

Attachment 1 - Terms of Reference

Regenerative Blue Economy – Guiding aquaculture interventions

Introduction

Under the France-IUCN Partnership [2021-2024], IUCN's Ocean Team is looking at spearheading work on blue economy through the lens of the sustainability and enhanced ocean protection.

As a contribution to the 30x30 objective, this project will thus focus on integrating circular economy and Nature-based Solutions principles into sustainable and regenerative blue economy planning. This will support the overall objective of the IUCN Programme Nature 2030 [2021-2024] and its targeted objectives on ocean to ensure that decision-making and actions promoting the blue economy recognize the sustainable use of ocean resources and include the regenerative objectives.

The project outcomes are three-fold:

1. A mapping and synthesis of Blue Economy concepts, strategies, processes and actions are achieved (*in production, expected to be released during first quarter of 2024*);
2. A specific toolkit for the aquaculture sector is developed and a compatibility study with marine conservation tools is conducted to guide coastal nations in their initiatives and interventions; and
3. National capacities are strengthened in at least one pilot area to adopt an integrated approach to the Blue Economy and to promote experience sharing to foster replicability.

Current status

The outcome 1 resulted in a mapping study identifying a framework that defines three types of blue economy (BE) from a conservation and sustainable development perspective associated with definitions, principles, contours, indicators, etc.:

- the “Brown” BE corresponding to the most conventional understanding of the BE, ocean economy;
- the Sustainable BE, coined in 2012, encompassing as all economic activities in the maritime sector, provided that these are consistent with sustainable development; and
- the Regenerative BE (RBE), of the highest degree of sustainability, with a proposed RBE definition: *“The regenerative blue economy (RBE) is an economic model that combines rigorous and effective regeneration and protection of the ocean and marine and coastal ecosystems, with sustainable sea-linked and low-carbon economic activities, and fair prosperity for people and the planet, today and tomorrow”.*

Objectives

Bearing in mind the overall objectives and expected outcomes above described, the consultant will support the second and third outcomes of this project, using the results of the Outcome 1 to develop a toolkit for a specific sector (aquaculture) in at least one pilot region.

Tasks and activities

Under the supervision of IUCN's Ocean Team, the consultant will work and contribute to the following tasks:

Outcome 2 – Development of a specific toolkit for the aquaculture sector

On the basis of the Outcome 1, the consultant will be responsible for categorizing the various types of aquaculture productions aquaculture within the framework of the BE, the SBE, and the RBE. A toolkit will be proposed to evaluate how the sector of aquaculture proposed in one region, or country is fitting in the contours of the BE and/or SBE, and/or a RBE as explained in the Outcome 1.

The consultant will then be responsible for conducting a compatibility study of the aquaculture sector with marine conservation tools to guide coastal nations in their initiatives and interventions.

The consultant will then produce the final Outcome 2, the development of a specific BE/SBE/RBE toolkit for the aquaculture sector.

This work will be conducted in the first semester of 2024.

Outcome 3 – Strengthening of national capacities in at least one pilot area

The results of the Outcomes 1 and 2 will be implemented in at least one pilot area, to be agreed between AFD and IUCN. The proposed area will ideally be a locally managed Marine Protected Area which combines marine protection objectives with aquaculture activities within the perimeter of the MPA.

The work will start with an assessment of the degree of implementation of a national BE strategy in countries where pilots are taking place in. The context for marine conservation in that country as well as the development of the aquaculture sector will be assessed using the Outcome 2.

Stakeholder workshops will be organised in the pilot areas. The initiative of the aquaculture production in this area will be screened under the framework of the IUCN Global Standard™ for NbS.

The Outcome 3 will be compiled and synthesized based on the results of these successive tasks and recommendations will be drawn for duplicating and upscaling an integrated RBE approach using aquaculture to other situations, countries. The consultant will be responsible of all the tasks presented in Outcome 3.

The workshop will be organized in the second semester of 2024.

Timeframe

This assignment is expected to span as soon as possible up to the end of the France-IUCN Partnership Agreement (December 2024).

Budget

Maximum consultancy budget: EUR 45,000.

A maximum travel budget should be provided in addition to the maximum consultancy budget.

Should additional funding be made available under the France-IUCN Partnership [2021-2024] for this consultancy, additional pilot areas could be included under this work.