

# **Terms of Reference - Habitat Restoration for the Ammiq Wetland**

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Comprehensive Habitat Design and Restoration  
Plan for Ammiq Wetland.



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# 1. Background and Context

**Ammiq Wetlands**, located in the Beqaa Valley of Lebanon, are one of the most ecologically important and diverse freshwater ecosystems in the region. Spanning over 280 hectares, these wetlands provide critical habitats for a wide range of species, including migratory birds, amphibians, and aquatic plants, many of which are listed as endangered. The wetlands are also an important source of water for local agriculture and surrounding communities, offering vital ecological services such as waterfiltration, carbon sequestration, and flood regulation. Despite their ecological importance, the Ammiq Wetlands are under significant threat from human activities, including unsustainable agricultural practices, water mismanagement, habitat degradation, climate change, and the introduction of alien species such as water buffalo.

The **Ammiq 2030** project, funded by The Donors' Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems - DIMFE, aims to ensure the long-term ecological sustainability of the Ammiq Wetlands. The project focuses on enhancing wetland management, addressing environmental degradation, adapting to climate change impacts, and promoting sustainable practices that protect both the habitat and biodiversity. The restoration and conservation of the wetland are critical to preventing further loss of biodiversity and ensuring that the wetland can continue to provide vital ecosystem services. The project encompasses several core components focusing on water resource management, and habitat conservation. These efforts will contribute to the establishment of a **comprehensive and sustainable management framework** for the wetland, aligned with national and international conservation standards.

As part of these overarching goals, this TOR focuses on developing a **Habitat Restoration Plan and Design** for the Ammiq Wetlands, employing a **multifield approach** that integrates key ecological components. The plan will comprehensively address **essential aspects of the wetland**, including **Ecological Water Governance (EWG), freshwater habitat restoration, reedbed management, water buffalo impact assessment, and the identification of key species**. The tasks outlined in this TOR - such as conducting a **hydro-geological study to assess and manage water resources, evaluating species-habitat interactions, and framing recommendations for their integration into the broader habitat management plan** - will provide crucial insights into the wetland's current environmental challenges. By tackling critical issues such as **water flow regulation, biodiversity conservation, and fire risk prevention when relevant**, this TOR aims to establish a **cohesive, multi-layered strategy** that ensures the **long-term ecological balance and sustainability** of Ammiq Wetland.

## 2. Objective of the Consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to develop a **comprehensive habitat design and restoration plan** for the Ammiq Wetland, employing a **multifield approach** that integrates key ecological components into a **holistic management framework**. The plan will focus on **Ecological Water Governance (EWG), wetland habitat restoration, reedbed management, the impact assessment of water buffalos, and the high-level habitat design recommendations for the conservation of key species**, ensuring an **efficient multi-faceted approach** to habitat restoration.

This consultancy will provide **insights and recommendations** to inform long-term conservation planning, ensuring that future management actions align with the overall ecological integrity of the wetland.

The consultancy will be responsible for conducting a **hydro-geological study** to assess the **current and historical water conditions** of the wetland. This study will inform the development of an **updated water resource management framework**, ensuring the wetland's **Ecological Water Demand (EWD)** is met while promoting sustainable water practices. This **hydro-geological assessment** will serve as the foundation for **restoration planning**, particularly in relation to ensuring minimum water flow and volume required to maintain a healthy wetland ecosystem and the conservation of priority species.

Additionally, the consultancy will evaluate the **impact of water buffalo** on the wetland ecosystem, particularly regarding their effects on **vegetation, soil stability, and water quality**. This assessment will provide **data-driven insights** into both the risks and benefits of their presence, ensuring that any management decisions regarding water buffalo are informed by ecological evidence.

The consultancy will also work to **identify key species** that play a crucial role in the wetland's ecosystem, analyzing their **habitat needs, potential habitat-related threats, and interactions within the wetland environment**. The findings from this assessment will generate **recommendations that are integrated into the habitat restoration plan**, ensuring that future species action plans are based on a strong scientific foundation.

Finally, the consultancy will develop a **reedbed management plan**, addressing critical ecological challenges such as **habitat degradation and fire risks**. Reedbeds play a **vital role in water filtration, biodiversity support, and ecosystem stability**, making their effective restoration and management essential. This plan will incorporate habitat design **habitat management measures, and long-term monitoring protocols** to ensure the **controlled growth** of reedbed ecosystems.

