



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEEKING THE SERVICE OF AN EXTERNAL EXPERT ON RIVER COAST MONITORING

Reference	Expert on river coast monitoring
Procuring organisation	European Research Institute (ERI)
Project	ENV/2018/400-378 - CONNECTING - Coastal Observer Network for moNitoring the EffeCTs of cllmate chaNge along the Gambia River

Introduction

The European Research Institute (ERI) in partnership with Makasutu Wildlife Trust (MWT) and Sahel Wetland Concern (SWC) are seeking the services of an external expert on river coast monitoring within the framework of the project “Coastal Observer Network for moNitoring the EffeCTs of cllmate chaNge along the Gambia River” (CONNECTING).

The CONNECTING project is co-funded by NAOSU - National Authorising Officer Support Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia, within the framework of the GCCA+ Climate Resilient Coastal and Marine Zone Project for The Gambia. The project started in September 2021 and lasts 12 months. The overall objective of the project is to enhance effective collection and transmission of data on environmentally significant events and biophysical parameters to the National Environment Agency (NEA) in order to help coastal communities along the Gambia River to adapt to impacts of climate change. In order to achieve this, the CONNECTING project aims at establishing a community-based Coastal Observer Network to enhance the monitoring of the sheltered coast along the Gambia River. The project will identify four priority geo-referenced cells to be monitored and build the capacity of community based organizations and individual coastal observers. The CONNECTING project is being implemented in the West Coast Region and Lower River Region, targeting 24 adult residents and two community based organizations. The final beneficiaries of the project are coastal communities located along the Gambia River, local authorities such as the Alkalou (Village Head) and the Village Development Committee (VDC).

Global Climate Change is one of the dire challenges facing the international community today. Coastal zones are highly vulnerable to its impacts in the delivery of profoundly



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profitable services like tourism, fisheries, transportation, recreation, and human settlements. The CONNECTING project aims to establish a community-based Coastal Observer Network to enhance the monitoring of the sheltered coast along the Gambia River and consequently benefit coastal communities and help them to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Gambia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including river level rise and flooding during the rainy season, with visible and dangerous implications for man and nature. Coastal ecosystems mainly consist of sandy beaches, mangrove complexes and wetlands. Freshwater marshes are one of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems in the Gambia. These are also the main areas devoted to rice cultivation and livestock grazing. Mangroves and intertidal mudflats are vital breeding and feeding grounds for several resident and Palearctic migrant water birds, crustaceans, fish, and mollusks. In The Gambia, mangroves occupy 581 km² equaling 2.1% of the total (mangrove) cover in Africa. Since the 1970s, they have been under considerable pressure due to natural and anthropogenic processes: coastal erosion, fuelwood collection, overfishing, conversion to agricultural fields, urban development and land used for tourism and recreation.

Frequent and persistent droughts and accompanying decreased freshwater recharge will result in wetland desiccation, mangrove die-back, and increased salinization of low-lying areas. This could have a negative impact on products and services derived from the ecosystems. Therefore, there is a need for accessing real-time information and data on environmentally significant events and biophysical parameters. The climate change impacts, together with an insufficient database for coastal planning and for monitoring the environment, require an increase in the capacity of data collectors and observers who will enhance operative collection and transmission of data to the National Environment Agency for trend analysis and timely interventions. In these circumstances, the CONNECTING project, through enhancement of concrete collection and transmission of data to the National Environment Agency, contributes to support and inform institutional governance, enabling planning and implementation of climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation measures in coastal and marine zones.

Objective

The main objective of this tender is to select an expert on river coast monitoring that will provide consultancy for the development of a monitoring protocol of river coastal cells. By working in cooperation with the project team, the selected expert will produce a report on the monitoring protocol to be adopted for the river coastal cells identified during the research



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phase. The report will be submitted to the National Environment Agency for validation and adopted by the Coastal Observer Network. This protocol will help establish a set of standardized procedures and ensure quality of the environmental monitoring. In addition, the selected expert will contribute to the preparation of a handbook on river coastal monitoring that will be used in training workshops and will support coastal observers in the testing phase. The handbook will feature an introductory section on the biodiversity value of the ecosystems of the Gambia river and the impacts of climate change on them, and will cover aspects of data collection and reporting.

Within the framework of the GCCA+ Project “Climate Resilient Coastal and Marine Zone Project for The Gambia”, co-funded by the National Authorising Officer Support Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia, 9 coastal cells have already been identified along the Gambian Atlantic coast. However, concerning the sheltered coast of the Gambia River, coastal cells have not been identified yet and this project intends to fill this gap. The river coastal cells will be identified on the basis of significant characteristics in terms of biodiversity and vulnerability to climate change impacts during the preliminary research phase, which will be carried out by the team of local researchers. By building on the findings of this research, the selected expert will design a monitoring protocol for the river coastal cells and produce a handbook on river coastal monitoring.

Deliverables

The selected expert shall provide the following deliverables:

- report on monitoring protocol of river coastal cells;
- draft handbook on river coastal monitoring.

Duties

The selected expert shall perform the following tasks:

- design the monitoring protocol of river coastal cells;
- the protocol should be based on the findings of the study carried out by the team of researchers involved in this project;
- coordinate with the project team;
- study the existing monitoring methodologies adopted by the NEA in order to ensure coherence;
- the protocol should be in line with the monitoring methodologies of the NEA;
- write a report in English on monitoring protocol of river coastal cells;
- ensure quality of the report (the report should be free of errors, inconsistency and vague/ambiguous statements);



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- write a handbook in English on river coastal monitoring to be used in the training of beneficiaries; during the preparation of the handbook, he/she will be supported by the Expert in Training Programmes;
- coordinate with the Expert in Training Programmes during the preparation of the handbook;
- ensure quality of the handbook (the handbook should be free of errors, inconsistency and vague/ambiguous statements);
- ensure availability to travel to The Gambia for a field mission in order to visit the identified river coastal cells with the project team. In theory, the selected expert will be allowed to work on this assignment from his/her office, since he/she will be supported by local team members. However, if the project team will consider it necessary, he/she should be available for travelling to project locations. If the expert will need to travel to The Gambia, his/her travel expenses (flight, accommodation, meals) will be entirely covered by the project;
- ensure availability for online meetings with the project team.

Qualifications and experience required

The selected consultant shall have:

- a Master's degree in Marine Biology, Environmental Management, Environmental Sciences or related subject;
- at least three years work experience;
- research experience in climate change impacts, coastal monitoring and/or coastal ecosystems, particularly riverine ecosystems;
- experience in designing environmental monitoring protocols and/or methodologies;
- excellent analytical skills to analyse data;
- excellent writing skills to produce high-standard reports free of errors, inconsistency and vague/ambiguous statements;
- an excellent command of English.

Time frame

The deadline for submission of bids is 6 May 2022. The successful bidder will be contacted within five days of the deadline and receive a contract for this service. The assignment is expected to start within five days from the signing of the contract by both parties. The assignment has to be completed within two months (60 days) from the signing of the contract by both parties, including submission of the report on monitoring protocol of river coastal cells and the draft handbook on river coastal monitoring.



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Maximum budget

The maximum budget for this service is EUR 2,150.00.

Quotations

Bidders shall submit a quotation to the European Research Institute (ERI) with the title: "Expert on river coast monitoring" Quotations should include:

- cost of the service;
- CV including list of publications;
- Cover letter or brochure with short description of relevant work experience.

Selection of proposals

The proposal that will get the highest score will be selected. Selection of proposals will be based on the following criteria:

Award Criteria	Maximum Points
Price	40
Qualification	20
Previous work experience	20
Completeness of proposal	20
Total	100



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