



05/11/2024

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 MedWet’s policy work – WP1 Policy Relevance

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 gases (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

Within the 'Policy Relevance' Work package (WP1), MedWet is in charge of Task 1.3 on Policy synthesis and recommendations, besides contributing to Task 1.4 on the development of a 'Roadmap on the use of RESTORE4Cs methods and tools to address key policy targets'.

In this same project, MedWet also participates actively in Task 8.2 on 'Dissemination and Communication', by co-organising a Summer School for policy-makers with Lifewatch Eric/Università del Salento – among other tasks - and leads WP2 on the development of a European Community of Practice. Moreover, MedWet provides inputs to all WPs involved in RESTORE4Cs.

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 a 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 capitalizing the results of other EU programmes (LIFE, H2020, ERDF etc) and by promoting cooperation, consultations and joint activities on cross-cutting issues and sharing 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 modelling, monitoring, mapping, restoration, and management of wetlands; Develop models, blending process-based and data-driven components, and make 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 twinning, to address landscape ecosystem; 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 Carbon 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, ecological, 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; Analyse 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

The consultancy encompasses two different tasks, which can be carried out by one or several consultants. Candidates may apply for one or both lots.

The requested external services are:

LOT 1 - External expertise for developing 10 policy briefs (WP1)

Period: December 2024 – December 2025

The external support will be in charge of the following tasks:

1.1 - Based on project partners' contributions, write the text of 10 policy briefs (in UK English) highlighting the relevance of the results in RESTORE4Cs for European and global policies

1.2 - Coordinating translations for all 10 policy briefs into 6 languages, by combining automatic translation and liaising with project partners for revisions

1.3 - Working with a (designated) designer to define the visuals (diagrams, infographics, vectors) which will be included in the layout of the briefs

The briefs will take up a maximum of 4 pages and apply the same template as the one used in the first policy brief of the project:

<https://medwet.org/publications/policy-brief-how-can-coastal-wetlands-help-achieve-eu-climate-goals/>

Profile

Compulsory

- Ability to translate science and policy messages into visually appealing communication products
- Strong editorial skills, excellent command of English language
- Experience managing translations and multi-lingual content
- Capacity to extract key messages, particularly for advocacy purposes
- Experience writing policy briefs
- Degree in environmental studies, international policy, law, journalism or translation
- 5-10 years of editorial experience
- Previous experience working with environmental organisations

Desirable

- Understanding of EU environmental policy
- Knowledge of the Ramsar Convention

Deliverables

- 10 policy briefs implemented in English
- Each of the 10 policy briefs implemented in six languages: Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch, Romanian and Lithuanian

LOT 2 - External expertise for providing inputs on European policies (WP1+WP8)

Period: December 2024 – December 2025

The external support will be in charge of the following tasks:

2.1 - Participate in the development of the policy roadmap of the RESTORE4Cs project to advise on entry points with European and global policies (WP1)

Led by Ecologic Institute (WP1 coordinator) and on the basis of project partners' contributions, this task aims to develop concise and practical guidance. This guidance will assist national authorities and practitioners that plan to use wetland restoration as a climate change mitigation strategy to address targets of the EU Nature Restoration Law, the BDS 2030 and the LULUCF Regulation. To show-case the findings, methods and tools developed in RESTORE4Cs, the practical guidance will be developed in the form of a practice-based implementation roadmap with general principles formulated for the EU level and translated into a specific roadmap for two selected focus regions of the project.

2.2 - Provide technical advice on the key messages of three policy briefs (WP1) on the relevance of RESTORE4Cs' results for both European & global policies related to biodiversity, climate, potentially agriculture, and for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

2.3 - Support the organisation of a Summer School in 2025 (WP8):

Co-organise with Lifewatch Eric/Università del Salento (WP8 lead) a Summer School to train policy-makers and managers on the use of a Decision-making Toolbox for wetland restoration, currently being developed by WP7 (led by Tour du Valat). The Summer School is initially scheduled for the period of September 2025 in Lecce (Italy). The workshop will be an in-person event with a maximum duration of five days. However, the hired consultant should be present in Lecce before, during and after the Summer School to support organisational and logistic tasks.

Profile

Compulsory

- Sound knowledge of European and global environmental policies, including latest policy developments (Nature Restoration Law, LULUCF, the new CAP, the Paris Agreement, Ramsar, etc)
- Good understanding of the importance of wetlands to support the implementation of EU and global policies
- Ability to extract relevant messages that speak to European policy and decision-makers
- At least 7 years of experience as a policy advisor

Desirable

- Experience organising in-person workshops

The Consultant's missions shall include the provision of services for WP1 according to the grant agreement number 101056782 — RESTORE4Cs

Contractual and Financial Terms

Lot 1: December 2024 – December 2025

The financial offer for the services must not exceed 18.000 euros.

Lot 2: DEcember 2024 – December 2025

The financial offer for the services and travels must not exceed 14.000 euros.

The Consultancy services will be required for 12 months.

The expert(s) shall be paid upon successful completion of each milestone the fees for the number of working days, assuming a daily basis of 7 hours, based on work plan/agreed deliverables and satisfactory performance. The consultancy will be home-based, with the exception of the organisation of the Summer Academy. The start date of this contract is expected to be from December 2, 2024 (at the earliest when the evaluation is completed) until December 19, 2025.

External services are expected to share progress reports monthly to the project coordinator. The acceptance of the offer will imply the acceptance of the conditions detailed in this ToR. A duly-issued invoice will be required for payment 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 offers must include:

- the provision in terms of working days and daily rate all taxes included for the lot(s)
- the expenses associated to the participation in the project meetings
- this information will be presented according to the table model at the end of the ToRs

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 **26/11/2024 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.

For the 2 lots, 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 mission: explaining understanding of the objectives of the assignment, approach to the services, methodology for carrying out the activities and obtaining the expected output;
 - 2) a presentation of its flexibility in adapting the methodology, initiatives and approach proposed to meet the changing needs of the project.
 - Examples of work carried out in line with the requested assignment
 - References that speak for the consultant's work
 - A short work plan, outlining the duration of each task. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology, showing understanding of the TORs and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan.

- **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 all taxes included 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;

Please complete the Annexe 1 - Financial proposal

- **the certificate of honour as requested below.**

Incomplete proposals may not be considered.

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 offence affecting their professional character
- she/he has not fulfilled his obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or his/her obligations relating to the payment of his/her 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 organisation 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 predetermined 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 50 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Technical Criteria – Maximum 80 points

Qualification and Experience (50 points) [evaluation of CV]:

- General Qualification (10 points);
- Experience relevant to the assignment (30 points);
- References (10 points)

Technical note (30 points):

- Brief description of technical Approach & Methodology (20 points)
- Work Plan (10 points)

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 50 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Incomplete proposals may not be considered.



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Annex 1 – Financial proposal

LOT 1 - External expertise for developing 10 policy briefs

Task description	Number of working days	Daily rate all taxes included (euros)	Total amount all taxes included (euros)
External expertise for developing 10 policy briefs			
		Total	

LOT 2 - External expertise for providing inputs on European policies

Task description	Number of working days	Daily rate all taxes included (euros)	Total amount all taxes included (euros)
External expertise for providing inputs on European policies			
		Total	

travel and accommodation costs	Unit cost all taxes includes (euros)	Total amount all taxes included (euros)
Summer School in Italy, September 2025		