



Please note that this vacancy is not a UNDP office position. This is a NIM project jointly implemented by UNDP and Department of Environment.

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Services/Work Description:	National Consultant for Adaptability and Resilience of Wetland Ecosystem to Climate Change
Project/Program Title:	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
Duty Station:	Home office, Project Office with missions to the project pilot sites
Expected Places of Travel:	Tehran and project pilot sites
Duration:	40 working days from May 2021 to 31 December 2021
Tentative Expected Start Date:	Immediately after Signing the Contract

I. BACKGROUND / PROJECT DESCRIPTION

After successful completion of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) as a joint initiative between the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran (led by the Department of Environment), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2013, a scale-up phase started by DoE and UNDP to sustain the achievements of CIWP throughout the country, ensuring that its outcomes are systematically up-scaled both vertically and horizontally throughout the country.

Shortly after this fresh start, and with the financial contribution from the Government of Japan, a new component for “Modelling Local Community Participation in Restoration of Lake Urmia through Establishment of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation” was added to CIWP in 2014.

At national level, CIWP supports development and implementation of Wetland Integrated Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for more than 20 Iranian wetlands and has put in place a strong legislative platform for Wetland Ecosystem management and inter-sectoral administrative structures, supporting the implementation of the “Ecosystem Approach”, development of communication, education, participation and awareness Raising (CEPA) Plans for the first pilot site in the country and sharing the CIWP and other wetlands initiatives, knowledge and lessons learnt with the regions of South and Central Asia, as well as promoting local community participation in Lake Urmia restoration through establishment of sustainable agriculture practices and biodiversity conservation at Lake Urmia level.

Wetlands are essential to life on earth, supporting more than 125,500 freshwater-dependent species. They are also among the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change. Some wetlands, including coral reefs, mangroves, and swamps are especially at risk. Inland, freshwater wetlands are likely to be affected by increased temperatures and changes to precipitation and more frequent or intense droughts, storms and floods. Wetlands that are highly modified or degraded may be even more sensitive and less resilient to climate change. Wetlands can play an important role in our approach to



climate change adaptation, through capturing and storing carbon to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and providing resilience to hazards such as flooding, storm surge and coastal inundation.

In this context, the present consultancy aims at contributing to develop capacities for mainstreaming climate change risks in Wetland Ecosystem Management and analysing the adaptation measures and risks to better wetland management. Climate-proofing of policy and strategic documents will be scaled up to target Wetland Ecosystem Management and Rural Development sector planning. At present, the destructive effects of climate change on wetlands are clearly visible, but adaptation strategies and capacity building for **improving** resilience of the wetlands have not been identified.

II. SCOPE OF THE WORK

National Consultant for Adaptability and Resilience of Wetland Ecosystem to Climate Change (NCARWECC) will report to **National Project Director (NPD)** under supervision of NPM, and support the NPM, and the CIWP team, for effective project implementation. The national consultant will be responsible for undertaking the analysis of climate risks and opportunities and mainstreaming the results into planning and programming on adapting and improving wetland ecosystem resilience to climate change.

The **NCARWECC** will work closely with UNDP, the Department of Environment of Iran and the Project and will engage with other related stakeholders.

Expected tasks for the **NCARWECC** will include but are not limited to:

- a. Conduct climate change risk screening on National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action plan (NWCSAP) and propose entry points to manage/mitigate climate change risks and identify threats and opportunities in order to enhance wetland adaptation and resilience;
- b. Introduce, suggest and develop ready-to-use tools (from national or international resources) for planning and implementation of measures related to climate change and to increasing resilience and adaptation (in order to provide input for project annual work plan and budget at component, outcome and output levels)
- c. Build collaboration with the project staff and other national/international consultants and provide training, reference manuals and guidelines for their capacity building;
- d. Undertake other related tasks as requested by the NPM;
- e. Elaborate a final report where lessons learned are capitalized and best practices captured.

The following principles will apply to the assignment:

- The analysis should be conducted using UNDP Quality Standards for the Integration of Adaptation to Climate Change into Development Programming and others best international methodologies and tools;
- The analysis should assess 'likely' climate change impacts in the country, using the latest National Communication to UNFCCC, most recent available climate change projections and scenarios, IPCC guidelines and any other relevant scientific data within and beyond the timeframe of the plan, strategy or programme;
- The analysis should be done in a way that encourages stakeholder involvement, i.e. Indicating where particular input is needed to fully apply to the national context. The training session can be an excellent opportunity to collect these information;
- The suggestions should be explicit so that decision-makers and government technical staff may be able to understand and use them when revising their plans, strategies, programmes and budgets.



III. Function and Key Responsibility

The national Consultant will have the following functions and responsibilities.

A: Conduct climate change risk detailed screening related to wetlands ecosystems and propose enhances the resilience and adaptation measures undertake a risk and sector/policy/program sensitivity and vulnerability assessment of plans/strategy as follows:

- Identify how and where risks and opportunities are already considered and addressed into the strategic document, and propose improvements if necessary;
- Identify risks of mal-adaptation and propose alternatives for redesigning programs or policies to reduce mal-adaptation risk.
- Identify additional climate risks and adaptation mainstreaming opportunities
- Propose adaptation measures to better manage climate change risks/ecosystem resilience and realize the opportunities, and propose a set of priority actions to be implemented by the national entity;
- Propose and apply tools for prioritizing and selecting adaptation measures
- Identify challenges experienced by sector planners, decision-makers and technical staff in conducting climate change mainstreaming exercises and realizing a practical integration at the time of program implementation and budgeting.
- Develop policy papers/briefs on the relationship of biodiversity and climate change;
- Explore strategic opportunities with partner organizations that can maximize synergies between biodiversity and climate change;
- Provide substantive technical and intellectual inputs in order to support conservation of Iranian wetlands project in the implementation of policies and programs on adapting and improving Wetland Ecosystem to climate change;
- Refine the findings based on these comments and propose actions to address the challenges identified and overcome capacity gaps for mainstreaming climate change risk at the implementation phase.