By synthesizing **hydro-geological plan, species-habitat interactions, habitat restoration strategies, and reedbed management plan**, this consultancy will establish a **cohesive, science-based foundation** for the **long-term sustainability and ecological integrity** of Ammiq Wetland.

In summary, the objective of this consultancy is to develop a **strategic and integrated habitat design and restoration plan**, ensuring the **long-term sustainability of the Ammiq Wetlands** that include the following core tasks:

1. **Conducting a hydro-geological study** to assess current and historical water conditions and developing an **updated action plan** for sustainable water resource management, ensuring that the **Ecological Water Demand (EWD)** of the wetland is met.
2. **Evaluating the impact of water buffalo** on the wetland's ecosystem, analyzing their effects on **vegetation, soil stability, and water quality**, and providing **scientific insights** to inform future management decisions.
3. **Incorporating key species and their ecological interactions consideration into overall wetland design**, assessing conservation needs, and providing **recommendations that can later support the development of species action plans** within a broader habitat management framework.

4. **Developing a reedbed management plan** to control the spread of **reedbeds, habitat** management measures, and long-term monitoring protocols.

These efforts will support the broader goals of the Ammiq 2030 project, ensuring ecological balance, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable management of the wetland ecosystem.

## 3. Scope of Work

The main goal of this consultancy is the development of a habitat design and restoration plan for the Ammiq Wetland, incorporating a multifaceted approach that addresses the key ecological components essential for the wetland's restoration and long-term sustainability. This restoration plan will integrate the following critical aspects:

### 3.1 Conduct Hydro-Geological Study & Develop Water Management Framework

- **Assess Current Water Resources:** Conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing surface and groundwater resources, integrating historical hydro-geological data to understand the long-term water dynamics of the wetland.
- **Analyze Water Flow Patterns:** Study seasonal and long-term hydro-geological trends, evaluating the impact of human activities, climate change, and landscape modifications on water flow and availability.
- **Identify Data Gaps:** Review existing hydro-geological and water quality data, identifying key knowledge gaps that may limit the effectiveness of sustainable water management strategies.
- **Develop Water Monitoring Framework:** Establish a structured water data collection framework, outlining protocols for ongoing monitoring, ensuring that hydrological changes are continuously tracked to support adaptive water governance.
- **Determine Ecological Water Demand (EWD):** Conduct a situation analysis to calculate the minimum Ecological Water Demand (EWD) required to sustain critical wetland functions and maintain ecosystem balance.
- **Develop Water Resource Management Framework:** Develop an updated action plan based on EWD findings, outlining sustainable water use measures and activities to be conducted that ensure the wetland's long-term resilience while supporting habitat restoration objectives.

### 3.2 Evaluate the Potential Impact of Water Buffalo on the Wetland Ecosystem

- **Review Scientific Literature:** Conduct a comprehensive analysis of global and regional studies on the ecological role of water buffalo in wetland ecosystems, focusing on biodiversity interactions, habitat modifications, and hydro-geological influences.
- **Assess Ecological Risks & Benefits:** Examine the impacts of water buffalo presence, evaluating their effects on soil stability, vegetation dynamics, nutrient cycles, and water quality to determine whether their role is ecologically beneficial or disruptive.

- **Develop a Risk Assessment Framework:** Establish a structured framework to measure and categorize ecological risks, assessing factors such as grazing intensity, trampling effects, and species interactions.
- **Provide Data-Driven Recommendations:** Offer scientifically grounded recommendations on whether the water buffalo presence has an added value to the wetland, and if so, how should it be managed and integrated into the broader habitat restoration strategy, ensuring that any intervention aligns with wetland conservation priorities.

### 3.3 Provide Conservation Insights on key species-habitat interactions

- **Stakeholder Consultation & Ecological Assessment:** Engage local conservationists, researchers, and land managers to identify key species of ecological significance, considering both endemic and migratory species that contribute to ecosystem functionality.
- **Analyze Species-Habitat Interactions:** Assess how key species interact with wetland habitats, identifying factors such as food availability, nesting requirements, seasonal patterns, and habitat connectivity.
- **Incorporate key species needs into habitat design and restoration:** Evaluate major habitat-related threats affecting key species, including habitat loss, hydro-geological disruptions, invasive species pressures, and climate change impacts, ensuring that species needs are incorporated into the broader habitat restoration framework.
- **Develop Science-Based Recommendations:** Provide high-level habitat-related insights and recommendations that will later support the development of priority species action plans.

