



Consultancy on developing guidance on practical experiences of restoration methods for tropical peatlands

Background

The Convention on Wetlands, also known as the “Ramsar Convention” is an intergovernmental treaty, which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was the first of the modern global multilateral environmental agreements and remains the only one devoted to a specific critical ecosystem.

The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) is a subsidiary body of the Convention tasked with providing scientific and technical advice to the Conference of Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat. The [STRP work plan 2019-2021](#) contains a task (task 2.2) on *Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for tropical peatlands*, which requests the STRP to:

Develop guidance on “practical experiences of restoration methods for peatland types not yet covered by Ramsar guidance, such as tropical peatlands” and to provide a “rationale for choosing ... restoration methods and an overview rationale for different restoration approaches depending on peatland type and setting”.

This task responds to Contracting Parties’ requests to the STRP in [Resolution XIII.13: Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction](#) and was designated by the Standing Committee at its 57th Meeting (24-28 June 2019) as a high priority task.

Peatland rewetting and restoration can help address Contracting Parties’ urgent needs, providing opportunities to contribute to global policy frameworks and global processes, including: the Ramsar Convention, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Aichi Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, land degradation neutrality under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as the Bonn Challenge and the UN Decade of Restoration. These policy frameworks and processes imply a substantial upscaling of peatland rewetting and restoration requiring clear and comprehensive guidance.

A consultant will be needed to assist the STRP with the development of this task. A detailed description of the support required from the consultant for aspects of this task is included in Annex I.

Task Description

This consultancy will support the STRP with the two following tasks:

1. Development of a draft guidance document:

The draft will serve as the basis for the development of *Global Guidelines for Peatland Rewetting/Restoration* for the Ramsar Convention. The document will update information in the existing International Mire Conservation Group’s (IMCG) [manual on peatland restoration techniques](#),

covering peatland types of the world (with a focus on tropical peatlands). The STRP has drafted a preliminary outline of contents, which will be shared with the consultant.

The document, which will include science-based, peer-reviewed and practical guidance for wetland practitioners and planners, will also include practical experiences on peatland restoration methods with a focus on the tropics, providing the rationale for such restoration. The contents of the final output will be adapted and integrated into the [peatlands thematic web page](#) of the Ramsar Convention's website.

The target audience for the guidance document will be wetland practitioners (particularly Ramsar Site managers). Thus, the document will be a reader friendly "how to" document presenting practical examples and case studies and targeting a non-scientific audience.

2. Development of text for a policy brief:

The task also envisions the development of text for a policy brief. The purpose of the policy brief will be to raise the profile of peatlands amongst policy makers, focussing on the need and opportunities for peatland restoration. The policy brief will be a summary of the guidance document with key messages for policy makers and linked to other important global processes such as Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC, Nature Based Solutions, the UN decade of restoration, as well as land degradation neutrality under the UNCCD.

The target audience for the policy brief will be ministries and decision-makers in the relevant government sectors including agriculture, energy and environment as well as land use planning.

Travelling will not be required for this consultancy.

Products

1. A guidance document (up to 20 pages).
2. A draft policy brief (up to 10 pages).

Qualifications

- Excellent writing and drafting skills;
- Expertise on peatland hydrology and restoration;
- Fluent in English;
- Ability to simplify technical language will be a plus.

Number of Working Days

50 days between October 2019 and July 2020

Work Location

Home based

Deadline for Applications

18 October 2019

Applications

All interested applicants are encouraged to send their letter expressing interest (maximum 500 words), a sample of a previously written document/publication and a cost estimate to the Scientific and Technical Support Officer (Ms Marcela Bonells) at bonells@ramsar.org by **18 October 2019 12.00 Midnight CET**.

Language
English

Annex I

The following steps breakdown the various stages and work needed to complete the task and a description of the work required by the consultant to support the STRP.

	Work involved	Lead	Indicative days for task¹	Timeline
Step 1	Text for a call for case studies for the guidance document	STRP with consultant Secretariat to disseminate the call for case studies.	1	October 2019
Step 2	Consultant provides a complete first draft guidance document for the 23d meeting of the STRP (STRP23) (16-22 March 2020)	Consultant	20	End of January 2020
Step 3	Circulation of first draft guidance document to STRP National focal points for consultation. Inputs to be collated by the Secretariat and provided to task leads and the consultant for integration in the document	Secretariat		End of January 2020
Step 4	STRP23 Meeting: Review and input to draft by STRP experts Discussion and development of draft policy brief	STRP will provide inputs to consultant after STRP23		March 2020

¹ The anticipated estimate of time needed, but not fixed.

	Work involved	Lead	Indicative days for task¹	Timeline
Step 5	Consultant provides second draft guidance document	Consultant STRP will provide input	15	May 2020
Step 6	Final guidance text	Consultant	10	June 2020
Step 7	Final policy brief text	Consultant	4	June-July 2020