic maps production on natural resources and biological diversity, using GIS & RS software according to the following:

- Prepare and structure GIS data;
- Describe all fields layer in the geo-database, and characterize metadata for each layer.
- Digitize/create new thematic layers, using scanned maps, satellite images and GIS data, in accordance with the structure and coding system defined by GIS unit of EQA;
- Produce thematic maps in accordance with exigencies of development for the NBSAP;
- Perform spatial analysis for the geographic statistics production;
- Use spatial data to assess land cover, habitats, biodiversity, change and developments occurring in protected areas site, with a special focus on land use and forest types, including mapping of forest restoration sites;
- Habitat and land cover photo-interpretation from aerial and satellite images;

Calculate the area of annual change in protected areas and develop map of annual human induced change within the targeted area;

COMPONENT 4: Strategy and action plan development

1. This task will entail developing the strategy and actions to: Ensure that the proposed NBSAP are in line with existing national development goals and sectoral plans and the Convention on Biological Diversity and synergy with relevant MEAs including the UNFCCC and UNCCD conventions..
2. Ensure that the proposed NBSAP is responding to the national circumstances mainly due to the Israeli occupation practices and the lack of access and control on natural resources. This can be done through analysing two scenarios: i) the status quo i.e. the existence of occupation and ii) free State of Palestine on the borders of 1967.
3. Design and conduct a national consultation mechanism and workshops to receive recommendations/suggestions and comments from stakeholders.
4. Develop the final revised and updated NBSAP based on the above activities and in line with the CBD convention.
5. Development of a plan for capacity development for NBSAP implementation;
6. Technology and biosafety status assessment;
7. Development of a plan for mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectoral and cross sectoral national strategies.
8. Development of a communication and outreach strategy for the NBSAP; and
9. Development of a plan for resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation.

COMPONENT 5: Development of Implementation plans

Once there is a revised draft strategy and action plans – further consultations will be required to develop implementation plans and related activities.

COMPONENT 6: Institutional, legal, monitoring, reporting and exchange

This component will address establishment/ strengthening of national coordination structures such as Biodiversity Units, Clearing House Mechanism “CHM” development and development of indicators and monitoring approach. In addition to the revision of the national legislation in the field of biodiversity and natural resources , identify gaps and recommended amendments to those legislations.

The Key Outputs under each component are as follows:

Component 1:

- a) Comprehensive stakeholder inventory and elaboration of best consultation modalities
- b) Review of national plans & policies on Biodiversity conservation
- c) Assessment emanating from review of causes and consequences of Biodiversity (BD) loss, and value of BD to human well being

Component 2:

- a) Outline of the proposed country specific Targets, principles, and priorities of BD conservation decided upon through consultations.
- b) Outlining how the NBSAP could be integrated and mainstreamed into sectoral development, poverty reduction, and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans by 2030.

Component 3:

- a) Development of EQA institutional capacity building to implement and manage geographic information system database (GIS) on natural resources and biological diversity.
- b) Implement a capacity building training programme on GIS & RS for the natural resources and Biological diversity sector staff.

Component 4:

- a) Outline of the strategic options (strategies and actions) for achieving the agreed targets

Component 5:

- a) Capacity development plan for NBSAP implementation
- b) Communication and outreach strategy
- c) Synergy between the CBD and the MEA's including the UNFCCC and UNCCD.
- d) Resource mobilization plan for NBSAP implementation

Component 6:

- a) Recommendations for strengthening national coordination structures)
- b) Gender equality and participation
- c) Indicators and M&E approach document

DELEVERABLE

The following deliverables are requested:

1. Inception report depicting the detailed methodology and work plan;
2. First progress report; summary on the stocktaking from current and past reports and strategies;
3. Second progress report presenting the NBSAP based on the stocktaking exercise;
4. A GIS and RS training programme and an institutional capacity building needs assessment report on GIS management and development .
5. High precision maps and thematic layer for the Natural resources and Biological diversity.
6. Final draft of the revised and updated NBSAP in, English and translated executive summary in Arabic.
7. Final report including all documents of the project.
8. At least 3 stakeholder consultation workshops are conducted throughout the development process in addition to meetings with key stakeholders

The consultant/ firm will be appointed over a 20 months period to prepare the 6th National Report on Biological Diversity and to revise and update the Palestine's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), starting upon signature of the contract .

4. Human resources

International / national experts who will be selected among applicants who have responded to our job announcement will support the activity of data updating and cataloging and the technical assistance for the preparation of the NBSAP of Palestine.

1. Two Biodiversity Experts (International and national). The experts should have experience in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, nature conservation, agricultural biodiversity, ecosystem management and biodiversity economics, biodiversity planning, politics and legislation.

2. Expert in drafting thematic maps, GIS, population databases, use of ArcGIS software and hardware, possibly with experience of digital photo interpretation and previous experience in protected areas in international projects.