### 3.4 Develop Reedbed Management Plan

- **Assess Reedbed Condition & Functionality:** Conduct a detailed ecological assessment of existing reedbed habitats, examining species composition, habitat structure, and ecological roles in supporting biodiversity, water filtration, and flood resilience.
- **Analyze Fire Risks & Prevention Needs:** Evaluate historical fire incidents and current fire management practices, identifying high-risk areas and assessing how fire prevention and suppression strategies can be integrated into habitat management.
- **Develop a Reedbed Management Plan:** Create a comprehensive management framework that ensures the restoration, maintenance, and resilience of reedbed habitats. The plan will address fire mitigation, habitat zoning, hydro-geological needs, and long-term ecological monitoring to sustain reedbed health and functionality.

## 4. Deliverables

The **main and core deliverable** of this consultancy is the **Habitat Design and Restoration Plan** for Ammiq Wetland. This plan will integrate and incorporate the following key aspects critical to the restoration and long-term sustainability of the wetland ecosystem:

1. **Hydro-Geological Study & Water Resource Management Framework:** A detailed report on the hydro-geological study, including an updated situation analysis (including potential

- future climate change impacts), a water data collection framework for ongoing monitoring, Ecological Water Demand (EWD) calculations, and an updated action plan for sustainable water resource management to ensure long-term ecological health.
2. **Water Buffalo Impact Assessment:** A report assessing the ecological impacts of water buffalo, including a risk assessment framework to evaluate their effects on vegetation, soil stability, water quality, and the wetland ecosystem. The report will also provide actionable management recommendations to mitigate adverse ecological impacts and support habitat restoration.
  3. **Key Species Conservation Insights & Recommendations:** A report outlining the conservation priorities for key species habitats within the wetland, based on stakeholder consultations and ecological assessments. The report will provide recommendations, focusing on protecting critical species habitats as part of the broader restoration framework.
  4. **Reedbed Management Plan:** A comprehensive reedbed management plan, addressing habitat restoration design, growth control, and long-term monitoring strategies to ensure the sustainability of reedbed habitats. The plan will include strategies for managing reedbeds growth, enhancing their role in water filtration, and biodiversity support.

In addition to these core deliverables, the consultancy will provide the following:

- **Final Report:** A consolidated final report that summarizes all findings, strategic recommendations, and an implementation plan. This will include an executive summary, a detailed Gantt chart outlining project milestones, and a comprehensive overview of the restoration strategies and management frameworks developed.

## 5. Duration of the Consultancy

The consultancy will span **12 months**, with specific milestones and deliverable timelines to be agreed upon at the project initiation. The final report and recommendations are to be submitted by the end of the consultancy period.

## 6. Consultant/Consortium Profile

The consultancy requires a team of qualified experts with diverse skills in wetland management, hydrogeology, reedbed restoration, species conservation, protected area management, and mammalogy. Below is a detailed table outlining the required and desired qualifications for each key expert involved in the consultancy, along with their expected role and responsibilities:

Role	Required Qualifications	Desired Qualifications	Expected Role/Responsibilities
Team Leader	• Minimum of 10 years of experience in wetland habitat	• Proven experience in leading multi-disciplinary teams	• Oversee all aspects of the project, ensuring coordination between tasks and stakeholders.

	<p>and ecosystem restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in project management, including overseeing budgets, timelines, and deliverables.</li> <li>• Strong understanding of environmental policies and sustainability in conservation projects.</li> <li>• Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills with governmental and local stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>on large-scale wetland restoration projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with governance and management strategies for protected areas.</li> <li>• Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in environmental science, ecology, or related fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage budgets, timelines, and deliverables.</li> <li>• Ensure stakeholder engagement and communication.</li> </ul>
<b>Hydrogeologist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10 years of experience in hydrogeology, particularly in wetland ecosystems.</li> <li>• Experience with hydro-geological modeling, water resource management, and environmental impact assessments.</li> <li>• Ability to conduct water quality assessments and identify sustainable water management practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with wetland water management strategies, including Ecological Water Demand (EWD).</li> <li>• Familiarity with groundwater and surface water dynamics in Mediterranean climates.</li> <li>• Experience working with GIS and remote sensing technologies for water resource analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct the hydro-geological study, assess water resources, and create water management protocols.</li> <li>• Monitor water quality and hydro-geological trends, ensuring they align with the EWD.</li> <li>• Collaborate with other experts to integrate water management into the overall habitat design and restoration plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Reedbed Habitat Expert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proven expertise in wetland vegetation management, particularly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in restoring reedbed habitats in wetland ecosystems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess reedbed conditions and develop strategies to manage reedbed ecosystems.</li> </ul>



