Consultancy

Developing a Theoretical Governance Framework for successful ecological restoration of EU wetlands

Issue date: 8 August 2022

Deadline for submission of offer: 18 September 2022
1 Context and objectives

The WaterLANDS project is funded by the European Horizon 2020 Green Deal programme under Area 7.1 “Restoring Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”. The project officially started on December 1st 2021 for a duration of five years and is carried out by a consortium of 32 partners of which Plan Bleu, a Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, is part of. WaterLANDS aims to restore wetland sites across Europe which have been damaged by human activity and to lay the foundations for upscaling protection across more areas.

Wetlands provide essential services for landscapes and society by retaining and purifying water, removing pollutants and excess nutrients, storing atmospheric carbon, moderating flooding and coastal storms, supporting an immense variety of wildlife, and offering recreational, well-being and economic benefits to surrounding communities. When mismanaged, these valuable services are lost. Scientists estimate that up to 87% of wetlands were lost between 1700 and 2000, predominantly inland. Recent losses are mostly coastal and have been even faster, declining by 31% between 1970 and 2008. On the other hand, opportunities can be realised from scaling up the restoration of isolated wetlands towards re-establishing former wetland landscapes. This project is spread across 6 Action Sites (AS), where actions are needed to restore damaged freshwater and coastal wetlands, covering an initial 10,500 hectares, and 15 Knowledge Sites (KS) which have been identified as examples of where successful restoration has been achieved.

Among the 15 KS featured in the project, 6 sites were selected through a questionnaire to analyse the governance conditions and measures in each site. The table below presents the selected sites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Sites</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Wetland type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbeyleix Bog</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Peatland habitats, including active, degraded and cutover high bog, transition mires, mineral fens, swamp and mixed woodlands, orchid-rich grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belene Island</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Danube river riverine wetlands, marshes with reed and reedmace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camargue former saltworks</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Salt marshes, coastal wetlands, lagoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doñana wetlands</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Temporary lakes and ponds, a small peat lake, streams, floodplain wetlands, marshland, estuarine wetlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. [https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_climate__nature_and_our_1_5c_future_report.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_climate__nature_and_our_1_5c_future_report.pdf)
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has defined governance as “the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are made and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say”. Fundamentally, it is about power, relationships and accountability: who has influence, who decides, and how decision-makers are held accountable. While good governance can be seen as an end unto itself, it is also a process that can be undertaken by any number of actors, and is not solely tied to the institutions of government².

These terms of reference concern the development of a ‘theoretical’ governance framework for the successful ecological restoration of EU wetlands, focusing on the six selected WaterLANDS Knowledge Sites. This work is part of the activities led by Plan Bleu in the framework of the Work Package 3 entitled "Aligning governance" of the WaterLANDS project.

2 Task description

The objective of the present call for applicants is to select a consultant to develop a ‘theoretical’ governance framework for the successful ecological restoration of different types of EU wetlands. The aim is (i) to analyse and to compare successful governance conditions and measures taken across the network of Knowledge Sites of the project, and (ii) to analyse the respective roles of government agencies and their various objectives, either conflicting or complementary.

A ‘theoretical’ ideal governance framework will be identified from (i) a review of the literature, (ii) lessons learned from Knowledge Sites (KS) of WaterLANDS project (through stakeholder interviews and review of project reports) and (iii) a mapping of the key relevant EU, national and regional policies. This work will build on ongoing activities carried out by Plan bleu and WaterLANDS’ partners: mapping of key policies, stakeholder mapping, KS survey results and the draft report “Characterise governance landscape based on Knowledge Sites’ experience and mapping of key policies”.

The selected candidate will be expected to: i) based on the Knowledge Sites experiences and the mapping of key policies, synthesise key governance conditions for successful ecological restoration of wetlands ii) contribute to other related documents (mentioned in the previous paragraph) iii) identify the main barriers to ecological restoration among the KS and how they overcome them. The final product will be the ideal theoretical governance framework for ecological restoration.

3 Duration of the consultancy

² https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/122197/pa_governance2.pdf
The consultant is expected to start working at the beginning of October 2022 and conclude its work by 31th January 2023. The following section describes the estimated workload.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Deliverable</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature review on governance conditions for successful restoration of wetlands</td>
<td>Mid-October 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of successful governance conditions based on Knowledge sites of WaterLANDS project (interviews, surveys, policy &amp; stakeholder mapping) / Synthesis document submitted to Plan Bleu</td>
<td>End of November 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft theoretical governance framework for successful restoration of wetlands submitted to Plan Bleu</td>
<td>Mid-December 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production of a final “theoretical” governance framework, taking into account feedback from WaterLANDS’ partners</td>
<td>End of January 2023</td>
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</table>

4 Work assessment

The consultant will be supervised by Plan Bleu’s Programme Director, Dr Céline Dubreuil cdubreuil@planbleu.org

Each of the above described steps will be validated by Plan Bleu. Regular calls and meetings with Plan Bleu will be planned during the activities development to ensure a smooth development of the tasks and that the results are adapted to the needs. The consultant will also interact regularly with members of the Plan Bleu team working on the WaterLANDS project: Arnaud Terrisse, Project Officer, and Michael Karner, Project Manager. The consultant will have to exchange with other WaterLANDS’s partners/organisations when necessary.

5 Selection of the consultant

- Previous relevant experience in drafting report or policy documents towards policy-makers
- Previous relevant experience on wetlands and/or ecosystem restoration
- Experience in the EU region strongly desired and a good knowledge of actors and governance processes in Euro-mediterranean countries
- Strong conceptual and synthesis ability combined with good writing and communication skills
- Ability to mobilise information and existing knowledge in an efficient way
● Relevant project and publications references
● Fluency in English as well as proven technical writing skills is required.

This consultation can be carried out by an individual consultant or a group of consultants.

The selection of the consultant will be done based on a presentation of a technical offer, an economic offer, as well as a letter of interest and a resume making reference to these Terms of Reference. The evaluation will be based on the best bidder principle, with 75% of the score based on technical criteria and 25% on financial criteria. Acceptance of successful bids will imply acceptance of the conditions and timetables detailed in these Terms of Reference. The final selection of the candidate may require an interview that will take place online.

6 Contractual and financial terms

The acceptance of the offer of the successful tender will implicate the acceptation of the conditions and schedules detailed in this ToR.

A duly-issued invoice will be required for payment at the presentation of the final document. The payment term for the invoice will be by bank transfer 15 days after the invoice date (bank account details should be detailed).

The tax legislation in force at the date of acceptance of the offer will be applied.

7 How to apply

● Applications must be submitted no later than 18th September 2022
● Applications must be submitted through Plan Bleu website: www.planbleu.org and by e-mail at: cdubreuil@planbleu.org and aterrisse@planbleu.org
● Applications must contain a technical offer (incl. a methodology for the development of the governance framework), an economic offer (in Euros), as well as a letter of interest and a resume making reference to these Terms of Reference.

Additional information required for consultancy firm:

● Certificate of incorporation or other legal proof of your company’s registration, delivered from the appropriate authority in your country (incl. fiscal number)
● Kbis extract issued within the last 3 months for French companies

Additional information required for individual consultants:

● Registration certificate to the Directory of Enterprises and Institutions
● Document or Certificate stating the right to practice this profession (e.g. registration certificate) delivered from the appropriate authority in your country (incl. fiscal number)
For any questions related to this call for applicants please contact: Dr Céline Dubreuil, cdubreuil@planbleu.org