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Terms of Reference (TOR)

Project BioConnect

Ref: EuropeAid/171337/DD/ACT/LB

Ensuring effective management and governance in Sites of Ecological Importance and expanding biodiversity protection in Southern Lebanon.

A project funded by the European Union.

The Shouf Biosphere Reserve

Seeks an

Expert/ Institution

to develop an environmental awareness plan aimed at local stakeholders in MH.

Location: Mount Hermon, Rashaya District

Duration of consultancy: 12 months

Collaboration beginning: December 1, 2023, till November 30, 2024.



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The proposed Action addresses the important socio-economic challenges that jeopardize conservation and sustainable development in Lebanon to the greatest possible extent, in line with the Call's objectives and priorities through the following overall objective:

1. Enhancing the management and governance of sites of ecological importance in southern Lebanon

It focuses on the following specific objectives:

Specific objective 1.3: Abate the main pressures on key biodiversity (through policy, regulations, on-site management, stakeholder engagement, etc.)

The lead manager of the project is **Al-Shouf Cedar Society** in partnership with: ADR (Association for the Development of Rural Capacities); ACE (Association for Community and Environment), and SPNL (The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon). It is supported by the local authorities, and local communities, in addition to the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture.

The geographical scope of the consultancy

The scope of work covers Mount Hermon Nature Reserve.

Mount Hermon Protected area, established on property No. 5851 (Amiri) of the Rashaya Al-Wadi real estate area, Rashaya District - Bekaa Governorate covers an area of 1260 hectares. It is located in the eastern Lebanon mountain range, specifically in Mount Hermon, also known as Jabal al-Sheikh, which is one of the important areas in terms of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region. It aims at protecting natural resources (ground and surface waters) and ecosystems, preserving landscapes, and conserving biodiversity, especially endangered species with extinction. The area is rich in oaks, mallow, and other perennial trees, in addition to Hawthorn and wild almonds. It is characterized by the presence of a large number of plants, of which 100 species are medicinal. There are also endemic species of mammals in Lebanon, such as wolves, hyenas and wild cats. Moreover, this site is a sub-crossing for migratory birds, especially the steppe eagle.

The tasks mentioned in the next section shall be performed in close cooperation with the BioConnect team in close coordination with the BioConnect scientific committee, and in consultation with the Ministry of Environment.



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Overall Scope of Work

Under the direct supervision of the project coordinator, the selected expert / Institution is expected to develop an awareness plan aimed at local stakeholders in MH and increase the general public's knowledge of the Mount Hermon Natural Reserve's purpose, mission and ecosystem features.

The selected consultant is expected to:

1. Define the stakeholders to whom the awareness plan is aimed.
2. Once defined, organize stakeholder consultation sessions to obtain pertinent feedback for further designing a strategic plan for the long-term implementation of the awareness plan's major components.
3. Determine the baseline levels of awareness among stakeholders and obtain their input on the topics to be discussed and the actions that could be undertaken.
4. Design the framework for conducting the stakeholder analysis, facilitating the conduct of such sessions and reporting on the findings.
5. Create an awareness working group to play the role of the 'sounding board' with an oversight role and to provide general guidance, review, and counsel to the plan's activities.
6. Work closely with the Project Coordinator and the awareness and consultations Working Group, providing them with regular updates.
7. Define the strategy for ongoing stakeholder participation in the implementation of the plan, including stakeholder involvement in the management and decision-making processes and the building of public support for the awareness plan.
8. Document all strategies, approaches, processes, objectives, and activities to be conducted within BioConnect. Suggest activities that can be replicated beyond the duration of the project.
9. Research and develop educational programmes for schools, locals, community groups and visitors.
10. Promote these programmes to the target audience through leaflets, newsletters, websites and social media.
11. Facilitate and develop press and radio advertisements (public service announcements, news releases, radio interviews, etc.)



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12. Liaise with the project team, municipalities, teachers, local NGOs and community groups on the design and delivery of educational and awareness programmes. Draft the actions that could be implemented by each of the NGOs in the region.
13. Compile all actions and programmes into an awareness plan including environmental education policies, strategies and activities to be implemented in MH.
14. Design school theoretical and practical learning manuals that include all environmental topics to be given in classes.
15. Train teachers and guides on the learning manuals and explain the plan to each including their expected roles.
16. Organise events and activities to raise awareness of environmental issues, biodiversity and the species found in the reserve and list the events and occasions currently being organized by other stakeholders/ NGOs in the area with a proposal of the reserve's participation in each event.
17. Act as a point of contact for teachers, educationalists and colleagues and respond to requests for information on educational issues.
18. Suggest environmental educational activities aimed at increasing the knowledge of the stakeholders on the protected area features and take part in a few if possible.

Other:

1. Participate in the meetings of the BioConnect committees and MH committee when needed.
2. Cooperate with all experts involved in the project (experts working on the management plan for MH, livestock assessment for MH, biodiversity inventory of the area, monitoring scheme in MH)

Deliverables:

Deliverables/ Outputs	Estimated Duration to Complete Target	Review and Approvals Required
Stakeholder list, Analysis & Preparation	1 month from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Creation of an awareness working group	2 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Stakeholder consultation reports based on site visits to	3 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator



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schools, NGOs and other stakeholders		
List of events and occasions + proposal of participation and information dissemination during each event	4 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
A proposal of the actions that could be implemented by each of the NGOs in the region + a list of environmental educational activities to be implemented in the region	5 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Learning manual and education programmes	6 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Trainings and Workshops and minutes of meetings with stakeholders	8 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Promotion of programmes	9 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Analysis and draft awareness plan	10 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator
Final awareness plan and submission	12 months from the contract signature	Project Coordinator

Applicants:

Applications can be submitted by institutions or by individual applicants and teams (a consortium of experts, universities, NGOs...etc.) with the appropriate expertise and experience.

TOR activities period: 12 months

Qualification Requirements:

The expert/team wishing to be considered for the services described herein should have the following qualifications:

A degree in a related field with at least 3 years of experience. If a team, then the CVs of its main members should be qualified. Knowledge of the area, of the local stakeholders and knowledge in the environmental sector is a plus.



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1. Submission and approval of reports:

The report referred to above must be submitted to the project manager identified in the contract in English. The project manager is responsible for approving the reports.

Reporting to ACS should be conducted monthly (summary monthly report) with inception, midterm and final comprehensive reports.