	<p>reedbeds and other aquatic plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of ecological management techniques for reedbed habitats.</li> <li>• Ability to develop and implement effective habitat management plans that improve biodiversity and habitat stability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of fire risk management for wetlands and native plant communities.</li> <li>• Experience working with local communities on reedbed conservation and fire management initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a reedbed management plan.</li> <li>• Ensure the integration of reedbed management into the broader wetland design and restoration plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecologist (Species Conservation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10 years of experience in species conservation and biodiversity monitoring in wetland environments.</li> <li>• Experience conducting threat assessments for species and developing species-specific action plans.</li> <li>• Experience in data collection and analysis related to species populations, habitats, and ecological impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expertise in conservation action planning, including for threatened or endangered species.</li> <li>• Familiarity with ecosystem-based approaches to species conservation and habitat management.</li> <li>• Knowledge of Lebanese ecosystems and regional species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a stakeholder-informed assessment of key species in the wetland, identifying species interactions, habitat needs, and threats to biodiversity.</li> <li>• Prioritize conservation actions based on the assessment, focusing on species critical to the wetland's ecological health and resilience.</li> <li>• Provide actionable recommendations that can inform the development of the wetland design and restoration plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Mammologist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-7 years of experience in studying and conserving mammals, with a focus on species in wetland ecosystems.</li> <li>• Experience with population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialization in mammals of the Mediterranean or Middle Eastern regions.</li> <li>• Knowledge of mammalian conservation strategies in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a thorough study of mammal populations in the wetland, including monitoring and habitat assessment.</li> <li>• Assess the potential impact of water buffalo on mammal species and their habitats.</li> </ul>

	monitoring, tracking, and habitat assessment for mammal species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with threat assessments for mammals, particularly those at risk from habitat loss or invasive species.</li> </ul>	freshwater and wetland habitats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in species-specific management plans for mammals, including monitoring and conservation actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recommendations for mammal conservation, including species-specific habitat actions.</li> <li>• Contribute to the broader species conservation efforts within the wetland, focusing on mammal species and their interactions with water buffalo.</li> </ul>
<b>Notice Regarding Team Composition and Qualifications</b>	<p><b>1-Multiple Functions for the Same Person:</b> Within the proposed team, more than one function can be attributed to the same person if that person demonstrates the required qualifications and expertise in multiple areas. This flexibility ensures that the team composition can adapt to the needs of the project while maintaining the necessary professional capacity across different tasks.</p> <p><b>2- Experience in Lebanese Ecosystems:</b> At the consortium level, or at least one member of the proposed team, should have more than 10 years of experience specifically in Lebanese habitats and ecosystems and their associated management procedures. This expertise is critical to ensuring that the Habitat design and restoration plan is contextually relevant and effectively aligns with local conservation standards and ecological dynamics.</p> <p><b>3-Any changes in experts assigned to this project must receive prior approval from Ammiq 2030 before implementation.</b></p>		

## 7. Methodology and Approach

The consultancy will employ a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to ensure that all aspects of the wetland restoration process are thoroughly assessed and addressed. The methodologies should be comprehensive, scientifically sound, and tailored to the specific needs of the Ammiq Wetlands. The consultant/consortium will be required to detail the methodologies and approaches they plan to use for each task outlined in the scope of work. These methods will need to be clearly explained in the technical proposal and should be **agreed upon by the Ammiq 2030 project management team.**

The core components of the approach will include the following:

## Desk Research and Data Analysis

The consultant/consortium will conduct a **comprehensive review of existing data**, including historical reports, hydro-geological studies, ecological assessments, and species inventories. This review will focus on understanding the current state of the wetland, identifying knowledge gaps, and ensuring that prior research and data are integrated into the current assessment. The consultant will also review existing **management plans** and any relevant policy documents to inform future actions. Detailed **data analysis** will be performed to ensure that the project utilizes the best available data and accurately identifies key issues for sustainable water and habitat management.

The methodology for desk research must include:

- Identification of sources, including **government reports, scientific publications, and local data sets**.
- Systematic **data validation** to ensure accuracy. (*Data validation processes should be detailed in the proposal*).
- **Literature reviews** to assess previous studies on water buffalo, reedbed habitats, and key species within the wetland.

