



## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEEKING THE SERVICE OF AN EXTERNAL EXPERT ON TRAINING PROGRAMS

<b>Reference</b>	Expert on Training Programs
<b>Procuring organization</b>	European Research Institute (ERI)
<b>Project</b>	ENV/2018/400-378 - CONNECTING - Coastal Observer Network for moNitoring the EffeCTs of cllmate chaNge along with 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 training programs 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 the 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 the 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 their impacts in the delivery of profoundly profitable services like tourism, fisheries, transportation, recreation, and human settlements. The CONNECTING project aims to establish a community-based Coastal Observer Network



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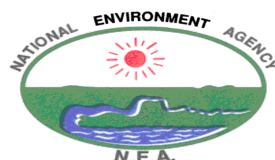
to enhance the monitoring of the sheltered coast along the Gambia River and consequently benefit coastal communities and help them to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

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 residents and Palearctic migrant water birds, crustaceans, fish, and mollusks. In The Gambia, mangroves occupy 581 km<sup>2</sup> 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 for the project training program in reference to the work package 3 (WP3). The training envisages building the capacity of community-based organizations and individual coastal observers to enhance their knowledge and expertise as coastal observers in the Lower River Region and West Coast Region. The activities will involve at least two community-based organizations and 24 adult citizens, 12 men and 12 women. These community-based organizations are involved in fishing and other related activities on the river and are the very people who are most affected



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by the impacts of climate change therefore, they are the right target groups to involve in the observation, monitoring, and data collection along the river areas.

The expectation of this tender is to select an external expert to develop a training program to be adopted by the local partners for training river coastal observers. The training will focus on the monitoring of the established coastal cells along the Gambia river providing guidelines on data collection and transmission. The training program will include a theory-oriented part and a practice-oriented part, and will build on the findings of the research conducted by the local team of researchers. The training will last approximately one month. After the training, participants will be assigned to specific coastal cells and will start the monitoring test phase, which includes data collection testing and data transmission testing.

The expert will also support the Expert on river coastal monitoring in the development of the handbook to be used during training workshops. 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 provide guidelines on how to carry out 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.

### **Deliverables**

The selected expert shall provide the following deliverable:

- a document outlining the program of training workshops.

### **Duties**

The selected expert shall perform the following tasks:

- design the program of training workshops on the monitoring of river coastal cells (modules, subjects, training activities etc.);
- study the existing monitoring methodologies adopted by the NEA in order to ensure coherence;



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- coordinate with the project team;
- support the Expert on river coastal monitoring in the writing of the handbook (in English) to be used during training workshops;
- the handbook should be based on the findings of the study carried out by the team of researchers involved in this project;
- ensure quality of the training program;
- 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 traveling 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 training programs;
- experience in conducting training workshops/courses on environmental issues;
- excellent analytical skills to analyze 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.



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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 training programs" Quotations should include:

- cost of the service;
- CV including a list of publications;
- Cover letter or brochure with a 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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