



HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01 – RESTORE4Cs

GRANT AGREEMENT project number 101056782 —Modelling RESTORation of wEtlands for Carbon pathways, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, and biodiversity, Co-benefits - RESTORE4Cs

Programme: Horizon Europe Climate

Organization: SECRETARIAT MedWet (MedWet)– c/o La Tour du Valat – Le Sambuc – 13200 Arles

Object: Request of Offer for an external service provider to support the technical coordination of WP2 European (coastal) wetlands restoration Community of Practice (ECoP)

Background information

RESTORE4Cs aims to assess the role of restoration action on wetlands climate change mitigation capacity and a wide range of ecosystem services using an integrative socio-ecological systems approach. Focusing on coastal wetlands across Europe, RESTORE4Cs will deliver standardised methodologies and approaches for the prioritisation of restoration promoting carbon-storage and greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions abatement, while improving the ecological status and the provision of additional ecosystem services such as flood regulation and coastal erosion protection. Project results will support the implementation of Climate and Biodiversity policies in the context of the European Green Deal. Effectiveness data on restoration and land use management actions on climate services and other ecosystem and socio-economic services will be gathered both from six Case Pilot sites across European coastal areas, including well-preserved, altered, and restored wetlands, and from meta-analysis. Models and integrative assessment tools will be upscaled to wider geographical (European) and ecological (other wetland types, including floodplains and peatlands) contexts using remote sensing and machine learning methods to develop an integrated status assessment of European wetlands. The results will be integrated into a digital platform to serve as a Decision Support System (DSS) for stakeholders that will steer project efforts as part of a newly created Community of Practice around wetland restoration.

The main role of MedWet in RESTORE4Cs

The main role of MedWet as partner of RESTORE4Cs, is to co-develop a practice-based implementation roadmap to support policymakers in connecting targets and timelines from different policy-streams and making use of the project findings on the potential of wetland restoration for climate change mitigation, biodiversity and other services. To involve from the start key stakeholders to achieve best practice policy alignment at EU, national and subnational levels. MedWet will particularly support the project dissemination towards the EU and international policy makers.

The main objectives of MedWet in RESTORE4Cs will be to co-design, launch and grow a European wetland restoration Community of Practice (ECoP) to ensure that stakeholders and end users are actively involved in the restoration processes, enabling awareness of the project developments and results, acceptance of the results as valid tools and adopt them in their workflows. At the same time, the ECOP will enhance exchanges between Case Pilots and past and current wetlands restoration networks to boost cooperation among different EU territories. The ECOP will be set at different levels, from local scales (Case Pilots) to national and regional scales (e.g., at the pan-European level) through the coordination of MedWet and with the collaboration of Ramsar Europe and the other European Ramsar Regional Initiatives and implemented through a variety of virtual and face-to-face tools (e.g., webinars, workshops, exchange visits). Activities will include: 1) inspiring wetland managers; 2) training activities for co-creation and co-design, to achieve best practice; 3) premium courses and programs to support the ECOP to develop co-assessment activities for feedback on the community building skills.

MedWet will be involved in 6 WPs and will lead WP2, Task 1.3 (WP1) and Task 8.2 (WP8).

Working Packages (WPs) are briefly described below.

WP1 – Policy relevance

Assess the extent to which EU and national policies help achieve or hinder wetland restoration and the delivery of key ecosystem services; Identify the needs for data, information systems, methods and tools of decision-makers and practitioners working on the implementation of policies for wetland restoration and climate change mitigation/adaptation; Synthesise key policy-relevant project insights for decision-makers and practitioners; Develop guidance to assist national authorities and practitioners on the use of RESTORE4Cs methods and tools to address key policy targets.

WP2 - European (coastal) wetlands restoration Community of Practice (ECoP)

Structure an European Community of Practice (ECoP) by connecting institutions, policymakers, scientists and the general public about wetlands restoration to support the implementation of the new EU Nature Restoration Law of the EU BDS 2030 and to foster climate mitigation and adaptation solutions;
Co-design a multi-actor approach for the project's stakeholder interaction at the EU and local level;
Increase the impact of existing cooperation on wetlands restoration and protection results by capitalising the results of other EU programmes (LIFE, H2020, ERDF etc) and by promoting co-operation, consultations and joint activities on cross-cutting issues and share of results with other relevant projects.