B: Provide training to a selection of government decision-makers and technical staff

- Lead and facilitate sessions on the science of climate change, basic concepts (including vulnerability, adaptation, risks and mal-adaptation), interlink ages between climate change adaptation, agriculture and development, climate change mainstreaming.
- Collect and summarize best international practices on climate change risk integration and develop specific case studies relevant.

C: Contribute to lessons learned and develop climate screening tools

- Prepare an analytical report on the lessons learned from the above experience and benchmark with other international or national best practices on climate change risk mainstreaming into wetlands management plan.
- Identify policy implications for wetlands strategic planning and other national key sectors planning process.
- Introduce climate screening tools for wetlands managements and planning and implementation of interventions. These tools must to be very practical, flexible and helpful for the daily planning and implementation of interventions;



- Develop an annotated bibliography on main references and guidance materials and commented list on reference institutions and programs for climate change risk mainstreaming and adaptation.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

Based on the scope of work outlined above, the consultant will be expected to deliver the following outputs and will be responsible for the delivery of the outputs within the suggested times;

No.	Output	Deliverables / Outputs	Means of verification	Estimated Duration to Complete activities and submit reports/evidence
1	NA	Action plan	Action plan report	No later than 2 weeks after signing the contract
2	Output 2.1 The model and action plan of climate change adaptation and mitigation is developed for wetlands and incorporated in the management plans and higher-level documents Output 2.2 Effective Climate-Smart initiatives are identified and implemented towards increasing the environmental, social and economic resilience of the wetland basins	Conduct climate change risk detailed screening related to wetland ecosystems and propose to enhance the resilience and adaptation measures	Progress Report	14 weeks no later than 30 June 2021
3		Contribute to lessons learned and develop climate screening tools	Progress Report	8 weeks no later than 31 September 2021
4		Provide training to a selection of government decision-makers and technical staff	Report of Workshops/ MoM of meetings	2 weeks no later than 30 November 2021
5		Final narrative Report	NA	2 weeks no later than 30 November 2021
6		Final Summary Report	NA	1 week no later than 15 December 2021

NB: the incumbent will submit reports and evidence according to the outline/templates that will be provided by the CIWP team to him/her.



IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT / REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

National Consultant for Adaptability and Resilience of Wetland Ecosystem will work under direct supervision of the National Project Manager. He/she will work closely with the project staff and consultants, government officials, donors, NGOs, CBOs, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The consultant is expected to submit the periodic reports as indicated in the deliverable table (section III) to CIWP.

V. DURATION & TIMELINE

The consultant is expected to complete up to 40 working days over the period of Apr 2021 to Dec 2021.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR (IC)

This assignment requires the services of an expert who can demonstrate adequate analytical capacity and who can provide expertise relevant to the terms of reference as described above and below.

- Advanced university degree (Graduate degree PhD/ MSc) in natural resources management/ engineering or other directly related field (with extended research on climatic vulnerability and adaption or climate change linkages to developmental planning etc.);
- Extended experience in studying Social-Ecological Systems (SEs) by interdisciplinary context;
- Minimum 15 years of relevant and professional work experience in the field of environment and development, including specialized experience in climate change at a local/national/regional level;
- Extended experience in technical assistance/cooperation programmes, training/capacity building initiatives, familiarity with development assistance framework and policy development;
- Experience in the development and application of climate risk screening and integration tools for planning and implementation;
- Experience and knowledge in environmental and wetlands ecosystem;
- Good inter-personal, communication, networking and negotiating skills, along with good inter-sectoral relations would be desirable;
- Demonstrated skills drafting reports and the ability to work efficiently under pressure;
- Fluency in both English and Farsi (proven speaking and report writing skills);
- Strong analytical skills particularly applied to environment profiling and project strategic policy making;
- A good understanding of challenges related on management of protected areas in Iran;
- Ability to identify needs and interventions for capacity enhancement of counterparts, clients and potential partners;
- Ability to take responsibility for achieving agreed outputs within set deadlines;
- A strong client focus and openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback;



VII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INTERESTS

The Individual Consultant shall not either during the term or after termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy service without prior written consent. Proprietary interests on all materials and documents prepared by the consultants under the assignment shall become and remain properties of UNDP.

Interested applicants should send their application together with their Curriculum Vitae to:

CIWP office, Deputy of Marine Environment and Wetlands, Department of Environment, Pardisan Eco-Park, Hakim Highway, Tehran, Iran

Or by e-mail to:

ciwp.vacancy@gmail.com Or by Fax

to: +98(21)88241658

Closing Date: 9. May .2021

Please take note that the vacancy notice title (National Consultant for Adaptability and Resilience of Wetland Ecosystem to Climate Change) must be referred to in your email subject.

Mehri Asnaashari
Acting National project Manager

