



Consultancy services for scientific support to the Advisory Board on Ecosystem Services.

Introduction

LifeWatch ERIC is a prominent e-Science and Technology European Infrastructure that plays a crucial role in facilitating users and stakeholders in addressing societal challenges related to biodiversity and ecosystems. This infrastructure is particularly relevant for tackling issues associated with climate change, resource efficiency, food security, agriculture, sustainable development, energy supply, security, and health.

The consultant will provide technical support to IUCN and the Ecosystem Services advisor of LifeWatch ERIC to deliver the Ecosystem Services Advisory Board program and reports. This board, supported by the IUCN-Med and selected experts, aims to advance in the planning, management, and governance of Natural Capital through the Ecosystem Services paradigm, with a specific focus on the Andalusia region in Spain.

The program intends to develop a preliminary set of tools that will guide scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and governments in effectively accounting for "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (BES) within the economy. These tools will inform the development of economic policies, market-based mechanisms, fiscal incentives, regulatory frameworks, and other relevant aspects. By integrating BES considerations into decision-making processes, the program seeks to promote sustainable practices and the long-term conservation of natural resources in the Andalusia region.

Scope of work

The consultant will work under the supervision of, the designated responsible person from IUCN and LifeWatch ERIC Ecosystem Services Advisor of the program for the following tasks, activities and deliverables:



I – Project activities reporting

- (1) Keep true and accurate records of the discussions held during each of the meetings related to project.
- (2) Ensure the completion of the tasks referred in annex 1 “Scope and Methodology”
- (3) Support the development of preliminary reports on Ecosystem Services that will be used as reference framework to inform the discussions of the Advisory Board Meetings.
- (4) Deliver summary reports for each of the three thematic "Blocks" in which the program and deliverables are structured.
- (5) Ensure all deliverables of the IUCN LIFE Watch ERIC Agreement are finalised in a timely manner.

II. **Provide support in analysing the ecosystem services** in the context of the Andalusian, National and EU legal frameworks in order to assess opportunities for governance scenarios based on Ecosystem Services approaches.

III. Lead the preparation of working documents and forecasts

Deliverables

- Partial report at midterm
- Advisory body meetings minutes (English and Spanish versions).
- Final report
- Photo Report

Consultancy duration

6 months. The logistical plan and preparation of the activity/s, as well as relevant information, will be shared with IUCN-Med to ensure adequate follow-up. The timeframe for the completion of this work is estimated in 6 months from the signature of the contract.

Required profile

The expert(s)/organisation that is the subject of this consultancy must have knowledge and experience in ecosystem services especially in Andalusian biomes, habitats, natural



environment, legislation and protected areas.

Documentation to be submitted and criteria for selection

Activity proposals will be accepted until 6 July 2023, 17:00 (CET) and evaluated according to the following criteria: relevant experience, technical expertise, proposed methodology, timeline, and budget.

Proposals should be sent, together with the experience of the team/person and a budget estimate, maximum 18.000 Euros (VAT included) per entity to: medspecies@iucn.org (with the reference "Ecosystem services-LIFE ERIC").

VAT and other taxes must be included in the financial bid. IUCN does not act as a business or professional entity for VAT purposes and therefore the consultant must charge VAT or similar tax on its invoices. In case the consultant is exempt from VAT or equivalent tax in its jurisdiction, a note should be included in the invoice document informing about this and mentioning the applicable law.

Annex 1 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

All tasks will be organized in workshops previously agreed between LifeWatch ERIC and IUCN and will be discussed with experts and collaborating entities prior action. The initial WP's are described below:

Stage I: Habitats Directive, Habitats definition Criteria, and Critical Ecosystem Services.

Main tasks will be:

- a) Gap Analysis and assessment of the defining conservation status assessment criteria, for both Community Interests and Priority Habitats in relation with their functionality and capacity to serve as unit or proxy for ES provision. Opportunities to select shared variables among clusters of habitats will be assessed. Including the assessment of Essential Biodiversity Variables EBVs. The task will be undertaken for a selection of Andalusian habitats selected by the working group.
- b) Assessment and selection of the Essential Ecosystem Services inherent to the habitats assessed and in relation to the socioecosystems within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 sites in the Andalusian region.
- c) Feasibility assessment on the integration of habitats definition criteria as environmental factors with sufficient capacity to serve as parameters for ES modelling, monitoring and assessment.

Stage II: Analysis of variables.

Main tasks will be:

- a) Based on the selection of the most representative ecosystem services and their associated habitats, an analysis of the ecological processes that are implied in the provision of essential ecosystem services will be carried out, establishing those ecosystem elements that due to their specific functionality are determining (causal and necessary) in the provision of selected ecosystem services. Sets of processes that contribute to functional redundancy will be established, as well as the critical units that are involved in the provision of ecosystem services.
- b) After the identification of the processes and ecological units, the process of determining the parameters (physical-chemical-biological properties) that will allow to obtain measurements on the quantity, quality and intensity of the preselected ecosystem services with the criteria of selection.
- c) The final selection will establish a relational matrix of ecosystem services, habitats, essential units, measurement parameters (and reference values), mechanisms and sampling frequency

Stage III: Management and governance approach.

Main tasks will be:

- a) An analysis on focused on opportunities to integrate management and governance criteria will be carried out, under the paradigm of ecosystem services, regulations and procedures for the management of terrestrial and marine protected and natural environment (flora and fauna). The main objective will be to establish a series of environmental variables, indicators and/or proxies with sufficient capacity to effectively report the following aspects:
 - a. Conservation Status of Habitats.
 - b. Validate and adopt a common understanding between management and planning organizations of the natural environment.
 - c. Contribute with variables to the field of research to inform lines of research in the ICT CORE-FEDERTECH e-BRIC Framework and other initiatives.
 - d. Integrate variables in a superregional and supranational framework that allows the scalability of the results and their applications.
- b) A roadmap and guidelines will be developed for the integration of management criteria at different levels on environmental regulations and planning.

Stage IV: Participation and support to the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board will have the direction of LifeWatch ERIC, and the advice and active participation of IUCN-Med for the development of the paragraphs, with the support and experience of the scientific research, management and development units selected based on innovation criteria, data and knowledge