WP3 - Integrative assessment framework and scenario development

Review the knowledge and the tools that are already available to provide information on the state-of-the-art of modelling, monitoring, mapping, restoration, and management of wetlands; Develop models, blending process-based and data-driven components, and made available as modules to be inserted in regional climate models. Boosting the integration of data sources and products to be assimilated in advanced models, in the spirit of a wetland ecosystem digital twin, to address landscapeecosystem; dynamics (WP4, WP5, WP6) and the provision of ecosystem services; Provide a comprehensive framework to assess the pan-European wetland system dynamics, across scales (micro, meso, macro), under the combined effect of climate change and anthropic pressures either negative or positive (i.e. restoration, WP5).

WP4- Climate mitigation services and C and GHG processes in wetlands

Overcome data gaps by obtaining data sets on C-storage capacity and GHG emissions mitigation
Obtain these data sets from Case pilots (in situ), plus additional wetland types, including floodplains and peatlands (from literature review), for the meta-analysis.
Provide data to feed (calibration and validation) the response models to be elaborated in WP3 to assess the response of wetlands to changes in their ecological status as well as those caused (potentially improving) by restoration actions & Provide data to enable upscaling at WP6 and integration in the decision-making platform (WP7).

WP5 - Social, ecologic, and economic valuation for enhanced co-benefits from wetland restoration

Assess and compare the effect of different wetland restoration actions on the C-storage capacity and the GHG exchange balances of wetlands
Test methods and information gathered on climate and other services across Case Pilots to inform the development of tools to be included in the upscaling and toolbox exercises
Provide evidence as to when and how wetlands restoration is good value for money and assess the potential of existing financing tools to boost public and private investment
Analyze the social acceptability of wetland restoration and management practices from the perspective of multiple alternative scenarios

WP6 - Upscaling and integration for assessment of the status and restoration potential of wetlands in Europe

Upscale the tools and methodologies developed under WP3, WP4 and WP5 to prepare the development of workable tools to estimate the restoration-mediated improvement of the climate change mitigation capacity and other ecosystem services of wetlands at broader scales and serve as input for the toolbox and platform developed by WP7.
Integrate the knowledge developed in WPs 2, 4 and 5 together with existing EO-based information layers that indicate wetland condition and pressures to deliver comprehensive mapping and assessment tools for wetland ecosystems at European scale.
Provide a conceptual generalization of the RESTORE4Cs approaches that support the application to other wetlands

WP7 – Online Platform and Toolbox for decision making to support wetlands restoration actions

Prepare a repository for all data and metadata of interest for the project, including all types of data produced at the scale of the Pilot Sites (WP3 and WP4) and those upscaled at national and pan-European levels (WP6), accounting for the FAIR principles. Design and implement an Online Platform that integrates the main results from WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6 regarding wetlands monitoring, ecosystems condition assessment and restoration actions prioritisation. Develop an Integrative Toolbox that could be used as the main project's framework to provide guidance and recommendations, essentially derived from WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6 outputs to support the decision-making assessments for wetland ecosystems restoration (prioritization of actions, choice of alternatives, economic efficiency analysis...). This Integrative Toolbox will also use a policy-centred approach focusing on user needs that incorporates stakeholder involvement throughout its development (links with WP1 and WP2).

WP8 - Communication, dissemination, and exploitation

Ensure the visibility of the project and disseminate its outcomes to the identified target groups; Raise awareness of project and its outcomes towards the society at large; Support engagement of stakeholders and exploitation of project results; Guarantee the sustainability of the actions and outcomes of the project.

WP9 - Management and Coordination

Efficiently coordinate and manage all technical aspects, with respect to deadlines, objectives, and financial aspects of the project.

Details of the project and deliverables are available on request.

Objective of the consultancy

This external service will involve the different activities linked to WP2 - European (coastal) wetlands restoration Community of Practice (ECoP) - for a smooth implementation of the role of MedWet in RESTORE4Cs including carrying out an analysis of the project results that can be capitalized and potential opportunities to implement it.

Tasks

The consultant will be in charge to support the technical coordination to the following tasks:

- Task 2.1 European Community of Practice co-design and launch plan: coordinate and implement all the activities including the supervision of the ECOP platform designer. Drafting and finalizing Deliverable 2.1 (M1 – M36)
- Task 2.2 Exchanges between EU projects and clustering with other Horizon Europe and H2020 projects and LIFE: coordinate and implement the activities
- Task 2.3 EU/MS level workshops to design the implementation of joint initiatives of the ECoP: coordinate and implement the activities. Drafting and finalizing Deliverable 2.2

To achieve this, the consultant will:

- support the coordination of this WP2 for which MedWet is the leader;
- provide essential support to the WP2 of the project, working with the others members of the team;
- review progress of WP2 on a regular basis and discuss future steps of the project;

- arrange meetings for WP2 with project's members, take minutes of the meetings and preparing deliverables and technical reports;
- be responsible for maintaining crucial WP2 documents which track project progress;
- identify any potential issues or risks that could affect the implementation of the WP2 and identify potential solutions;
- manage the schedule, monitoring deadlines for WP2 and report any potential delays;

The Consultant's mission shall consist of the provision of services for WP2 according to the grant agreement number 101056782 — RESTORE4Cs.