The **methodology for data analysis** will involve:

- **Statistical tools** and software for analyzing historical data trends (e.g., hydro-geological data, species population trends).
- Comparative analysis to identify any significant changes or emerging threats in the wetland ecosystem.

## Field Surveys and Site Assessment

Fieldwork is critical for **gathering primary data** directly from the wetland ecosystem. The consultant will need to plan and implement **field surveys** that will involve direct observations and measurements of water quality, species populations, reedbed conditions, and any other relevant ecological factors.

The field survey methodology will include:

- **Survey design** to ensure systematic data collection from representative areas across the wetland.
- **Sampling techniques** for water quality, species populations, and habitat conditions, following scientifically accepted standards.
- **Photographic and mapping tools** to document key areas, especially those with changes or degradation.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Effective **stakeholder engagement** is essential to ensure that local knowledge, community priorities, and government regulations are incorporated into the restoration planning process. The consultant will conduct **workshops, consultations, and interviews** with a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- **Government agencies**, particularly those responsible for environmental protection, land use, and water resources.
- **Local community groups**, including landowners and those directly impacted by wetland management decisions.
- **Conservation organizations** working in the region or with wetland restoration expertise.

The methodology for stakeholder engagement will include:

- Development of a stakeholder map with relative influence and a stakeholder management plan
- **Consultation planning**: Clear agendas, participant identification, and structured interview questions to ensure relevant information is gathered.
- **Public consultations** to foster community buy-in and gather diverse perspectives on conservation priorities.
- **Collaborative decision-making** sessions with key stakeholders, ensuring their input is integrated into the restoration plan.

## GIS and Spatial Analysis

Geographic Information System (**GIS**) tools will be used to conduct **spatial analysis** of the wetland's landscape, water resources, species habitats, and other environmental features. GIS will be essential for mapping current conditions, modeling future scenarios, and visualizing the spatial distribution of critical elements within the wetland.

The GIS methodology will involve:

- **Data collection**: Gathering spatial data related to water resources, land use, vegetation cover, and biodiversity.
- **Analysis and mapping**: Using GIS software to create detailed maps and models of wetland hydro-geology, species habitats, and key ecological zones.
- **Scenario modeling**: Predicting the impact of various water management strategies, species conservation actions, and reedbed restoration efforts on the wetland ecosystem.

## Agreement and Approval Process

Before implementing or integrating the methodology into the project, the consultant/consortium will be required to present their **detailed methodology and approach** to the **Ammiq 2030 project management team** for review and approval. This process ensures that all methodologies align with project objectives, local regulations, and best practices in conservation science.

This approval will include:

- Review and approval of specific **data collection techniques, survey methods, and analytical tools**.
- Confirmation that **stakeholder engagement plans** are aligned with the project's goals and local community needs.

- Validation that **GIS and spatial analysis approaches** meet the project's technical and ecological standards and needs

## 8. Management and Coordination

The successful development of a high quality, science-based, and stakeholders-centric habitat restoration plan and design requires a well-structured management and coordination framework to ensure that all tasks are executed on schedule and align with the project objectives. The consultant/consortium will be required to establish and adhere to a high-level project governance model that facilitates efficient communication, timely decision-making, and proactive issue resolution. Key elements of this model include:

### High-Level Project Governance Model

- **Weekly Touchpoints:**

The consultant/consortium will conduct regular weekly coordination communication with the Ammiq 2030 project management team. These touchpoints will serve as a forum for reviewing progress, discussing challenges, and aligning on upcoming tasks. The meetings can be held virtually or in person as agreed upon by all stakeholders.

- **Ad Hoc Email Communication:**

In addition to scheduled meetings, the consultant/consortium is expected to maintain prompt and continuous communication via email. Urgent updates, clarifications, or adjustments to the work plan should be communicated immediately to ensure that any emerging issues are addressed without delay.

- **Monthly Progress Presentations:**

A formal presentation of progress, milestones, and any necessary adjustments to the work plan will be conducted monthly. These presentations will include:

- A detailed review of completed tasks and any challenges encountered.
- An updated timeline that reflects current progress against the established milestones.
- A discussion of planned activities for the upcoming month, including any potential risks and mitigation strategies.
- Feedback sessions where the Ammiq 2030 project management team can provide recommendations and approve any changes to the project scope or methodology.

- **Documentation and Reporting:**

All meetings and presentations should be documented. The consultant/consortium must provide:

- **Meeting Minutes:** Distributed within 48 hours of each weekly meeting.

