



Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Opportunity

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Mediterranean Forest Expert to support IUCN-Med for organising technical sessions on the 8th Med Forest Week

Deadline for applications: 15 May 2024 at 23:59

Call for Expressions of Interest

Introduction

Silva Mediterranea, FAO and several other Mediterranean partners led by the European Forest Institute (EFI) are organizing the [8th Mediterranean Forest Week](#) (MFW), to take place in Barcelona from 4th – 8th November 2024.

The MFW serves as a platform for cooperation among researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders, fostering dialogue on the challenges faced by Mediterranean forests, and this year it will focus on the restoration of forest ecosystems in the Mediterranean region.

Despite the continuous increase in forest cover over the past decades, the region faces challenges, including 80 million hectares of degraded land and 400 000 hectares burnt every year by wildfires. Climate change threatens 16% of animal and plant species in Mediterranean forests, while severity and length of droughts shrinks the distribution ranges of the most important tree species of the Mediterranean. The 8th MFW will delve into solutions and initiatives for the restoration and sustainable management of these ecosystems.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) works to bridge gaps between science, policy, management and action in order to conserve nature and accelerate the transition towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean. The Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning strategic line focuses on the interaction between humans and ecosystems, and how healthy natural resources are directly related to human well-being. Forests play a vital role in this relationship, as they can help mitigate climate change, provide sustainable livelihood and varied ecosystem services, having an impact on human's health and supporting relevant Mediterranean markets, including sustainable tourism. Hence the importance of maintaining resilient forests and sustainable relationships with humans, by using IUCN's resources such as Nature-based Solutions, Forest Landscape Restoration or the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM).

IUCN Med, as part of the Joint Organising Committee, is one of the lead organisers of a plenary session on Mediterranean Forests Biodiversity and will provide input to the organisation of other sessions (Forest Landscape Restoration, Forest Adaptation). **Due to a current high workload in the IUCN-Med Ecosystem Resilience & Spatial Planning Team, IUCN-Med is looking for a forest expert in the Mediterranean to support the organisation of the technical sessions.**

For reference, each plenary session will last for 120 minutes. Plenary sessions will be organised as follows:

- **Preparatory webinars:** each plenary session will be preceded by one or more preparatory webinars, which are organized by the plenary session lead. Webinars will take place between the 15th of September and the 15th of October, for an approximate duration of 2 hours online with around 20 minutes for the speaker, followed by a brief discussion. Webinars can be attended by any interested stakeholder and will allow for conversations that are relevant for the plenary session topic, but for which there won't be enough time during the MFW. The most pertinent aspects of the webinars will be brought by the chair for subsequent discussion in each plenary session during the MFW. Webinars will be recorded and made accessible on the MFW website, within the dedicated page allocated for each session.
- **Posters:** posters related to each session will be displayed in the hall where coffee breaks will take place during the MFW. Presenters have the option to create a 3-minute recorded video/audio presentation linked to a QR code, which can be included in their poster for attendees to view. The session lead will choose the most relevant posters among those pre-selected by the MFW organizers.
- The **Plenary Session** of the Med Forest Week will have the following structure:
 - a. **Session introduction** by the chair and/or co-chair, including when relevant the findings of the SOMF and the MFRA and the outcomes of the webinars.
 - b. **Keynote speeches**, by 2 Keynote speakers who will further elaborate on the most relevant aspects of the topic of the session. 15 minutes per speaker followed by 5 minutes Q&A for each keynote.
 - c. **Panel discussion**, where panellists (scientist, social scientist, policy makers, youth representative working on the subject, practitioners, etc.) briefly present their views on the topic (multiple interventions, 2 minutes each), with no slides. Chair may have initial questions for the panellists, followed by open floor questions. Questions to the panel include those collected during the webinars and from the audience. The session lead can decide on the number of panellists (suggested to be between 4 and 6 panellists).
 - d. **Poster teaser.** One-minute presentation of posters related to the session, with 5 to 8 posters in a row. One slide per presenter for a 1-minute presentation.
- **Summary of the session:** an expert in the topic (rapporteur) designated by the chair will summarize the findings of the session including the webinars and the poster session as well as the panel discussion to contribute to the sector's roadmap, which will feed into the High-Level Segment on day 4 of the conference. A short presentation summarizing the main outcomes of the event is to be handed to the MFW organizers after each session. The rapporteur can be chosen among the panellists or the chair or co-chair.

Objective of the Consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to support IUCN-Med in contributing to the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week on:

1. Leading the organisation, with the co-lead and supporting partners, of plenary Session 3 (Mediterranean Forests Biodiversity) during the 8th Med Forest Week.
2. Providing advice and input as co-organizers of plenary Session 1 (Forest Landscape Restoration) and 4 (Forest Adaptation).
3. Support the side event organized by IUCN-Med and AIFM about the Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity.

