

BIOPAMA - EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Technical Advisor for the BIOPAMA Observatory for Eastern and Southern Africa (1 year consultancy)

BACKGROUND

The Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA) is an EU-funded project that aims at improving the long-term conservation of biodiversity in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region and enhancing the capacity of existing institutions and networks involved in biodiversity conservation and protected area management. BIOPAMA has been implemented since March 2012 in close collaboration between the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC) and the German Agency for International Collaboration (GIZ). By improving access to and availability of relevant data and information on biodiversity, climate, natural resource management, governance and socioeconomic issues, the BIOPAMA programme aims to enhance the management of protected areas (terrestrial and marine) and national systems of protected areas. A Regional Observatory will be established in the Eastern and Southern African region to enable the provision of relevant data and information to assist in improved planning and decision-making as well as exchanging knowledge.

IUCN Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) is looking for a Technical Advisor (1 year consultancy, part time) to work closely with the BIOPAMA Coordinator for the ESA region as well as the team at the Joint Research Centre (JRC), who are primarily developing the Regional Reference Information System. S/he will contribute to bridging what is often viewed as a gap between science & technology supply and protected area policy and management demand. S/he will build strong relationships within the region on behalf of BIOPAMA, in particular with the technical staff within key decision-making and supporting bodies to support the development of a sustainable Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas. S/he will support the uptake of data and information through user-centered design, the evaluation of product use, and s/he will foster an open environment for data sharing and knowledge exchange. S/he will therefore contribute high-level technical GIS and database know-how, decision-support tool development skills and a good network in the geo-spatial and conservation sector in the Eastern and Southern African region and beyond.

The overall outputs expected from this consultancy include:

- 1) Observatory established within a Host Institution in the Region (supported by all three Regional Economic Commissions)
- 2) Regional Reference information System implemented in the region with priority information on Extractive Industries and Agriculture included (close collaboration with the Technical Team at the JRC)
- 3) Established network of data providers and users in the ESA region (including PA Agencies and Government departments)
- 4) At least two decision-support tools developed and implemented in the region
- 5) Capacity building of Observatory Host staff on RRIS implemented as needed and identification of staffing needs for maintenance of Observatory
- 6) Capacity building of key partners in the Observatory network implemented as needed

The consultant should have the following qualifications:

- Minimum of a relevant post-graduate qualification (Masters level) in environmental management, geographic sciences, natural resource management, conservation or an ecology or natural science related discipline and a formal training (certificate or course) in geographic information systems
- Extensive experience in the management of geographic information systems (GIS), databases, internet user interfaces as well as spatial analysis and development of decision support tools
- Extensive experience in developing detailed user requirements in collaboration with stakeholders (i.e. translation of needs expressed by decision-makers into data and information/analysis needs to develop decision-support tools)
- Experience in facilitating open data exchange, crafting data sharing agreements, and building consensus on standards is a distinct advantage
- Knowledge of information product life cycle processes, to include planning, analysis, design, development, testing, use evaluation, etc.

- Proven experience in working with large spatial and non-spatial databases. Specific experience with PostGreSQL/PostGIS an advantage.
- Experience with use of open source geospatial tools an advantage
- At least 5 years' experience in biodiversity and/or protected areas information management, ideally involving terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, at national and/or regional levels, preferably in the Eastern and Southern African region.
- Demonstrated excellent interpersonal and networking skills, including the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment, and to establish effective working relationships both within and outside the organization with a diversity of stakeholders. An extensive existing network in the geospatial sector across the ESA region would be a great advantage.
- Experience in communicating and collaborating with management agencies, academic institutions and local, national and regional stakeholders to achieve agreed collective outcomes
- Demonstrated high level skills in project planning, overseeing implementation and evaluating progress, including work planning, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Strong communication and presentation skills and an ability to prepare appropriate and timely reports to a wide range of audiences and cultures. A high level of competency in the English language is required. An adequate level of fluency in another language of the region (e.g. Portuguese) is not a requirement but would be an additional asset.
- Time management skills including an ability to work effectively under pressure and to meet deadlines.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS DESIRED

- Willingness to undertake frequent travel in the region
- Demonstrated commitment to achieving biodiversity conservation and livelihoods goals, in collaboration with others.
- Demonstrated ability to exercise good judgment, to think laterally and to resolve complex issues in a dynamic and changing environment.
- Awareness and an ability to acknowledge and respect different cultures, and to engage appropriately with people of different backgrounds.
- A team player who is able to contribute effectively to collaborative issues, and to demonstrate innovation and leadership, as appropriate.

APPLICATIONS

Interested and suitably qualified consultants (or consortia) are invited to send a letter of motivation outlining the proposed methodology for achieving the overall outputs mentioned above as well as a comprehensive CV and references from at least three similar projects/engagements in the past 10 years. Applicants should include an estimate of time needed (days per week) to fulfil the obligations outlined in their methodology and a daily rate (in Euro).

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The applications should be submitted no later than 21 April 2014 at midnight, South African time (GMT+3).