3. Experts in the field of institutional strengthening, and setup communication and dissemination. This consultant will help in revising the existing institutional structures dealing with biodiversity issues, identify gaps and provide recommendations to full fill those gaps taking into considerations the requirements of the CBD and the national circumstances.

4. Legal Expert who will support national experts to undertake an appraisal of national legislation for biodiversity to identify potential problems, interests and jurisdictional conflicts, and propose appropriate amendments to existing legislation designing and drafting national environmental and biodiversity related laws and regulations to asses existing laws, policies and regulations for biodiversity and related natural resources.

Biodiversity Experts:

The successful applicants should have the following expertise and qualifications in biodiversity:

- Technical experience to cover a range of expertise in the fields of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, nature conservation, agricultural biodiversity, Ecosystems management and economics of biodiversity, Biodiversity planning, policy and legislation.
- Master's degree in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation /management or relevant field highly desired
- At least 10 years of relevant technical working experience in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, or a related field
- Relevant direct experience related to the technical scope of the project, particularly regarding multilateral conventions particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity, and experience regarding protected area management, climate change and biodiversity conservation;
- Experience in compiling and analysing data regarding biological diversity and national biodiversity targets and indicators and preparing NBSAP and National Report to CBD
- Full understanding of the task reflected in the proposed technical approach, methodology and implementation work plan.
- Fluent in English, Arab is an asset

- Working experience related to biodiversity in similar contexts is an asset

GIS SPECIALIST:

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- To be eligible for this assignment, the GIS & RS Training expert must demonstrate proven past experience in GIS & RS hardware, processes and software.
- The proposed training instructors should meet the following criteria:
 1. A University Degree in Surveying, GIS or RS or a GIS-related subject, or an equivalent of 5 years' experience above the general professional experience Previous as well as experience in teaching GIS or equivalent experience to undertake the assignment;
 2. At least 2 years of experience in the application of GIS and/or RS in agriculture and/or the environment;
 3. A high level of knowledge of GIS and/or RS hardware and operating platforms, and high-level knowledge of ESRI ArcGIS and/or Remote sensing Software is essential.
 4. Fluent in written and spoken English;
 5. Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to communicate with project stakeholders is essential.

INSTITUTIONAL EXPERT

The institutional expert should meet the following qualification criteria:

- Graduate degree in institutional development, public administration, organizational assessment, or related development-related discipline.
- At least five years experience in conducting institutional development and capacity assessments, preferably in the public sector.
- Knowledge of environment and biodiversity .
- Excellent interpersonal relations and highly developed analytical skills.
- Knowledge of multilateral environmental conventions particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity, Combating Desertification convention and Climate Change convention.
- Fluent in English, and Arabic

LEGAL EXPERT IN BIODIVERSITY LEGISLATION SPECIALIST:

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Master degree in Law, preferably related to biodiversity/environment protection;
- Minimum 10 years' experience in areas of law and policy development, preferably related to environment/biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development planning;
- Good understanding about relevant policies on biodiversity;

- Expertise in design and drafting national environmental and biodiversity related laws and regulations;
- Experienced in drafting legal documents on socio-economic development planning with linkages to biodiversity conservation;
- Excellent communication, facilitation and reporting skills to lead consultations on draft legislation
- Good communication, organization and presentation skills;
- Excellent command of English, ability to work with international experts team;

6. Selection Criteria

| | Tecnical proposal | Score |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | General Experience for the consultant/ Firm | 15 |
| 2 | Specific experience in related field (development of biodiversity strategies, national reports) | 30 |
| 3 | Experts and staff | 40 |
| 4 | Methodolgy | 15 |
| | Total | 100 % |

7. Intellectual Property

The EQA will have copyrights of all data collected and information collected for the purpose of this project- assignment . The EQA will have the full rights to all products, drafts and final deliverables of the project. The consultant/ firm will not have any right to the use of any component of this project including the raw data outside the scope of this project without prior consent from the EQA.

8. Additional information

The Environmental Resources General Directorate of the EQA has overall technical responsibility of the management of the project. The consultant/ firm is expected to work closely with EQA during the course of the assignment.

The consultant/ firm will be working independently using their own space, resources, however, logistics and costs required for the workshops will be facilitated by EQA.

9. Application

- The applicants shall submit their Technical proposal in a sealed envelope includes:
 - Application letter (form)
 - Work plan
 - Detailed Curriculum Vitas including information on qualifications to perform the assignment, experience and appropriate skills with at least 2 referees
 - Proof of similar assignments, experience, skills and qualifications

10. Submission

Applications must be submitted to the General Supply Department at Ministry of Finance and Planning no later than **12:00 hrs on Tuesday 12th November 2019** to the following address and sealed in an envelope as below:

“Revision and updating of the Palestine National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPP) and Preparation of the Sixth National Report to the CBD “

General Supply Department
Ministry of Finance and Planning
Ramallah-

Tel:+970-2- 2987112/3

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Email: gsd@pmof.ps