



Engaging Civil Society in Water Management in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region INCEPTION PHASE

Call for Consultants

In the framework of the project *Engaging Civil Society in Water Management in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region* funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the implementing partner, Wetlands International, is seeking 2 consultants. The consultants are expected to work as a team

The primary objective of the project is the **building of capacity of civil society organizations to engage effectively in water-resource planning and management at river-basin level.**

- Interested individuals should submit their CV and a covering letter and an indication of their daily fees, in electronic format, to Umberto Gallo-Orsi and/or Canan Orhun at wetlands@rubiconfoundation.org who are administering this call for consultants on behalf of Wetlands International.
- The final deadline for applications is Monday, 4 August 2008.
- Applications should be submitted in English.
- Stichting Rubicon will contact applicants if further information/clarification is required.
- It is anticipated that the majority of the work will be carried out in October and November 2008.
- A detailed ToR is provided below.

ToR for Consultants undertaking field missions for the inception phase of the CIDA funded Mediterranean Initiative

Project Background

The Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region is one of the most water-deprived regions of the world. Annual water consumption outstrips renewable resources. Many of the wetlands forming part of these resources were destroyed over the past century, because of a failure to recognize their importance and value. Many of the communities living near these wetlands are impoverished and are often left out of the decision-making and resource planning processes.

Building civil society's capacity to dialogue with governments about improved wetlands management in the context of wider water resource management will be a major contribution to resolving water use conflicts. The inclusion of civil society will help reduce possible tensions and take into account the opinion of the people living off the wetland resources, many of whom are the poorest of the poor. A more democratic brand of resource management can only be beneficial for the region, by contributing to the quality of democratic governance.

Project Goal, Objectives and Implementation

Project Long term Goal: To Strengthen environmental security and governance in the Mediterranean region

Project Purpose: To build capacity and cooperation within and between countries and organizations (including organisations or groups that are sensitive to women issues) to help ensure that the highly threatened wetlands and water resources of the Mediterranean region are managed to deliver the maximum long-term benefits to society

The project's implementation is divided into three phases:

The creation (inception) phase (operational outputs)

Outputs

- The project partners are in place and the implementation phase is ready to begin (three Mediterranean region countries are chosen, government support for the project is assured, demonstration sites/basins have been selected, key partners have been identified and are ready to cooperate).
- For each country selected, work plans and national logical frameworks linked to the overall (umbrella) logical framework have been developed.

Approach

- Countries assessed against the list of criteria.
- Exploratory discussions held within the country through existing contacts of Wetlands International and MedWet to identify and/or confirm potential partners.
- Visit by a two-person team from Wetlands International to meet the civil society and government partners.
- Written agreements drawn up with local partners.
- Work plans developed for the next four years, budgets prepared and a logical framework developed (at the national level, with coordination/facilitation at the international level if need be)

The Implementation Phase and Expansion Phase are included as Annexes to this ToR for reasons of brevity.

Current Status of project

The project is currently in its inception phase. Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are the three Mediterranean countries selected from an original short list of four. The next steps are to build on the results of the desk study to construct a more detailed baseline for the project, undertake consultation with the key partners in each country (including building support within the relevant Ministries of the respective governments) and to support the development of more detailed workplan based on a logframe approach for each country. Furthermore the final selection of pilot projects must be made and their workplans developed to an appropriate level of detail.

Specific Activities to be undertaken

The Consultants will be required to support the inception process of the project by:

- Ground-truthing and refining the baseline information included in the baseline study;
- Consulting with key groups to clarify capacity building needs in the countries;
- Assisting in the evaluation and selection of the pilot projects by meeting with selected potential partners (under guidance from Wetlands International) , with particular emphasis on:
 - identifying projects in Tunisia;
 - scoping possibilities in Turkey;
 - evaluating proposals in Morocco and Jordan
- Raise awareness of the project and develop networks within relevant Ministries in the target countries
- Reporting back to the project team (WI, TdV etc.) and key regional partners

More detail on each of these activities is provided below.

An indicative timetable would be ca. 10 days per country including preparation, trip and reporting, i.e. 40 days consultancy in total.

Ground truth/ refine baseline information described in the desk study

The following variables should be included in the review by the consultants:

- Number of civil society organisations active and influencing water management planning; involved in basin level dialogues;

- Degree of influence of civil society in water policy decisions at the national and regional levels;
- Identification and status of policies, mechanisms and structures that allow/ enable civil society groups to participate in water resource planning;
- Identification and status of existing stakeholder consultation groups for basins;
- Status of development and implementation of integrated water resource management plans at national and basin/coastal zone level;
- Status of participation of women in decision-making chains on water resource management planning.