- **Monthly Reports:** Summarizing progress, key findings, challenges, and any adjustments to the work plan, along with updated Gantt charts or timelines.
- **Action Logs:** Clearly documenting decisions, responsible parties, and deadlines for follow-up actions.

## 9. Budget and Payment Terms

The consultant/consortium must present a detailed financial proposal as part of their submission. The proposal should include a clear breakdown of costs associated with each milestone listed in the Terms of Reference. The proposed budget must be realistic, cost-effective, and demonstrate an efficient use of resources to achieve the project's objectives. All costs related to fieldwork, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, report preparation, and any other project-related activities should be itemized.

Payment for the consultancy will be milestone-based, with disbursements linked to the successful submission and approval of each milestone by the Ammiq 2030 project management team.

## 10. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should be submitted via email to [admin@indyact.org](mailto:admin@indyact.org) by **28/02/2025** at 11:59 PM Beirut time. The email subject must read:

**"Proposal Submission - TOR 1 - Habitat Design and Restoration - [Consultant/Consortium Name]"**

The submission must include the following documents:

- **Technical Proposal:** A detailed methodology, work plan, and timeline for each task outlined in the scope of work.
- **Financial Proposal:** A separate document providing a comprehensive cost breakdown and payment schedule.
- **CVs of Key Team Members:** Demonstrating relevant experience and expertise.
- **Previous Work:** Examples of similar projects and relevant references.

## 11. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the selection committee based on a set of clearly defined criteria. Each proposal will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 for each criterion, where 10 represents an excellent response relative to the requirements. The weighted score for each criterion will be calculated by multiplying the assigned score by the criterion's weight, with a maximum total score of 100 points.

**Key Evaluation Criteria:**

- **Technical Expertise and Relevant Experience (35%)**

This criterion assesses the qualifications, proven track record, and domain expertise of the proposed team. Special attention will be given to the experience of the team leader and key experts in similar wetland restoration projects, including their CVs and references.

- **Methodology and Approach (35%)**

This criterion evaluates the clarity, feasibility, and scientific rigor of the proposed methodology and work plan. It includes the approach for data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of field surveys and GIS analysis. The methodology must be aligned with the Ammiq 2030 project objectives and require pre-implementation approval by the project team.

- **Cost-Effectiveness and Financial Proposal (20%)**

The financial proposal will be assessed for its realism, transparency, and overall efficiency. The evaluation will consider whether the cost breakdown and payment schedule are justified in relation to the deliverables and project objectives.

- **Stakeholder Engagement (10%)**

This criterion examines the proposed strategies for engaging relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local community groups, and conservation organizations. The proposal should demonstrate how stakeholder input will be incorporated into the project to ensure its success and sustainability.

- **Evaluation Table:**

Evaluation Criterion	Weight (%)	Description
Technical Expertise and Relevant Experience	35	Assessment of the team's qualifications, experience in similar projects, and the strength of references and CVs of the key personnel.
Methodology and Approach	35	Evaluation of the proposed methodology's clarity, feasibility, scientific rigor, and alignment with project objectives; includes field methods and stakeholder engagement.
Cost-Effectiveness and Financial Proposal	20	Analysis of the financial proposal, including a detailed cost breakdown, justification of expenses, and overall budget efficiency relative to the project goals.
Stakeholder Engagement	10	Assessment of the strategies for engaging local stakeholders, including planned workshops, consultations, and mechanisms for integrating feedback into the project.

**Scoring Process:**

- **Scoring:** Each proposal will be assigned a score from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent) for each evaluation criterion.
- **Weighted Score Calculation:** For each criterion, the raw score will be multiplied by the respective weight percentage. For example, if a proposal receives a score of 8 for Technical Expertise, its weighted score for that criterion will be  $8 \times 0.35 = 2.8$  (on a scale normalized to 3.5 for this criterion). Similar calculations will be applied for all criteria.
- **Total Score:** The sum of the weighted scores across all criteria will determine the final grade, with a maximum possible score of 100.

The evaluation committee will conduct a detailed comparative analysis of all proposals using this framework. The proposal with the highest overall weighted score, while meeting the minimum criteria across all categories, will be considered the most favorable for awarding the consultancy contract. Ammiq 2030 reserves the right to not award any submitted proposal. Any costs incurred in the preparation of the bid will not be covered by the project and are the sole cost of the bidder.

## 12. Additional Information

Relevant background materials, including prior reports and data, will be provided to the consultant/consortium upon initiation of the project. Inquiries should be directed to Ammiq 2030 project management team.