Details of this project and deliverables are available on request.

Requirements

- Proven track-record in a project management support function of projects
- Through knowledge of HORIZON rules and requirements
- Thorough knowledge and experience of project management in a multi-stakeholder setting of large consortia
- Excellent command of English (additional European languages considered an advantage)
- Experience and knowledge about wetlands, climate change, biodiversity conservation is an advantage
- An interest in innovation and digital

Contractual and Financial Terms

The Consultancy service will be required for 27 months. The expert shall be paid upon successful completion of each milestone the fees for the number of working days, assuming the standard of 7 hours per day, based on work plan/agreed deliverable and satisfactory performance. The consultancy will be Home Based. The contract commencement date is aimed to be by October 2, 2023 until the end of the project.

The selected expert for WP2 will be coordinating with project team to facilitate his/her activities and meeting. The consultant is expected to share progress reports monthly to the project coordinator. The acceptance of the offer of the successful tender will implicate the acceptance of the conditions detailed in this ToR. A duly-issued invoice will be required for payment at the presentation of the output/milestones under the following conditions:

- the invoice will specify the number of working days per task
- the payment term will be of 15 days after the invoice date (bank account details should be detailed)
- the tax legislation in force at the date of acceptance of the offer will be applied

The financial offer must include:

- the provision in terms of working days and daily rate for the support of the technical coordination of the tasks of the WP2
- the expenses associated to the participation in 4 project meetings, starting from 2 October 2023.

The financial offer for the services and travels must not exceed 55.000 euros

Deadline and submission of offer

1.1 Application rules

Candidates are invited to send an application via e-mail to perroud@medwet.org no later than the **20 September 2023 by 18.00** Central European Time.

The assignment will be awarded to the highest qualified applicant based on the skills, expertise, and the quality of the technical note and the cost-effectiveness of the financial offer.

The application needs to contain the following:

- **CV(s) including relevant knowledge and experience;**
- **Technical note:**
 - *Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment;*
 - *Brief technical note of 2 pages maximum describing: 1) the proposed methodology for the implementation of the WP2; 2) a presentation of its flexibility in adapting the methodology, initiatives and approach proposed to meet the changing needs of the project.*
- **Financial offer:** When preparing the financial offer, the applicant should take into account the following: 1) Include the number of proposed working days and daily fee rate for consulting services broken down by tasks; 2) the fee rates should be broadly consistent with the EU framework rates for these types of professional services; 3) Include travel and accommodation costs for 4 project in-person meetings; 4) Include any other costs to be incurred, as per the methodology and concept note the expert will propose. Incomplete proposals may not be considered.
- the certificate of honour as requested below.

1.2 Certificate of honour

The tenderer must provide a certificate of honour, duly dated and signed, stating that **she/he is not in any of the following cases:**

- she/he is in bankruptcy, liquidation, legal settlement, cessation of activity
- she/he has been convicted by a judgment which has the force of res judicata for any offense affecting their professional character
- she/he has not fulfilled his obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or his obligations relating to the payment of his taxes according to the legal provisions of the country where they are established
- she/he has been the subject of a judgment for fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- she/he is in a conflict of interest.

Evaluation and selection process

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria: weight 80%

* Financial Criteria weight 20%

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points (80% of the total technical points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Technical Criteria – Maximum 80 points

Qualification and Experience (40 points) [evaluation of CV]:

- General Qualification (20 points);
- Experience relevant to the assignment (20 points);

Technical note (40 points):

- Technical Approach & Methodology (30 points) – Explain the understanding of the objectives of the assignment, approach to the services, methodology for carrying out the activities and obtaining the expected output, and the degree of detail of such output. The Applicant should also explain the methodologies proposed to adopt and highlight the compatibility of those methodologies with the proposed approach.
- Work Plan (10 points) – The Applicant should propose the main activities of the assignment, their content and duration, phasing and milestones. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology, showing understanding of the TOR and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan.

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points (80% of the total technical points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Incomplete proposals may not be considered.