These points will need to be considered at national level, but with particular attention paid to the basins from which project proposals have been short-listed.

Face to face consultation with key groups to clarify capacity building needs in the countries

- Identification of most relevant individuals in agencies, government institutions and NGOs to consult in 3 countries (pre-field mission);
- Through consultation assessment of the past and current wetland and water resource management capacity building work at national and regional levels; collation of any needs assessment information;
- Assist the project proponents in ensuring that the capacity building gaps are addressed through activities the project intends to execute.

Assisting in the evaluation and selection of the pilot projects by meeting with selected potential partners (under guidance from Wetlands International), with particular emphasis on identifying projects in Tunisia, scoping possibilities in Turkey and evaluating proposals in Morocco and Jordan

A call for proposals has been released and a shortlist of proposals drawn up from this before the consultants go into the field. This will be provided to the consultants and they will be expected to assist in the final evaluation by undertaking site visits of all projects short-listed and partner meetings to review pilot project proposals and the partners involved. This will imply:

- in Morocco and Jordan, discussing with the pilot project proponents the strengths and weaknesses identified by the project selection team, exploring possibilities for them to address the key gaps/ weaknesses, and submitting their recommendations to the project team on final project selection;
- in Tunisia and Turkey, exploring possibilities for potential projects with civil society and government organisations.

Raising awareness of the project and developing networks within relevant Ministries in the target countries

Key ministers and other stakeholders should be made aware of the project and their potential role in it.

Post mission

- Report to assist final pilot project selection;
- Support to Wetlands International in drafting of full project logframe and detailed budget;

- Reporting of mission results;
- Role in Project Advisory Committee for the duration of the project (optional and for review at the end of the current contract).

Relationships within Wetlands International

- Reporting to Chris Baker as Project Coordinator and (once in the place) the Project Manager (to be located in Tour du Valat).

Relationships outside Wetlands International

- Support and advice from Tim Jones, a consultant working for DJEnvironmental and Christian Perennou representing Tour du Valat;
- Contacting and updating CIDA staff in embassies of the three countries;
- Consulting and engaging with key civil society government partners located in the target countries;
- Requesting support from key government ministries in the three target countries;
- Evaluating selected pilot project partners in each of the three countries.

Annex 1

Implementation Phase

Outputs

- Increased capacities within civil society (including women's rights groups and organizations, NGOs, universities, etc.) to participate in and support the implementation of integrated water management plans.
- River basin and coastal area management authorities are able to employ the necessary approaches (principles of intelligent use of wetlands and integrated management), tools wetlands inventories, evaluation tools), mechanisms and know-how in the field of wetlands management in river basins and coastal areas.
- Increased knowledge, on the part of stakeholders in the selected countries, of the outcomes achieved by demonstration policies and the practical aspects of wetlands management in one of the demonstration basins or coastal areas in each country selected.

Approach

- Technical training and an informal exchange of information will be organized for the following subjects: function and value of wetlands; role of wetlands in implementing national water management plans; policy/tool development; use of communications techniques (e.g. communications via the Internet and media to support policy objectives)
- Targeted visits (exchanges) to demonstrate the approaches used in wetlands management in the Northern and Western Mediterranean region, with long-term partnerships established if possible.
- Policy analyses, representations targeted at public officials and other communication strategies aimed at identifying obstacles and opportunities for improving water management policies as well as the ecosystem and needs.
- Select the pilot demonstration sites in the three countries and communicate the results to the decision-makers.

The expansion phase

Outputs

- Countries in the region that are not selected are interested in the project recommendations and in the possibility of incorporating them into their national policies, reviews and initiatives, reflecting and transposing the project's achievements (through MedWet, GEP-Med, EuroMed WPF, the Barcelona Convention).
- The project's recommendations and outcomes are used as reference tools and as a framework model by MedWet and Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean for wetlands management and water resources in the Mediterranean region.

Approach

- The project's achievements are publicized in the most prominent media sources in the selected countries and in certain international journals.
- A resource kit is developed and made available on-line.

- A final workshop will be developed at the Mediterranean level to present the results and lessons learned as well as identify ways of multiplying the results without a contribution from CIDA or Wetlands International being necessary.
- Approach and results communicated across the Mediterranean region (forums, conferences, etc.)
- Follow-up activities developed with partners.
- Project results presented on the websites of Wetlands International, Tour du Valat, MedWet and the Ramsar Convention.)