

Terms of Reference for the consultancy of Validating Conservation Action Plans against the International standards and guidelines.

Country: Arab Republic of Egypt

Project Title: Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Project (EIECP III)

Post Title: Validating Conservation Action Plans the International standards and guidelines.

Duty Station: Cairo

Duration: 3 Weeks

Expected Starting Date: August 2024

Back ground

The third phase of the Italian Egyptian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP III), is the latest stage of the cooperation program that the governments of Egypt and Italy have launched in the late 90s in the environmental sector. The first two phases have been completed in 2010 and have significantly contributed to the development of the protected areas system in Egypt. The project titled Strengthening Egyptian Protected Area (SEPA) project, funded through the Italian Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Program, has then ensured a bridging phase between the second and third phase of EIECP by consolidating base tourism attractions and infrastructures (e.g. visitor centers, fossil museum, tourist signals) in Fayoum, Siwa, Wadi Gemal and White Desert protected areas.

The currently ongoing EIECP III aims at further developing Egypt's protected areas (PAs) system, mainly with the view of establishing income-generating mechanisms and, thus, facilitates the process for mobilizing resources toward the financial sustainability of Egypt's PAs system and, in this way, its conservation and sustainable development endeavors. EIECP III is also tackling other PAs management needs of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency EEAA, mainly focusing on extracting lessons learned from projects in pilot protected areas to enhance NCS technical capacity to approach, plan and manage conservation and sustainable development in other protected areas of Egypt. In this framework, EIECP III has supported the preparation and implementation of Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) schemes to promote sustainable development in a number of Intervention Areas (IAs). Fayoum PAs and Wadi EL Gemal National Park were identified as spatial domains, rich in natural resources, which are safeguarded by the PAs that fall under EIECP. In this way, local communities are engaged in the management of PAs with the goal of enhancing the efficacy in preserving their natural ecosystems and cultural heritage. The sustainable use of Egypt's PAs natural resources can barely generate adequate income for local communities if they are not built around tourism, which is a significant engine of growth for both the national economy and the development of local communities. For this reason, EIECP III is also tackling the promotion of responsible and sustainable eco-tourism activities and, in doing so, is pursuing the integration of all other potential local economic activities in the CBNRM schemes, such as handcrafting, agriculture, bee keeping and fishing. CBNRM schemes have been critically analyzed to highlight best practices of PAs management. On

this basis, the project has prepared guidelines and methodological tools for their replication in other contexts.

In order to further consolidate and enhance effectiveness and sustainability of EIECP III, a refunding initiative is proposed and illustrated in this document which aims at further strengthening the inter-relationship between natural and cultural resources assets and the livelihood of the local communities living in and around protected areas.

The EIECP III seeks a qualified consultant to validate existing conservation action plans for Sooty Falcon, Sea Turtle, and Dugong against the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standards and guidelines. The objective is to ensure that these plans are aligned with best practices in conservation planning and management.

Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for the following:

1. Review of Existing Conservation Action Plans:

- Conduct a thorough review of the conservation action plans for Sooty Falcon, Sea Turtle, and Dugong.
- Assess the plans against IUCN standards, guidelines, and best practices for conservation planning.
- Identify gaps, inconsistencies, or areas where the plans do not align with IUCN recommendations.

2. Gap Analysis and Recommendations:

- Prepare a detailed gap analysis report outlining the discrepancies between the existing plans and IUCN standards.
- Improving the plans to meet IUCN guidelines.

3. Final Report:

- **Prepare a comprehensive final report summarizing the findings of the assessment, improvement of each document so that it follows the IUCN guidelines.**

Deliverables

A comprehensive report that includes the following:

- Detailed review of existing conservation action plans.
- Gap analysis highlighting discrepancies between existing plans and IUCN standards.
- Improvement of the conservation action plans.
- Final highlights summarizing the entire consultancy process including a paragraph that state clearly that the documents follow the IUCN guidelines.

Qualifications of the Consultant

The consultant should possess the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in conservation biology, wildlife management, or a related field.
- Proven experience in conservation planning and management.
- In-depth knowledge of IUCN standards and guidelines.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

Timeline

The consultant is expected to complete the assignment within [three weeks].

A professional committee will review the offers and approve the successful application.

Interested consultants should submit their updated CVs along with detailed a financial offer to the following addresses:

Email: hamedyousria@yahoo.co.uk amany.nakhla@undp.org;

NB: Please refer to the title of the consultancy in the e-mail subject c

Deadline for submitting offers: 17th of August 2024