Description of the Assignment

The consultant will be responsible of the following activities and tasks:

1. Participate in preparatory meetings with relevant actors (IUCN-Med, session co-organizers, potential panellists, keynote speakers, etc.). (May – Nov) (1 day)
2. Identification and engagement of keynote speakers and panellists for the different sessions IUCN Med is involved in. (May-June) (2 day)

3. Organize, coordinate and attend the preparatory webinars for Session 3 (ideally 4 webinars, with a keynote speaker per webinar). Record the results of the discussions, to be brought to the plenary session. (May – Oct) (3 days)
4. Support the development of a concept note for Session 3, liaising with the session co-organizers. The concept note shall include the number of preparatory webinars and estimated dates and speakers. (25 May) (2 days)
5. Provide input to the concept note for Sessions 1 and 4 (20 May) (0.5 day)
6. Review and input into the selection process of posters to be associated to Session 3, from the suggestions provided by the MFW organizers. (May - October) (0.5 days)
7. During the MFW, attend and act as facilitator/rapporteur for Session 3 (5 Nov) (3 days)
8. Provide input to the recommendations and strategy coming out of the conference. (15 Nov) (1 day)
9. Support the organisation of a side event organized by IUCN-Med and AIFM about the Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity. (May – Nov) (1 day)

Deliverables

In relation to the above activities, the consultant will provide the following deliverables, by the following tentative deadlines:

- Concept note finalised draft for Session 3 (25 May).
- Records of the preliminary webinars for Session 3, and summary of the most pertinent aspects to be discussed during Session 3 (30 October).
- Report and inputs into recommendations/strategy (15 November).

Workload, Duration and Payment Schedule

The assignment is estimated at a total of up to 15 days, from 16 May 2024 to 30 November 2024 (event dates 4 – 8 November, expected to participate on site in Session 3: Mediterranean Forests Biodiversity, scheduled for 5 November from 8.30 to 10.30 CET).

The payment structure proposed is as follows:

- 20% upon contract signature.
- 30% upon finalisation of all preparatory activities and delivery of concept notes (Activities 4 and 5).
- 50% upon finalisation of all services and acceptance of deliverables by IUCN.

Supervision and coordination

The consultant will report to and work under the supervision of the Programme Officer for the Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning Team at IUCN-Med.

Profile and Application

Skills and Experience

The consultant must have the following skills, education and experience as a minimum:

- Sound understanding of IUCN relevant forest knowledge products and guidelines, including on FLR/ROAM and interaction with biodiversity conservation.
- Extensive knowledge of forest ecosystems and forestry management in the Mediterranean context, with special focus on Biodiversity.
- In-depth understanding of key challenges that Mediterranean forests face, including biodiversity loss, connectivity and resilience.

- Knowledge of the latest research developments in forestry-related topics.
- Knowledge of nature-based solutions related to forests will be positively valued.
- Experience in workshop organisation and facilitation.
- Network of contacts on the subject in the Mediterranean.
- Membership of a relevant IUCN Commission (e.g. CEM, WCPA) or affiliation to an IUCN Member will be positively valued. Perfect command of English, both written and oral.
- Availability and flexibility to participate in meetings during the preparation phase and to attend the MFW on site on 5 November 2024.

How to apply

Interested candidates please send to Rosario Galán at rosario.galan@iucn.org with arnau.teixidor@iucn.org in CC, **by 15 May 2024 at 23:59 the following:**

- Letter of motivation (can be in the body of the email), briefly explaining the following:
 - Your interest and motivation to conduct this assignment.
 - Affiliation to relevant IUCN Commission or member organisation, and nature of the relationship.
 - Justification of experience, expertise and capacity to carry out the tasks.
 - Availability to conduct the work (attending meetings and travel to Barcelona to be on-site).
 - References of similar work successfully implemented (if not included in CV).
 - Expected daily rate.
- Full CV.

Evaluation criteria

Criterion	Weighting
Availability and flexibility to participate in preparatory meetings and to attend the MFW on site.	Yes / No
Experience with sustainable management and/or restoration of Mediterranean forests to improve biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services.	30%
Technical Expertise in Mediterranean forests sustainable management, climate change challenges, restoration opportunities, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provision. Knowledge of global applicable policy, in particular the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its application to the Mediterranean forests context.	25%
Relationship with IUCN: The applicant is member of an IUCN Commission or is affiliated with an IUCN Member.	20%
Cost (daily rate)	25%